

# WHAT TO EXPECT AT YOUR FIRST REHEARSAL!!!!

Our rehearsals... particularly our FIRST ONE, are a combination of party time, reunion of friends, folks tuning up, and smiles galore...a general atmosphere of excited, controlled bedlam!!! Expect to meet LOTS of people!! So expect **LOTS OF NOISE!!!** Just soak up the atmosphere...it's part of the excitement! Before you know it, you'll be fully engrossed in it yourself.

## WHAT DO I DO FIRST???? ..... Check In!!

ALL Rounders, whether 'first year' or 'veteran', should look for the check-in desk at the first rehearsal. A team of registrars will be there to verify that your Registration is in order, to accept your annual donation, as well as answer any questions you may have. As you enter the Coliseum, look for the appropriate sign for the first letter of your name. Please try to arrive early so that the actual rehearsal may start on time!

## AND THEN WHAT?

NEXT, either look for the "WELCOME NEW ROUNDERS" sign, and introduce yourself, or go straight to your particular section/unit. Each of our performing units has one or more section leads, called **SHEPHERDS**. We'll try to connect you with him or her, and he/she will introduce you around, get you a spot, and you'll be off and running in no time! Keep in mind, though, that it will likely be very hectic, so you could just go to your section and jump right in...ANYONE will be glad to help you.

**BUT.... (and this is the big question) I HAVEN'T PERFORMED IN YEARS! CAN I CUT IT?**

*...It's not like we haven't heard THAT before!!!* The answer is an unequivocal **YES!!!** Just ask anyone and they'll tell you.... all of US have been exactly where you are, and we all felt what you may be feeling!! ***Also, consider the following.***

**-it's not the FIRST rehearsal that matters, it's the FIRST PERFORMANCE that counts!!** You will be amazed at how our sound improves week to week. Why is that? For one thing, we actually **PRACTICE!!** Unlike our school band times, now, none of us HAS to be here... we WANT to!! So we go home and run through the music and routines on our own. You'll have them down in no time.

**-The difficulty level of the musical selections is geared precisely toward our skill level.....** not too easy, but definitely not too hard! We don't compete in our performances, so there's no pressure there. Rather, our selections are intended primarily to be crowd pleasers, designed to get them singing and dancing. Chances are, you've played some of the marches and tunes before.

# Q & A's !!!!!

**EVERYTHING (Well, almost everything) you wanted to ask, but were afraid to!!! so!!!**

**Q: How well do I have to play and march?**

A: The band is open to all musicians and performers with experience and desire. You should be proficient enough to be able to play music at a level of difficulty generally seen in high school or college. Our field routines are straightforward so we can concentrate on our sound and visual "flash", and street marching is heel-toe (no fancy steps). Most members learn the routines and music without much difficulty.

**Q: Is there an audition?**

A: No, we do not have musical auditions; in the past members have judged for themselves whether they are capable of playing the music. (Remember, practice makes perfect!) However, there are some minimum requirements for each auxiliary group and a 'soft audition' is usually required to help get folks into the correct auxiliary group. **The main requirement to be in the band is to be over 18 years old and to show up for all the rehearsals and performances!!** The rehearsal and performance schedule is posted on the website

**Q: Do I have to supply my own instrument or guard equipment?**

A: Many people own their own instruments and can just bring them. For those who do not have one, instruments are available from our sponsor, Bringe Music. Auxiliary members – rifles and majorettes are expected to provide their own equipment. Flag poles and flags are provided for an equipment rental fee. For a current list of rental fees, click below:

[http://www.secondtimearounders.com/documents/Bringe\\_New\\_Member\\_intro\\_flyer1.pdf](http://www.secondtimearounders.com/documents/Bringe_New_Member_intro_flyer1.pdf)

**Q: Will I be the only new person in my section?**

A: There is obviously no way to predict what our membership will be from year to year. Some sections naturally get more new members annually than others! Also consider.....here's a really GREAT reason to bring a friend!!!!

**Q: Who are typical members?**

A: There are no "typical" members - we are from all walks of life, **ages 18 through 80+**. The common thread is a love of music and marching bands.

**Q: Can you accommodate people with disabilities?**

A: Yes, the facilities we use are fully disabled-accessible, and wheelchairs or other devices are welcome in our parades and performances. Each member may decide if they are capable of participating in our marching and/or concert performances.

