

The Bands of Union Grove
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www.ughsband.org
Established 2000



To all Sugar Bowl participants and their parents:

The time has come to turn our attention to our preparations for the Sugar Bowl trip. The deposit and application fees have been paid by the band, and we are ready to move forward.

I understand the sacrifices that must be made not only for your child to participate in marching band but to also do the extra things like going to the Sugar Bowl. The Rock-A-Thon last month was great fun, and we had over half of the marching band participate with several of the participants raising enough money through their pledges to pay for most of their trip. Within the next few days, we will be starting our next fundraiser, Filet of Chicken Sale, followed by our fruit sale in November. I hope that everyone will participate in these fundraising opportunities as well as continue to seek out individual and corporate sponsorships/donations (this form can be found on the band website) in order to help pay for your child's trip. On our previous trip back in 2009, many students had relatives donate money for the trip in lieu of Christmas presents.

In preparation for the trip, there will be 2-3 rehearsals on the music for the pregame & halftime performances and on the music for possible stand alone performances in New Orleans. There will also be a routine for the guard members going on the trip to learn. The last of these rehearsals will be on the evening of December 30; the day we leave for New Orleans. The other rehearsals will be prior to the Christmas break during the month of December. There will also be a meeting for all trip participants and at least 1 of their parents to attend prior to the trip.

I am in the process of finalizing additional options and activities for the trip. I can tell you at this point that all breakfasts and 2-3 of the dinners will be covered in the cost of the trip. Once I have worked out the remaining trip details, I will send home the rehearsal schedule, meeting date and a more detailed trip itinerary/trip information.

In the original information concerning the trip, the cost for each participant was \$850.00 (adults \$950.00-based on 2 per room). I hope that once the exact number of participants, final bus costs and all trip options are finalized that we will be able to lower the cost for the trip or include more meals.

Here is the payment schedule for the trip:

Payment 1: October 21	\$100.00 deposit or more
Payment 2: November 1	\$200.00
Payment 3: November 14	\$200.00
Payment 4: November 29	\$200.00
Payment 5: December 12	\$150.00

***Please read this section carefully.

Anyone wishing to take part on the trip must pay the initial deposit to reserve a spot, and ALL trip fees must be paid by each date listed. The deposit is non-refundable unless the trip is cancelled or if a parent pays a deposit and is not selected as a chaperone/roadie. These payment deadlines are firm because we are contracted to make payments to the bowl company on these dates. You may pay earlier than the above payment schedule indicates. Additionally, in order to be eligible for the trip all marching band fees or monies due to the band must be paid in full prior to starting payments for the trip. Students may also be deemed ineligible for the trip based on past behaviors issues.

Parent volunteers play a vital role in helping to ensure that each band student has the best band experience possible. Opportunities like going to the Sugar Bowl would be almost impossible without the support and help from the band parents. Many of you have offered to chaperone on the trip. The total number of chaperones and other parent volunteers going on the trip will be chosen based on several criteria. The first is based on the total number of students going. The bowl company usually allows 1 chaperone per 6-8 students. We currently have around 50-55 students interested in participating on the trip so that would call for 6 chaperones and 2 roadies to go on the trip. This would make for a total of 8 adults in addition to me. Chaperone/roadie decisions will also be based on the total number of male and female students, grade level of the participating child, past service record to the band and space availability.

The question regarding extra tickets has come up on previous Sugar Bowl trips and has been asked relative to this year's trip. We can only get tickets for those students and parents participating in the trip as part of the band's official group.

Should you have questions or need clarification, please call or e-mail me at the address listed above.

As always I appreciate the opportunity to work with your child and your continued support.

Sincerely,

Stan Kramer, Director
Union Grove High School Band