



Carolina Gold

2018 Member Handbook



WELCOME

Congratulations and welcome to Carolina Gold!

The administrative staff, educational staff and Board of Directors of the Carolina Gold organization would like to welcome you to our drum corps family.

This handbook will serve as your general resource and reference tool as a member of Carolina Gold Drum & Bugle Corps. Please read through all the information carefully and contact a staff member with any questions or concerns you may have.

We hope that your experience with Carolina Gold Drum & Bugle Corps proves to be a rewarding one, made up of positive educational experiences, new friendships, and lifelong memories!

- Carolina Gold Drum & Bugle Corps

Mission Statement:

Carolina Gold Drum & Bugle Corps is a non-profit community organization whose mission is to provide a stimulating and rewarding social experience through music education, competitive performance and community engagement.



ABOUT CAROLINA GOLD

Carolina Gold Drum and Bugle Corps is an all-age competitive drum and bugle corps. Established in the fall of 2000, the primary function of Carolina Gold is to provide an all-age drum and bugle corps for the state of North Carolina. Carolina Gold strives to provide its performing members with a stimulating and rewarding instructional, competitive, and social experience.

Carolina Gold members are a diverse population representing high school and college musicians, band directors and non-music-based professionals who come from all walks of life. Members typically come from North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia with ages ranging from 15 to 50 years of age. Experience levels range from high school through college band, as well as drum and bugle corps experience on the DCI World Class level.

Carolina Gold is a member of Drum Corps Associates (DCA), a governing body for all-age drum and bugle corps in North America and during its history has competed in both Class A and Open Class.

The DCA competitive season begins in June and ends with the DCA World Championships taking place each year on Labor Day Weekend. Practices and performances are scheduled on weekends with rehearsals in the winter months.



CONTACT INFORMATION – 2018

Executive Director	Larry Harper, Jr.	executivedirector@carolinagold.org
Corps Director	Jesse Rackley	corpsdirector@carolinagold.org
Asst. Corps Director	Alan Mason	asstcorpsdirector@carolinagold.org
Executive Treasurer	Shedrick Samuels	sjsamuels@aol.com
Brass Caption Supervisor	Tony Granados	brass@carolinagold.org
Percussion Caption Head	Aaron Tucker	percussion@carolinagold.org
Visual Caption Head	Kelly Earp	visual@carolinagold.org
Color Guard Caption Supervisor	Drew Zellmer	guard@carolinagold.org

Carolina Gold Drum & Bugle Corps DCA final placements of note are as follows:

2005	8th place	Open Class	Finalist
2006	10th place	Open Class	Finalist
2009	4th place	Class A	Finalist
2010	3rd place	Class A	High Percussion Award
2011	3rd place	Class A	High Percussion and Color Guard Awards
2012	1st place	Class A	High Percussion, Color Guard, Brass and Effect Awards
2013	10th place	Open Class	Finalist
2014	9th Place	Open Class	Finalist
2015	11th Place	Open Class	
2016	14th Place	Open Class	



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION - EXPECTATIONS

Carolina Gold Drum & Bugle Corps (“the Corps”) is an organization with a strong commitment to excellence. With this commitment is a responsibility for exemplary conduct by all corps personnel, both on and off the performance field.

Professionalism: The corps will maintain the highest standards of dignity and discipline during all rehearsals and public appearances, including retreat ceremonies. Members should be attentive, responsive, and respectful during all such events. In all other forms of public expression, whether verbal, printed, or electronic, members must employ the highest levels of propriety. This includes no vulgar language or disrespectful talk of others in public while traveling as a member of the Corps.

Inappropriate Activity: The Corps places extraordinary value on the health and well being of its members, as well as on its reputation as a highly professional organization. For the purposes of this document, the phrase “corps activities” shall mean to include the following:

- From the beginning of the rehearsal day until the conclusion of all Corps’ organized activities.
- Any time a member is located at a rehearsal or housing site provided by the Corps.
- During the time a member is considered a part of the ‘official traveling party’ until the time at which a member removes himself or herself from the ‘official traveling party’. If a member is being provided food, housing or transportation, they are considered a part of the ‘official traveling party’ until which time they are no longer being provided any of the above items.



The following are prohibited actions during corps activities and all actions are eligible for dismissal as a member at the discretion of the Corps Director or Executive Director:

- Use of illegal drugs
- Consumption of alcoholic beverages or tobacco products in violation of the stated policies of the corps or in violation of local, state or federal laws.
- Violating the terms of agreement between Carolina Gold and any housing or rehearsal site
- Partaking in actions, which result in arrest.

Any members found in violation of these rules are subject to immediate dismissal from the corps at whatever location and time the corps finds itself. If this arises while traveling, members may be left at the location of the rule violation, which would include a loss of transportation home.

