



# Avon Grove Indoor Color Guard 2012



*Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out.*  
~Robert Collier

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### **What is winter guard or indoor guard?**

Have you ever seen the flags, sabers, and rifles that march along with the marching band? Well, we take that equipment perform with it indoors, on a gym floor, to recorded music. Here's some history: color guard originated from the military practice of guarding your nation's flag during a battle. Have you ever noticed that when the American flag is carried in a parade, there is always someone carrying a rifle or sabre next to it? That person is guarding our nation's colors—the color guard. Competitions were originally just displays of precision marching, but the sport has evolved into one of pageantry.

Over the next 5 months, you will be given basic instruction in the areas of dance, equipment, staging, and expression. This training will be expanded into a 4 to 5 minute visual production.

Our Indoor Units compete in circuits, which are similar to leagues in sports. While each circuit makes its own rules and has its own judges, they usually conform to those rules set by an international governing body. The circuit in which we are primarily participating in this year is the TIA (Tournament Indoor Association). TIA is the indoor component of TOB (Tournament of Bands), the circuit the band competes in during the fall season. We are members of Chapter 3 and we are required to compete in a certain number of shows within our chapter. Each chapter holds a championship that will seed the units into the Atlantic Coast Indoor Championship shows in Wildwood, NJ, at the conclusion of our competitive season.

There are many different categories in which groups can compete. First, each category is divided into scholastic or independent. For a group to compete as scholastic, all of its members must currently be enrolled in the same school or school district. The groups are then divided by what they are. Some examples are percussion, twirlers, dance teams, and color guards. These groups are then broken down into levels. These levels are Cadet, Middle School, Novice, Intermediate A, A, Open, and World. This year, the Avon Grove Color Guard will be participating as a Scholastic Intermediate A Color Guard.

### **Why does Avon Grove sponsor an indoor guard?**

Our main goal is to further develop skills of the current members and train future members of the outdoor color guard program. A secondary goal is to allow color guard members to perform in another format; one that allows them to showcase their skills in a more intimate setting than the football field. As in our fall guard program, students will work to develop the cooperative skills and strong work ethic that goes along with being part of a team.

### **Who may join?**

Any color guard or marching band members (9<sup>th</sup> –12<sup>th</sup> grade) that want to increase their skills and be given the opportunity to perform. The guard may include up to 30 members.

### **Will we have to audition?**

No. Anyone that is interested in participating in the indoor guard will be accepted as a member. Members that have less experience and developing skills will perform in shorter amounts of the production. However, participating in the basic dance and equipment program during indoor guard will prepare them to have an expanded role in future fall and indoor productions.

Auditions will be held for rifle/sabre lines.

After the first few rehearsals we will finalize the roster so we can begin to design the show. It's very important that you complete the season if you make the commitment. Unlike sports, there is not another kid on a bench waiting to take your spot. The show is staged and your spot is integral to the overall show design. If someone quits mid-season, the designers have to change the show, and then the rest of the color guard has to RE-LEARN the show to make up for the missing person.

### **How can our parents be involved?**

We will need help sewing flags, setting up at shows, painting the floor, building props, chaperoning, transporting props and equipment, setting up the floor at shows, etc. More information on this will follow. Also, if your parent is not already a member of the Avon Grove Music Boosters, they should consider joining at the next meeting (Visit the AG Band website for more information: <http://www.aghsmusicboosters.org>)

Because our team is not provided with a trailer, we are in need parents to transport the floor to/from AGIS and to/from competitions. Please let us know if you can help with this.

Most of all, we welcome parent support as a cheering section when we perform. Parents are always welcome and encouraged to come at the end of rehearsals to see run-throughs. We are proud of what you accomplish and we know they will be too!

### **When will we practice and go to shows?**

We will practice on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30-8:30pm (at AGIS) beginning on November 30. There will be occasional replacement rehearsals on Monday or Wednesday due to gym availability and music department conflicts. There will be weekend camps (Saturdays) in January and February to learn the show. We will also have short rehearsals on show days (all shows will be on Saturdays or Sundays). We will perform at local Indoor shows, Chapter 3 Championships, and All Chapter Championships (Wildwood). A tentative schedule is attached.

### **What about snow?**

If the Avon Grove school district is closed (all day or an early dismissal) due to inclement weather on a weekday rehearsal (Tuesday or Thursday) then practice is automatically cancelled. If there is a 2-hour delay there WILL still be rehearsal. If weekend plans change we will contact you by email, text and post on our website.

### **What is the Attendance Policy?**

All members are expected to attend rehearsals and performances. Attendance is extremely important, and mandatory for participation in this activity. All equipment skills, movement skills, routines, and drill can only be learned through active participation. Consider this if you think that other activities or work will interfere.

Any conflicts must be discussed with the staff at the beginning of the season. Any emergencies (illness, family emergencies, etc.) are excusable absences IF you contact a staff member. Work, social events, etc. are not excused absences.