**Q: How much does it cost to be a member?**

A: While there is no "membership fee" to be a Rounder, a suggested Annual Donation of \$25 or more, is appreciated. (After all, we are a completely self-supporting non-profit organization)! Performers will also need to purchase a Rounders uniform, and throughout the year we have many fundraisers and social events where donations are appreciated.

**Q: I have never marched in band before but want to join. What can I do, and how do I get involved? (Perfect for spouses, friends, relatives!)**

A: No marching experience? No problem. We have different options specifically designed for first time arounders who want to be Second Time Arounders! We have flag carriers, triangle players, and a myriad of support needs which just call out for you!! Just fill out and submit the application form, be sure you are on our email mailing list, and let us know where you can help!! Then, just come on out and we'll get you started.

**Q: HOW MANY REHEARSALS DO YOU HAVE????**

A: While some units may have more voluntary practices, and special trips may have added practices, **the band has only five rehearsals for each season!** Twirling auxiliary units and percussion have 8 rehearsals. Over the years, our Executive committee has found FIVE be the right number of rehearsals to both get us prepared as well as to keep us excited and involved. That's not a lot, and that's why ATTENDANCE is critical. Each rehearsal improves dramatically. **So what's the quality like?** Check out our video performances elsewhere on our site, and decide for yourselves!! We think you will quickly understand why **WE ARE VERY PROUD OF THE PRODUCT WE PRESENT TO THE PUBLIC!!**

**Q: After I fill out my New Registration, when/how will I hear something back from you?**

A: When you have completed your registration on-line, you should receive a confirmation, along with your member ID and password, needed to access the "members only" section. You will then begin receiving periodic emails from [communications@secondtimearounders.org](mailto:communications@secondtimearounders.org). It's a good idea to make sure our emails don't automatically go into a SPAM folder, or junk email. Occasionally, you may also receive communications from us via US Mail. Please let us know if you do not have access to electronic correspondence.

**Q: I'm interested in the color guard groups such as drill team, flags, rifles or majorettes. How do I get started?**

A: Fill out the new member profile to be sure you are on our email mailing list, and keep an eye on the Rehearsal and Performance Schedule section of this website for dates, times and locations of rehearsal. Then, just come on out and we'll get you started! There's an auxiliary group to fit every level of experience. **Be sure to read the minimum performance requirements for the group you want.** [Click HERE to view requirements!](#)

**Q: How can I help the Rounders??**

A: The ROUNDERS is an all-volunteer organization, and, as such, is completely dependent upon the **ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT** of all of its members and friends!! This goes all the way from Board membership, to various committee membership, volunteering for our fund raising events, and to **SUPPORT TEAMS** to keep us moving from place to place, helping with equipment, logistics, after-performance water, and anything else essential to the operation of our group.

**Q: What is the Rounders Uniform, and where do I get one?**

A: Rounders shirts and hats can be purchased at our rehearsals. The rest of the (band) uniform consists of navy blue "Dockers" style pants and ALL WHITE tennis shoes, which are widely available at local merchants. Specialty items (sashes, headbands, etc) for auxiliary units may vary.

**DO I HAVE TO MAKE EVERY REHEARSAL??**

With only 5 regularly scheduled rehearsals, you can understand how important your attendance is at each and every one. While personal/business situations can occur, we ask that if you miss 2 or more rehearsals, you defer your participation to the next season.

**DO I HAVE TO MAKE EVERY PERFORMANCE???**

YES! The Rounders is an ENSEMBLE of musicians and auxiliary performers, and the absence of anyone can damage our quality. Barring personal emergencies, we expect all members to make all regular season performances

**I may not be able to go on your special band trips...but can I still be a member??**

OF COURSE!!! Naturally, we want to get as many folks on our trips as possible (do you remember the phrase "BAND TRIP" and all that went with it??), but we fully understand that isn't always possible.

**Q: How do I keep track of what's going on?**

A: Updates are posted on the website ([www.secondtimearounders.org](http://www.secondtimearounders.org)) and emails are regularly sent. ALSO, look for our regular **NEWSLETTER** online.

**MORE QUESTIONS????? JUST CLICK "CONTACT US" FROM OUR HOME PAGE ANYTIME!!!**