



2019 Volunteer Handbook



Welcome Cincinnati Tradition Volunteer!

Thank you for your interest in volunteering your time to help the members of the Cincinnati Tradition Drum & Bugle Corps become the very best they can be! At TRADITION, our number one goal each year is to make every member's drum corps experience an incredible one in which they learn not only to play, spin, dance, and perform together but also how to better live their lives. It would not be possible to achieve this goal without the support of numerous volunteers like yourself who so generously take time out of their busy lives to help make our corps one of the very best.

As the following pages will show you, TRADITION depends on volunteers to perform many of the corps' most vital jobs while we're at rehearsal and on the road every summer.

Our volunteers mend, alter, and launder uniforms, prepare meals, provide first aid, run our souvenir program, do grocery runs, fix whatever is broken—you name it, they (you!) make it happen. Make no mistake; volunteering for TRADITION can be hard, demanding work! But, we're confident you'll find it to be more than worthwhile when you see the grateful look on a hungry member's face as you hand her a plate of hot food, or the great way the uniforms you altered look out on the field. You'll also have a chance to meet wonderful people from across the country, make lasting friendships, and to be a part of a truly unique and special activity.

This handbook is designed to give you an idea, in words and pictures, of what it will be like to help TRADITION this year. Please read on to find out more about the various volunteer positions available, what it's like to volunteer with TRADITION during our summer, and how you can sign up to help this summer. We've also included a few tips and guidelines for making your experience (and the members'!) the best it can be. Remember, TRADITION can't do this without you—so read on, and join up! You'll be glad you did.

Who Can Volunteer?

Just about anyone! Our volunteers are parents of current and former members, TRADITION alumni, fans, and supporters of all kinds.

How Can I Help?

This is usually the first question a new volunteer has for us. The answer: There is a wide variety of ways to lend a hand. Most of them fall into the categories listed below. Of course, our needs in certain areas are greater than others, so don't be discouraged if your first choice is already full when you sign up—there are some jobs (feeding the corps) for which we can literally ALWAYS use more help, and these jobs are some of the most rewarding.

Sewing Crew

It takes a LOT of hard work behind the scenes to keep TRADITION looking great throughout the summer. The process begins at our winter camps—as members are signed, our sewing crew takes measurements and begins to alter uniforms to fit each member. Shakos must also be cleaned and put together each year, and minor (or sometimes major!) changes to the costume may be required. And that is just the beginning! As the season progresses, alterations become necessary as members lose weight or add muscle. Our beautiful flags and guard uniforms are also thrown into the mix at this point. While creating and altering these flags and costumes is taken care of by professional designers, we rely on volunteers to help with mending, ironing, and washing throughout the season.

As you can imagine, all this sewing, washing, and ironing takes a lot of time and work. Ideally, we like to have 3-5 people with us during winter and spring rehearsal weekends and 1-2 people during the summer to help keep all our flags and uniforms in tip top shape. We also need people who can come help just for the day, especially to assist with sewing of new uniforms. While we certainly need some volunteers who are experienced sewers,

you don't need to be an expert (or even know how to sew at all) to help! Our experienced volunteer leaders can teach you to do most anything we need—and you probably already know how to do laundry and ironing!

Souvenir Sales

Our souvenir program is another vital place for volunteers to contribute. Wherever TRADITION travels our souvenirs follow, selling TRADITION merchandise to fans at each show we attend. From t-shirts to ponchos, we sell it all from our souvie booth. We rely on our souvenir sales crew to set up at each show, and sell merchandise to our fans at every competition. Once a show is over, it's time to pack up and get on the way to the next site! Souvenir set up at shows often begins in the morning, long before the corps begin to arrive at a show.

It takes a crew of two to four volunteers to set up, and sell souvenirs, so we're often looking for extra help. This volunteer position requires the willingness to travel with the corps, sometimes traveling independently at night.

Medical Professionals

As you might expect with such a large group of people, each rehearsal day several members (and staff!) report various ailments, from headaches, colds, and bronchitis to ankle sprains, shin splints, and muscle aches. The corps provides a wide variety of over-the-counter first aid products for sick and injured participants. We are always looking for doctors, nurses, trainers, EMTs, and other medical professionals who are willing to help us deal with medical situations while at weekend rehearsals or while we're on the road. Whether you can join us for a few days or are willing to offer your services to members in need on rehearsal weekends, we need your help! A healthy member is a happy, productive member!

Food Crew

MEAL TIME! TRADITION would like to provide three meals (yep, three!) per day to all members, support staff, and volunteers—that's about 150 people! Meal preparation takes place on site. Volunteering on the food crew can be one of the most physically demanding jobs on rehearsal weekends and on show days, but it is also one of the most fun and rewarding. Daily tasks include cleaning (dishes, pots, pans, utensils and grills), cooking (baking, boiling, chopping, stirring), serving meals, and grocery shopping (lists provided!). You'll be the first up and the last to bed, often with barely enough time for a shower. You'll sweat all day in a hot heat of summer, or freeze all morning in cool months of early spring. You might even burn yourself a couple of times, but you'll love it! When you see how thankful the members are for the meal you're providing, or you hear, "thanks, this looks GREAT", you'll see why. Each day of rehearsal, one individual will be designated "Head Cook". You may also be responsible for menu planning and food procurement. The Head Cook will be responsible for posting the day's menu, assigning jobs to other volunteers, making sure we have all necessary ingredients on hand, and ensuring all meals are prepared properly and on time. Please remember to listen to the Head Cook and follow directions—they know what they're doing! And, if you have to leave the food crew for more than a few minutes, please let the Head Cook know how long you'll be gone.