Though academics are your main focus at all times, part of being a successful student is time management. You need to plan out your homework/study times around scheduled rehearsals. Doing this will actually BETTER prepare you for college!

Please remember it is YOUR responsibility to let a STAFF member know if you will be missing rehearsal AND to make up any work you missed. You must call, text or email Michelle Adcock (610-420-9171, [chellesilk@mac.com](mailto:chellesilk@mac.com), [madcock@avongrove.org](mailto:madcock@avongrove.org)). TELLING another member to tell the staff you won't be there is not acceptable.

Repeated and/or unexcused absences jeopardize your ability to be a successful performer. The staff reserves the right to pull you from parts of the show and/or a performance if absenteeism becomes a problem.



## **This schedule seems like a lot to me. Why do you rehearse so much?**

**We don't rehearse too much**; in fact, we don't rehearse as much as most of our competitors. Indoor color guard is not a leisurely activity that you can add to an already-full schedule. It's a competitive sport, one that requires training and conditioning just as much, if not more so, than any other sport. IT IS NOT EASY, but the rewards are amazing.

There's a saying; "If you want to get something done, ask a busy person to do it." We can tell you from decades of experience as instructors and performers that when a student gives a time commitment to an activity, they almost always manage their free time more effectively. They figure out exactly when they have to get their homework and studying done.

## **Can I Be Involved in Other Activities During the Indoor Guard Season?**

If you are involved in other school activities we will work with you to try to make it possible to do both. This may involve some splitting of time with another activity. Before audition day, we will talk with each of you about possible conflicting activities. Some we can work with, some we cannot; and you'll have to make a choice. While we don't want to exclude anyone, the group cannot be successful if members miss rehearsals and performances for other activities.

You MUST make us aware of all possible conflicts prior to the start of the season.

## **What are the costs?**

### Indoor Guard Dues: \$150 (due January 6, 2012)

#### *Includes:*

- *Costume*
  - Since costumes are specific to the show concept and only used for one season, each member will pay for their own costume (which they will get to keep at the end of the season). This is similar to what dance companies do for their recital costumes.
- *Show T-Shirt* (yours to keep)
- *Equipment Fee*
  - Due to the lack of funding for this program, we are asking all members to contribute a small amount to help offset the cost of flags, fabric, paint, etc. This will not cover ALL of the costs of the production and we will also be doing fundraisers.
- Please make all checks out to *AGIMBA (Avon Grove Instrumental Music Boosters)*



### Color Guard Supplies (will order sometime in January):

These are supplies everyone needs, but they are the same every fall and indoor season.

- *Equipment Bag*: (\$18-\$24) You can buy one or make your own
- *Gloves*: (\$14) Leather fingerless sport gloves, natural color.
- *Flip flops*: We perform barefoot, but need flip flops for when we move around the facility. (We are not doing an order for these, but everyone needs to make sure they have a pair.)

### Optional "Spirit Wear" Supplies (will order sometime in January)

- Warm-ups: \$85 (mandatory for outdoor, jackets only mandatory for indoor)
- Hoodies/Sweatpants: \$18-\$22 each

### Wildwood Trip (Payments due each month)

- This is our annual trip to All Chapter Championships in Wildwood, NJ. It's an exciting event and a great culmination to our season.
- Cost is an estimated \$200-\$280, but we try very hard to keep it as low as possible. You will be receiving a Wildwood Packet with more details once the rosters of the indoor percussion and color guard have been finalized.
- **A deposit of \$25 is due by December 12, 2011.**

### Avon Grove School District Activity Fee

- All students that participate in COMPETITIVE extra-curricular activities or sports must pay a once a year activity fee of **\$150**. If you participated in marching band, color guard, or a fall sport and have already paid this fee you do not have to pay this again. If you are new, please pay \$150 to Mrs. D'Antonio at the HS office as soon as possible (Checks made out to the Avon Grove School District)

*Students may use money in their band fundraising accounts to pay for any costs associated with the indoor guard program.*

*If costs are an issue, do not assume you cannot participate. Make the staff aware of your situation and we will work out a payment plan.*

**Are there fundraisers?**

There will be specific fundraisers to support the Color Guard Program. You may also participate in all fundraisers sponsored by the Music Boosters. With all fundraisers, a portion of the profit goes to your student account. This money can be used for any supplies, trips, etc.

Our biggest fundraiser during Indoor Season will be our home show on March 17, 2012. More information on how you can help with this coming soon!

**Is there a dress code for rehearsals?**

YES! You must wear the following for rehearsals:

- Shorts or close-fitting leggings/capris (so that we can see your "leg line" during practice.)
- Barefoot or dance shoes (ballet or jazz shoes.)
- Sports bras for those who require them
- NO JEANS
- Some rehearsals will be in "blacks". For these rehearsals you must wear all black (shorts, sweats, etc.). This is to help us better read the staging and forms.

