

## **ORLANDO TRIP 2022 for Cougar Marching Pride and Drill Team**

***To: 2022 Marching Cougar Pride Band/Drill Team students and parents – as of July 2021***

The Shawnee Mission Northwest Marching Cougar Pride marching band has traditionally traveled every three years. We are in the process of planning a trip for March 11-16, 2022, and want to provide some of the initial details. This is a lengthy letter, but please read all the way through so you have as much information as possible. Please know that some of these details might change slightly, but the overall plans are essentially in place.

The destination of the 2022 band trip will be Orlando, FL. We plan to leave on March 11, 2022 and return on March 16, 2022. We'll spend four to five full days in Orlando with about a half-day of travel each way. Our preliminary itinerary includes four days at the theme parks with one or two performance opportunities. We are tentatively planning to travel with roughly 120 students, staff, and chaperones.

### **Trip Cost and Payments**

The cost per student will be approximately \$2000. This number will likely decrease but is a planned high end to make sure everyone has budgeted enough. This includes all costs for the trip including airfare, bus travel, park tickets, two meals a day and other trip expenses. Students will be responsible for spending money and one meal a day.

Our goal in announcing the trip information this early is to allow families time to make a decision about whether their student will participate and what sort of payments make the trip most feasible. Based on required payments by the trip company and the need to pay for airfare, payments for all marchers and drill team will be due:

**\$400** – September 15<sup>th</sup> Registration deposit

**\$400** – November 5<sup>th</sup> (\$800 paid to date)

**\$400** – December 3<sup>rd</sup> (\$1200 paid to date)

**\$400** – January 10<sup>th</sup> (\$1600 paid to date)

**Balance** – February 1, final payment due.

This year all payments will be handled through UR Travel- our trip coordinator. You will receive an account login and invoices from them. This will allow the use of credit cards and other forms of payments.

Please note that the "paid to date" amounts included in the payment schedule are critical to our covering our trip payments. In the event that any family/student falls behind in this payment schedule, there is a risk that the student may be removed from the trip and any payments made on behalf of the student could be forfeited. If families encounter difficulties in meeting this payment schedule, they are asked to contact the trip coordinator as early as possible to forestall this possibility.

## **Forms and Updates**

Trip information and forms (as they are available) will be posted on the band web site at [www.smnwband.com](http://www.smnwband.com). You're encouraged to check the site frequently since new information will be added as it is available

Gar and Kelly Demo Coordinators

Any and all questions about the trip can be sent to: [disneysmnwband@gmail.com](mailto:disneysmnwband@gmail.com)  
You can also call us at 913-904-8257 with any questions.

## **Questions and Answers**

### **Trip Costs and Financing**

*Q: I know Band Boosters set aside money for the trip. Has this been considered?*

A: The Band Boosters membership will need to approve a transfer to offset trip costs. The amount is yet to be finalized. The estimated cost of \$1900-\$2000 per student does not take this into account. Until we have a final count of how many students will participate, we cannot be certain of our final costs, so we are not certain of how this transfer offsets the per-student cost. This initial funding will be used to offset the overall cost of the trip and helps bring down the individual cost.

*Q: Besides the \$1900-\$2000, what else will I need to pay?*

A: We have made every effort to include every possible cost in this amount. At this point it includes all lodging, transportation (both in KS and in FL), admission fees, and food. Aside from the possibility that we might need to pay for food on a travel day, this amount includes everything except souvenirs and one meal each day.

*Q: What if I want to just pay the full amount when I register my student in January?*

A: Because we don't yet know the cost of the trip, we ask that you pay on the schedule. Once airfare is purchased, we'll have a much better idea of the final cost of the trip and can let each family know the balance due. The hope is that the trip will come in under budget, but there are sometimes unexpected costs, such as fuel surcharges, that make it difficult to know all of our costs in advance.

*Q: Why don't you know the final cost of the trip?*

A: The bottom line is that we won't know our final costs until we can start making group trip payments, which will, in effect, start purchasing lodging, airfare, etc. While some costs, such as admission fees, are set, there are other costs that will continue to fluctuate until we pay for them. Airfare is one such cost, and is a significant portion of the trip cost.

*Q: What kind of payments will you accept? Who do I pay?*

A: Payments for the trip will be handled through UR Travel. You will have the ability to pay by credit card, debit or ACH transfers. More information will follow.

*Q: I'm not sure our family can afford this trip. Isn't there a fund for stuff like this?*

A: Band Boosters maintains an Angel Fund which helps ensure that all students have an opportunity to participate in the band program. Trips like this, however, are funded outside of the Angel Fund program, meaning that we rely on families and group fundraising to cover the cost. We encourage every family to consider their options, whether it's a payment plan that keeps you on track with the minimum "paid to date" amounts or a summer job for your high schooler. Please know that we're doing everything can to keep the cost reasonable.

## **Chaperones and Families**

*Q: I'd like to be a chaperone. What do I need to do?*

A: Ms. Snead will select trip chaperones. Chaperone forms will be available on the band website and are included in this packet.; Please know that this is a "working vacation" for the staff and chaperones. While we'll have a lot of fun along the way, there are responsibilities. If you have questions about what those responsibilities might entail, please contact the coordinators. Because the chaperones participate in all the same activities as the students, we have all the same costs for the chaperones. Currently, the cost per chaperone is \$1200-\$1400. As mentioned previously, Band Boosters contribution, and student registration will affect this cost. The chaperone payment schedule is:

**\$200** Upon notification of acceptance (no later than September 15)

**\$300** – September 15th No less than \$500 paid to date

**\$300** – November 5th No less than \$800 paid to date

**\$400** – December 3rd No less than \$1200 paid to date

**Balance** – February 1, All trip participants paid in full