Tobacco use is discouraged. Whenever questions arise, the rights of non-smokers will be given over-riding authority. Smoking is prohibited in uniform. Smoking is prohibited at all rehearsal/housing sites.

It is against corps policy to develop any type of relationship, which would violate any local, state or federal laws. This provision also applies to staff, administration, board members and volunteers. The Corps Director or Executive Director may investigate any issues regarding inappropriate conduct and reserve the right to take any action deemed suitable to those investigating.



A member of Carolina Gold will conduct themselves in a dignified manner at all times. The following guidelines apply during all corps activities:

- Arrive prepared to all corps activities prior to the given start time.
- Abstain from the use of alcohol while in uniform, during rehearsal or between rehearsals occurring on the same day, or while being transported by Carolina Gold.
- Abstain from the use of illegal drugs.
- Refrain from smoking in uniform.
- Use language that is appropriate and acceptable in an educational and professional environment.
- Respect all members, volunteers, staff, and anyone else assisting with the Corps.
- Respect all equipment and uniforms.
- Respect the rules and regulations associated with the practice and performance facilities.
- Show support for the DCA activity by respecting all other corps and their members at all times.
- Refrain from eating in full uniform whenever possible.
- Show proper respect for yourself and the organization by wearing the uniform completely and in the proper manner when instructed to do so.
- Show proper behavior while on the field, including the occasion of a full retreat.
- Participate fully (both mentally and physically) at all Carolina Gold functions.



Age: While there is no upper limit on the age of members, to participate with Carolina Gold Drum & Bugle Corps as a member, prospective members must turn 15 years of age on or before July 15th.

Attendance: Carolina Gold seeks to maintain their status as a world-class, competitive drum and bugle corps, and because the corps can only be as strong as its individual members, **attendance at all rehearsals and performances is mandatory.** In the event that you cannot attend a rehearsal or performance, your caption head should be notified immediately. Absences will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis by the Corps Director. ***If a member is unable to attend a rehearsal or performance, Carolina Gold reserves the right to change any member's position within the corps at any time.***

Member Health: Drum and bugle corps is a physically demanding activity. Therefore, all members - especially those in questionable physical condition - are encouraged to consult with a physician prior to participating. Any members exhibiting health concerns that could be exacerbated by the drum corps experience may be required to secure clearance from a physician prior to rehearsing and performing with the corps. In addition, the corps encourages all members to participate in a regular fitness plan. Activities to build strength, endurance, and promote cardiovascular health are highly recommended. As a precautionary measure for emergency situations, all members must file a new Medical Information and Release form with the administration annually.

Uniforms: must be kept clean, wrinkle-free and stored in a good quality garment bag for travel. Shakos must be kept boxed and away from excessive heat and direct sunlight. Gloves and other accessories must be kept clean and in good condition. Shoes must be clean and well polished.



Equipment: Except as noted below, Carolina Gold will supply instruments, uniform jackets, and other major equipment to the membership. The Corps reserves the right to issue or revoke the use of any piece of equipment at any time. Before receiving any corps equipment to be taken home, members must complete the Member Contract, the Equipment Agreement, and have paid at least \$175 in dues & fees, thus indicating that they accept ultimate responsibility for all equipment issued to them. For members under eighteen (18) years of age, a parent or legal guardian must also assume responsibility for the equipment.

It is understood that all corps equipment may be needed for use at any given rehearsal. Members assume responsibility for the normal upkeep of the corps equipment while it is in their possession, and should address any questions about expected care to their caption heads or Equipment Manager. Members will be held financially responsible for loss, theft, and damage if such occurs while the equipment is in the member's care.

Members agree to return all equipment upon request of the Corps. Equipment must be returned in the same condition as when it was issued, less normal wear and tear. ***Carolina Gold will pursue collection actions for any equipment or unpaid Dues & Fees not returned when requested, or returned in an unacceptable condition.***

Indemnity: Each member agrees to hold Carolina Gold, its members, executive committee, agents, instructional staff, and all other staff and volunteers harmless and indemnified in the event that the member is injured while at rehearsal, performance, or otherwise traveling with the corps. This agreement shall hold regardless of whether such injury is whole or in part, a result of the use of property and equipment of Carolina Gold.



Required Items:

Brass and percussion members are required to provide their own BLACK bibbers and BLACK (non-shiny) marching shoes. Carolina Gold will be able to order both shoes and bibbers on behalf of its members, if needed, at the expense of the member. Brass members need to provide their own BLACK towel for their instrument as well as gloves. We have gloves available for purchase at each camp at the registration table. Percussion and Guard members please see your staff for items that you will need to provide for participation in your section.

