

BLUE STARS VOLUNTEERS

TO PUT IT SIMPLY, THE BLUE STARS DRUM & BUGLE CORPS WOULD NOT EXIST WITHOUT THE DEDICATION OF VOLUNTEERS. SINCE OUR FOUNDING IN 1964, THOUSANDS OF INDIVIDUALS HAVE DONATED COUNTLESS HOURS IN A TIRELESS EFFORT TO PROVIDE A UNIQUE AND UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE FOR OUR MARCHING MEMBERS. AS WE CONTINUE THE LEGACY THEY FOSTERED, WE SEEK TO BUILD AND REFINE THE VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE, PROVIDING A POSITIVE AND DEVOTED TEAM TO SUPPORT THE BLUE STARS PERFORMERS BOTH ON AND OFF THE FIELD.

JOBS

- **COOKING CREW** - HELP PREPARE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF MEALS EACH SEASON TO FEED MEMBERS & STAFF.
- **UNIFORM / SEWING CREW** - MAINTAIN THE CORPS' VISUAL APPEARANCE BY OUTFITTING, ALTERING, AND CLEANING UNIFORMS.
- **DRIVER** - HELP GET DOWN THE ROAD BY DRIVING A CORPS VEHICLE. WE ALWAYS NEED GREAT DRIVERS, BOTH CDL AND NON.
- **LOCAL** - DO YOU LIVE IN AN AREA WE ARE VISITING? JOIN US DURING OUR STAY TO ASSIST IN RUNNING ERRANDS, CLINIC RUNS, ETC.

HOW DO I SIGN UP?

We utilize an online service called Sign Up Genius to coordinate our volunteer schedule. Please check for open volunteer positions, compare it with your availability, and check the [Blue Stars Performance Schedule](#) for tour dates & locations.

Reach out to our Volunteer Coordinator by emailing volunteer@bluestars.org if you have any questions or concerns!

THE VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

As a Blue Stars' volunteer, you can expect to have fun, enjoy the drum corps activity, and to work hard... very hard. There can be no misunderstanding, drum corps volunteering is demanding. Much like the members rehearsing and performing on the field every day, volunteers work long hours behind the scenes to ensure our members have a smooth, safe, and worry-free summer.

In between your volunteering duties, you will have opportunities to watch rehearsals, attend drum corps shows, and to share in the ups and downs of the season. While in the bubble of tour, it can be very easy to lose perspective and forget that our job is to make sure the needs of the members and the organization are met. Tour can be a very stressful place. Lack of sleep, extreme temperatures, vehicle breakdowns, unexpected scores, and other challenges can make it easy for negativity to creep in and to poison the atmosphere. It's imperative that all volunteers work diligently to maintain a positive environment – even in the face of adversity. Enjoy the experience!

Moreover, we live in very close proximity while on tour. We ask that you please use your very best judgement when making comments regarding the members, staff, other volunteers, the scores, or corps in general (ours or other teams). Also, we ask that you respect the design team's creative decisions and recognize that they are working to produce an entertaining and competitively successful show and to create an enjoyable experience for the members as well. Genuine concerns about issues on the road should be brought to the attention of the corps' leadership and administration.

We respect other drum corps as well and recognize that our goals are one in the same - providing a life changing experience for the performers - even if we are at times in competition.

Above all, we ask that you have fun, enjoy the volunteering experience, and remember that the Blue Stars strive to provide a positive and enriching experience for everyone involved. We serve to make the members have an amazing experience!

WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING?