As you can probably tell, it takes a lot of time and organization to get good, nutritious meals prepared properly and on time each rehearsal and show day. But, volunteers don't need to worry about planning menus, finding recipes, or procuring food on their own—we take care of all that. In fact, you don't even need to be a good cook (or even cook at all!) to help. Just bring a positive attitude and a willingness to work hard, and we'll take care of the details. Ideally we need at least 4-6 volunteers to staff the food crew at all times (even more is great!). We can make do with fewer, but the more people we have, the easier and more fun the work! Whether you can help for a day, a weekend, or at a show, the food truck is a great place for almost everyone to help.

Drivers

TRADITION have, as part of our vehicle fleet, two trailers and a rental box truck that travels with us. Drivers are expected to travel with our convoy during the night and sleep during the day—waking up in time for the show! We need one volunteer at a time to provide this service; volunteers must have the ability to stay awake while driving at night, a (reasonably) clean driving record, and the ability to supervise in the loading and unloading of equipment by corps members. During the season you may be asked to pick up and drop off equipment stored at the University of Cincinnati.

How much time will I get to spend with my child?

If you're a parent, you'll find that your child is extremely busy all day, with little time to talk. Of course, you'll be very busy too! You'll get a chance to say a quick hello to your son or daughter at meals if you're helping on the food crew, and you will get a chance to talk for after a show. You will get a chance to spend a little more time together, but please be aware that these opportunities are few and far between during rehearsals. Just know that your child is glad to have you there!

Are there any rules or regulations for volunteers?

While we don't really like to refer to them as "rules and regulations", there are a few guidelines that will help ensure you and those around you have the best possible TRADITION volunteer experience.

- Be on time! When the posted schedule says the bus leaves at 6:00pm, we mean it. Staying on schedule is vital to a successful drum corps operation. Please don't make us wait for you!
- Be respectful of others' space. Space on the bus, and at housing sites is very limited, so please don't take up more than your fair share—your travel companions will thank you!
- No drinking or smoking is permitted on school grounds, around the food crew, in the corps support vehicles, or in the souvenir booth. This really is a rule, and usually a state law for school campuses.
- Please address any problems or concerns you have with the Assistant Director Andrea Meyer rather than directly with any other volunteers or staff members. If she is not at the site, call her, or speak with another member of the corps

administrative staff like Executive Director Tom Slade or Business Manager Jim Schehr.

- If you are a parent, please remember that your child's primary responsibilities are to learn the show and complete all assigned jobs and tasks. He or she may not have much time to talk, and we ask that you don't interfere with the learning process in any way by distracting your child. Trust us, your member will be VERY glad you're there, even if he or she doesn't get a chance to tell you that!
- Please stay out of the members' sleeping area (usually the gym)! There may be times when you need to cross the member gym to access the showers, but other than that, you shouldn't have reason to spend time in their private areas. Remember, those areas are like bedrooms, and are where members change clothes, sleep, and store personal items.
- Please be aware that for certain volunteer positions you may be asked to sign a responsibility agreement, submit your driver's license, and/or provide your social security number or other personal information for insurance purposes. All such information will be kept strictly confidential.
- If you aren't sure, ask! There are no stupid questions.

What are the benefits of volunteering?

We believe that volunteering is the absolute best way—next to marching!—to find out what drum corps is all about. Volunteering with TRADITION gives you a chance to be a part of something truly special, and makes you an extremely important part of the TRADITION team. It can also be an incredibly rewarding experience. You'll receive a thousand "thank yous" a day for your hard work, and you'll get a chance to meet and interact with wonderful people from across the country during the summer. Most of all, you'll become a part of the TRADITION family, and you can take great pride in the contribution you've made to making 2019 another great year. When you sit down to watch TRADITION perform after a long day of working, you'll see what we mean! And, if you plan to travel with us, don't forget that you'll be able to attend all DCI and DCA shows free of charge while you're traveling with the corps.

How do I sign up?

To sign up, please contact Assistant Director Andrea Meyer:

Cell: 513-602-6056

Email: CincinnatiTradition@gmail.com

She is responsible for scheduling volunteers for all programs, and can help you find the best way to help. Before you call or email, please think about what days or time periods you're available. We are usually in particular need of help early in the season (April through June), so if you're able to help then, please consider it. Andrea is responsible for making sure each rehearsal day is properly staffed with volunteers, so after you've signed up she may ask you to switch to another time if you can. Of course, we always want your help whenever you can make it, but if you can be flexible, it will help us immensely!

Other questions?

If you have any other questions about volunteering, how to sign up, or anything else TRADITION-related, please feel free to contact Andrea anytime (see contact information above)!

THANK YOU!!