Your Caption Head will let you know what other 'required' items you will need for membership in the corps (for instance, brass members need black gloves, a black towel, etc.).

Assignments: Many captions of the corps will be assigned assignments such as video playing assignments in between rehearsals which members are required to complete as a condition of membership. These assignments ensure our members are keeping up with their obligation to improve their skills and abilities to allow the corps to be as competitively successful as possible.

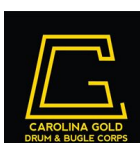


DUES & FEES - PAYMENT SCHEDULE

To be considered for membership in Carolina Gold, you must remain up-to-date financially with the organization. Dues will be divided into a deposit and monthly payments throughout the season. A deposit will be required in order to secure a member contract with Carolina Gold. Members are expected to follow the payment plan as scheduled. **Once a member falls more than one month's payment behind on the schedule of Dues & Fees, they will be ineligible for any participation with the organization until they have fulfilled their past due amount.** Below is the Dues & Fees Schedule for the season.

BRASS:

Date		Amount Due	Balance Remaining
Audition Camp	Audition Packet	\$50	\$1450
January 12	Deposit	\$250	\$1200
February 9	Payment	\$200	\$1000
March 16	Payment	\$200	\$800
April 13	Payment	\$200	\$600
May 4	Payment	\$200	\$400
June 1	Payment	\$200	\$200



GUARD/PERCUSSION:

Date		Amount Due	Balance Remaining
Audition Camp	Audition Packet	\$50	\$1450
May 4	Deposit	\$200	\$1250
May 18	Payment	\$100	\$1150
May 25	Payment	\$100	\$1050
June 1	Payment	\$100	\$950
June 15	Payment	\$100	\$850
June 22	Payment	\$100	\$750
July 6	Payment	\$100	\$650
July 13	Payment	\$100	\$550
July 20	Payment	\$100	\$450
July 27	Payment	\$100	\$350
August 3	Payment	\$100	\$250



Next is a break-down of where, exactly, your money goes. We think it's vitally important that we, as an organization, let you know exactly what it is we do with your dues & fees. In terms of how your dues & fees appear in Charms, we will take the total amount owed and deduct all payments made at each camp (Open House, Audition Camps, etc.). Once we begin fundraisers, those amounts will also deduct from your balance in Charms.

Dues & Fees Breakdown

Transportation / Housing	55%
Food / Supplies	15%
Instructional Staff Compensation	12%
Show Design	8%
Equipment (Consumables)	6%
Uniform Costs	4%
	100%



Transportation / Housing – This category covers anything involving getting our equipment and us from North Carolina to a show. I.e. Charter buses, equipment trucks, etc. Given the significant nature of the costs of transportation, we make every effort not to ‘skimp’ on chartered transport and only use reputable vendors.

Each DCA corps is also required, by DCA, to purchase a set number of hotel rooms to be used at DCA Championships. The rates for these rooms are set by the individual hotels and can’t be negotiated.

So, in short, 55% of the total Dues & Fees is a ‘fixed’ cost and we are unable to do anything to significantly lower these costs. These are costs that many corps in the northeast do not have, as many require their members to transport themselves to shows, allowing them to also perform in many more shows and sell packages for Championships to their alumni and fan base, which are closer to the Championships locations.

Food / Supplies – This is a wide ranging category covering everything from food, to camp supplies (field paint, etc.) to insurance for the organization.

Instructional Staff Compensation – This category covers the cost of our instructional staff, who are woefully undercompensated for their time. The administrative staff of the corps (directors, administration, etc.) are not compensated for their efforts. This category only covers instructional staff.

Show Design – This covers the cost of writing the drill, arranging the brass and percussion music, Color Guard routine and movement design, and the costs associated with obtaining rights to perform the music we choose in any given year.

Equipment (Consumables) – This category covers things which are ‘consumable’ and aren’t generally re- used from year to year such as drum sticks, heads, color guard equipment, etc.

Uniform Costs – This amount covers costs such as the purchase of additional uniforms, uniform parts (plumes, etc.).



Corps Fundraisers:

We anticipate conducting several major fundraisers for the season. These each take place about a month apart in the 'May/June/July' timeframe for those who wish to try and raise dues & fees through fundraising opportunities.

We will also heavily encourage those who wish to fundraise through social media avenues use the www.gofundme.com website as it provides a great opportunity to use Facebook/Twitter integration to attempt to crowd-source your dues & fees obligation. We will set up a 'sample page' to provide an initial source of information for you to use if you choose to use the GoFundMe site.