**If my friend missed the meeting, is it too late to join?**

NO! Take a packet for them and bring them to the first full rehearsal.

**I still have questions, what should I do?**

Contact Michelle Adcock (610) 420-9171 or [chellesilk@mac.com](mailto:chellesilk@mac.com), [madcock@avongrove.org](mailto:madcock@avongrove.org) .

During the Season, Indoor Guard Announcements will be available on the Avon Grove Color Guard Site:  
<http://agcg.pbworks.com>



## Requirements / Expectations

Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is mandatory! Exceptions would include...absence from school due to illness, family emergency, etc (see contract for details). Be committed to your fellow guard members by faithfully attending all practices and shows.

- 1) BE PUNCTUAL (“to be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late, to be late is not to be”) The set practice time is when rehearsal begins. Arrive at the school before this scheduled time to allow you to:
  - Take the sound system and guard box to the practice site.
  - Move tables (in cafeteria) and set up the floor.
- 2) Practice Healthy Habits: eat right, exercise, get enough rest, etc. Color Guard is a SPORT; you are an athlete. Your body is your instrument, keeping it in shape helps your ability to perform.
- 3) Come prepared to rehearse at each rehearsal: know where and when to report (if you’re not sure, ASK). Have all of your equipment.
- 4) Dress APPROPRIATELY to rehearse:
  - Shorts or close-fitting leggings/capris (so that we can see your “leg line” during practice.)
  - Ballet or jazz shoes (light colors only) or barefoot.
  - Sports bras and shirts that provide adequate coverage.
  - NO JEANS
  - All WEEKEND rehearsals will be in “blacks”. For these rehearsals you must wear all black (shorts, sweats, etc.). This is to help us better read the staging and forms.
- 5) Behave appropriately at all rehearsals and performances. Remember, you not only represent yourself at various rehearsals and performances, but you represent your school and the AGHS Music Department! At the director's discretion, inappropriate behavior may lead to dismissal from the ensemble.
- 6) Maintain your grades. Manage time efficiently so that schoolwork and guard practice do not conflict. (Don’t wait until the night a project is due and make the choice to skip rehearsal to complete it.)
- 7) Practice at home regularly.
- 8) Practice teamwork and good sportsmanship at all times:
  - Try your best at practice and during performances; learn from your mistakes, accept constructive criticism, and do not get angry with yourself or others for making a mistake.
  - Pay attention to and respect your instructors.
  - Accept roles you have been assigned, even if they are not your first choice.
  - Be positive and encourage fellow guard members.
  - Take pride in your team, no matter the score or placement.

# Color Guard Personnel Database Information

(Return this form by December 12, 2011 OR Complete it online at [agcg.pbworks.com](http://agcg.pbworks.com))

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Cell Phone: : \_\_\_\_\_



## Parent Information:

1) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (cell phone) \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

2) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (cell phone) \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Are you also in...

Concert Band / Wind Ensemble

Choir

Orchestra

Student's T-shirt size: (Please Circle)      S      M      L      XL

***Please Return by December 12, 2011***

# Avon Grove High School Indoor Color Guard Contract

In order to insure that we have full participation in rehearsals and performances, we, the AGHS Indoor Guard Staff, have established the following list of attendance requirements.

- All members are given a schedule. All attendance requirements are based on the expectation that you will commit to these dates at this time. **In other words, if something else comes up, you are already committed to indoor guard.**
- Keeping in mind that everyone in indoor guard is a varsity starter (there are no reserves or substitutes) your attendance at all rehearsals and performances is necessary.
- Attendance is mandatory at all functions.
  - Any absences for other school activities must be pre-approved; otherwise they are considered unexcused absences.
  - Absence due to illness, family emergency, etc. is considered excused only if a staff member is contacted (email, phone, voicemail). Telling another member to tell the staff that you are sick is not acceptable. If you do not contact the staff, the absence is considered unexcused.
  - Work is **never** considered an excused absence. Provide your employer with a copy of the schedule.
  - Unexcused absences jeopardize your position in the group. The staff reserves the right to pull you from performance if absenteeism becomes a problem.
  - Emergency situations that arise will be dealt with on an individual basis by the staff.

Other expectations (detailed in the membership packet) include:

- Punctuality
- Practicing Healthy Habits
- Being prepared for rehearsal (bringing all equipment)
- Learning assigned basic techniques and choreography
- Dressing appropriately
- Modeling positive behavior, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

At the director's discretion, inappropriate behavior may lead to dismissal from the ensemble.

- Signatures are required.
- Keep a copy for your records and return a copy to Mrs. Adcock on or before December 12, 2011

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Student Name

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Student Signature

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Parent Signature

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Date

***Please return to Mrs. Adcock by December 12, 2011***

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Student Name

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Student Signature

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Parent Signature

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Date

*Keep This Copy for Your Records*