- **SLEEPING GEAR:**
 - PILLOW, BEDDING, SHEETS, SLEEPING BAG (YOUR CHOICE)
 - IF YOU ARE DRIVING, YOU MAY NEED AN AIR MATTRESS/COT.
 - SOME VOLUNTEERS WILL SLEEP ON BUNK HOUSES, OTHERS WILL HAVE DESIGNATED ROOMS AT HOUSING SITES.
- **TOILETRIES & SHOWERING GEAR:**
 - SOAP, SHAMPOO, SHOWER GEL
 - FAST DRYING TOWELS
 - SHOWER SHOES OR SANDALS
- **HEALTH & MEDICINE:**
 - **SUNSCREEN IS ESSENTIAL**
 - PLEASE FILL PRESCRIPTIONS PRIOR TO YOUR ARRIVAL ON THE ROAD IF POSSIBLE.
 - WE KEEP A SUPPLY OF OVER THE COUNTER MEDICATIONS
- **CLOTHING:**
 - PACK LIGHTLY, **SPACE IS EXTREMELY LIMITED**
 - LIGHT JACKET, HOODIE FOR EVENING
 - COMFORTABLE/ATHLETIC CLOTHING
 - SHOES, MINIMIZE OPEN TOED/SANDALS
 - WORK CLOTHING, YOU WILL SWEAT / GET DIRTY
 - HEAD COVERING, HAT (OPTIONAL BUT A GOOD IDEA)
- **VALUABLES:**
 - MINIMIZE EXPENSIVE ITEMS & ELECTRONICS
 - THERE IS NOT ALWAYS PHONE / WIFI ACCESS
 - REMEMBER PHONE CHARGERS & POWER SUPPLIES
 - THERE IS NO OFFICIAL LOST & FOUND
- **MONEY:**
 - WE RECOMMEND DEBIT/CREDIT CARDS VS. CASH
 - REMEMBER TO INFORM YOUR BANK OR CREDIT CARD COMPANY THAT YOU ARE TRAVELING.

JOINING THE CORPS ON THE ROAD

As you determine your volunteer availability, please plan ahead and communicate your travel arrangements to the corps administration listed below. If you need a shuttle from an airport, bus station, etc., we will try our best to pick you up at your location. Please coordinate your transportation plans with the Director of Operations or Tour Director so you arrive and depart at a mutually convenient time and location.

If you are traveling to meet the corps on tour, you may have to wait for the corps to arrive at your location. We will provide shuttle transportation within a reasonable distance from the corps' location. We ask that you please be patient as unexpected delays can occur while the corps is traveling down the road.

When you arrive to volunteer while on the road, please go first to the food truck. The food truck is usually where most volunteers are located and is always bustling with activity. Once there, other volunteers or staff can direct you to corps administration who can help facilitate finding your sleeping amenities, confirm job responsibilities, etc.

COMMUNICATION

Open, friendly, and honest communication is essential to have a positive volunteer experience and to provide the members with an enriching season. From communicating travel plans to asking any questions about volunteering for the corps, we strive to create an open and friendly environment.

It is important to inform the right leadership personnel - in a timely manner - if you observe a questionable situation. We want to minimize gossip and to maintain individual privacy and the overall morale of the organization. Also, we want to prevent a situation from being blown out of proportion.

VOLUNTEER EXPECTATIONS

- **AGE REQUIREMENTS:** 18 years and older. Minors must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.
- **THE CORPS WILL PROVIDE FOOD, LODGING, AND TRAVEL ACCOMMODATIONS WHILE VOLUNTEERS TRAVEL WITH THE CORPS.**
- **THE BLUE STARS ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR OTHER PERSONAL EXPENSES (i.e. food on free days, travel, medical, traffic fines, etc.)**
- **DRIVING CORPS VEHICLES:**
 - Anyone driving a corps vehicles must be at least 25 years old.
 - Prior approval by our insurance provider is required.
 - We require a photocopy of driver's license.
- **INAPPROPRIATE RELATIONSHIPS OR CONTACT WITH MEMBERS, STAFF, OR OTHER VOLUNTEERS IS PROHIBITED.**
- **INAPPROPRIATE ACTIONS AND BEHAVIOR WILL BE DEALT WITH IMMEDIATELY AT VOLUNTEER'S OWN EXPENSE.**
- **ALL VOLUNTEERS SPENDING MORE THAN 24 CONSECUTIVE HOURS WITH THE CORPS MUST COMPLETE A BACKGROUND CHECK.**
- **IT IS STRONGLY ADVISED FOR VOLUNTEERS TO COMPLETE A MEDICAL FORM AND KEEP IT ON FILE WITH THE CORPS.**

LEADERSHIP

The Blue Stars organization and leadership team cares about you and hope that you have a positive and rewarding experience. If you have any questions or concerns that you believe need to be addressed by corps administration, please communicate with any of the following personnel:

- **Cory Jones**, Volunteer Coordinator - volunteer@bluestars.org
- **Sue Wilson**, Culinary Director - sue@bluestars.org
- **Brad Harris**, Corps Director - director@bluestars.org
- **Brad Furlano**, Executive Director - brad@bluestars.org

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

Email volunteer@bluestars.org with any questions you have and also visit www.BLUESTARS.org to learn how you can help support the Blue Stars Drum & Bugle Corps.

For information about volunteer needs and important dates, please visit: www.bluestars.org/volunteer



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