Do Not March List

Once a member falls more than one month's payment behind on the schedule of Dues & Fees, they will be ineligible for any participation with the organization until they have fulfilled their past due amount. If a member ends a season owing more than \$250 to the organization they are ineligible to participate in any activities in the following season with any Carolina Gold performing ensemble.

You can pay for dues & fees via the link on our website or with card, check or cash in person at 'Check-In' each rehearsal or tour weekend. ***Dues & Fees for all members for the 2018 season will be \$1,500 for all members.***



REHEARSAL / TOUR WEEKENDS

Rehearsal Weekends

Unless specifically told otherwise, the framework of all rehearsal weekends will be:

Friday

8:00 pm - Check-In

8:30 pm - Rehearsal

10:00 pm - Rehearsal Ends

Saturday

9:00 am - Rehearsal

10:00 pm - Rehearsal Ends

Sunday

9:00 am - Rehearsal

6:00 pm - Rehearsal End

The corps membership sleeps in the gymnasium at the rehearsal facility and shower facilities are also provided.

Members under 18 years old are required not to leave the rehearsal site until the corps is dismissed at the end of the rehearsal weekend.

Tour Weekends

We will continue to update and finalize the schedule on the following page but it currently represents the best information we have at this time regarding the competition dates for the 2017 season.

The Fourth of July Tour, and DCA Championships will be our only tours involving travel during the week and we will distribute exact travel plans for those events at a later time. The Fourth of July parades involve leaving the evening of Tuesday, July 3rd and performing in (5) to (6) parades on July 4th in Baltimore, MD.



For DCA Championships, held in Williamsport, PA, anticipate departing early on Thursday August 31st, and returning on Monday September 3rd, (Labor Day).

The last competition weekends and DCA Championships often conflict with high school and college football season. Members are responsible for communicating with educators about any potential scheduling conflicts.

PROJECTED SCHEDULE – 2018

Below is a projected schedule for the 2018 season. While Carolina Gold makes every attempt to refrain from changing its rehearsal and competition schedule, many aspects of the competition schedule are unable to be confirmed until early 2018.

This schedule reflects our best estimation of the current projected rehearsal and competition schedule for the 2018 season.

January 12-14, 2018	Rehearsal - Brass Only	North Carolina
February 9-10, 2018	Rehearsal - Brass Only	North Carolina
March 16-17, 2018	Rehearsal - Brass Only	North Carolina
April 13-15, 2018	Rehearsal - Brass Only	North Carolina
April 28 - 30, 2018	Guard/Percussion Audition - No Brass	North Carolina
May 4 - 6, 2018	Rehearsal Weekend - Full Corps Begins	North Carolina
May 11 - 13, 2018	Weekend Off	North Carolina
May 18 - 20, 2018	Rehearsal Weekend	North Carolina
May 25 - 28, 2018	Rehearsal Weekend	North Carolina
June 1 - 3, 2018	Rehearsal Weekend	North Carolina



June 8 - 10, 2018	Weekend Off	
June 15 - 17, 2018	Rehearsal Weekend	North Carolina
June 22 - 24, 2018	Rehearsal /Friends and Family	North Carolina
June 29 - July 1, 2018	Weekend Off	
July 3 - July 4, 2018	Parade	Baltimore / N. VA
July 6 - 8, 2018	Rehearsal Weekend	North Carolina
July 13 - 15, 2018	Competition Weekend	Woodstock, GA
July 20 - 22, 2018	Rehearsal Weekend	North Carolina
July 27 - July 29, 2018	Competition Weekend	Atlanta, GA
August 3 - 5, 2018	Rehearsal Weekend	North Carolina
August 10 - 12, 2018	Weekend Off	
August 17 - 19, 2018	Rehearsal Weekend	North Carolina
August 24 - 26, 2018	Competition Weekend	Reading, PA
August 30 - Sept 3, 2018	DCA Championships	Williamsport, PA

In the event of an emergency, you must contact the Carolina Gold Corps Director or, in the absence of the Corps Director, one of the other Administrative Staff members.

The following items are examples of an emergency:

- Death in the family
- Illness resulting in hospitalization
- Court Appearance



All who participate in Carolina Gold activities grant Carolina Gold the right to use photographs and/or video images in promotional materials as the organization sees fit.

QUESTIONS?

Questions about music, assignments, attendance, or general 'caption-related' questions:

Any questions regarding audition materials, attendance at camp weekends, or other questions related to your particular instrument can be forwarded to your particular caption head.

Questions about Dues & Fees:

Dues & Fees questions can be forwarded to our Executive Treasurer, Shedrick Samuels.

General Corps Questions:

If you have general questions that haven't been addressed in this packet, you can e-mail the Corps Director, Jesse Rackley, and they will be able to either answer your question or connect you to the person who may have the answer.

