

Charger Marching Band and Color Guard Equipment and Prop Handlers FAQ's August 15, 2022

Greetings! I want to thank you for volunteering to be a part of the Equipment and Prop Handlers for the Charger Marching Band and Color Guard. We play an integral role in enabling the students to put on a great field show performance. The work is fun and you get to work with a lot of good people.

This document contains answers to many frequently asked questions about what this group does for the band and color guard. If at any time you have questions, please contact me right away.

Looking forward to working with you!

Brian Nagai
Equipment and Logistics Coordinator (aka Head Band Roadie)
Charger Marching Band and Color Guard
briannagai62@gmail.com
262-721-7302 (mobile)

Who are the Equipment and Prop Handlers?

We are a group of band and color guard parent volunteers who help move the front ensemble (aka the pit) and show props from the band room to the performance field and back again upon completion of the performance.

Which performances do you work at?

We work at all home football games and marching band field show competitions. For dates and times for home football games and field show competitions, please consult the calendar in Charms.

How big of a time commitment is this?

For home football games, our work starts at 5:30pm and ends around 8:30pm. For field show competitions, we will meet an hour before pre-show rehearsal ends (last year that was 3:30pm) and depending on the location of the competition, we are done with our work by 10:30pm/11:00pm.

What things do we move/handle?

The pit equipment is comprised of mallet instruments (marimba, xylophone, vibraphone, glockenspiel), concert bass drum, concert chimes, electric synthesizer, and miscellaneous percussion instruments. The number of instruments varies from year to year. In addition, there are 4 drum major stands, 2 audio speakers, an audio mixing console, and a power cord reel.

The types of props and quantity will vary from year to year based on the design of the field show. Props will either be on wheels or have carts to transport them.

What about color guard equipment and props?

Depending on the show design, we may be tasked with assisting the color guard with setting and picking up of their equipment. The Color Guard coaches will let us know if our assistance is needed and what we need to do.

Do I need any special training?

No. You only need the desire to do what's needed to ensure the students have what they need to put on a great performance and to have fun doing it. We will show you what to do and how to do it.

Will I do the same thing at every performance?

We strive to assign everyone the same task for each performance. This helps you become familiar with handling the equipment or prop you've been assigned to and it helps the group as a whole to perfect how quickly we can do our work before, during, and after every performance.

Do I need to work at every performance?

You may pick which performance you want to work. We understand that you may have other commitments. We ask that you make every attempt to be at the performances that you volunteer for. If you cannot, please notify Brian Nagai right away.

Do I need to work at band rehearsals?

We do set up all pit equipment and props for each of the Wednesday night and pre-competition rehearsals (Saturdays). Your participation will help get everything in place and back in the band room in a timely manner so that the students can focus on perfecting their show. Please consult the calendar in Charms for dates and times of the Wednesday night rehearsals. Volunteers should arrive at the start of rehearsal and be available at the end to help put everything back in the band room. Mr. Waite will publish the rehearsal schedule for competition days.

We do not do work during band class when school is in session.

How do I volunteer for a performance?

Log into Charms and select the Calendar. Find the performance date and click on the small hand icon. Scroll down until you see the Equipment and Prop Handler section. Enter your name, cell phone number and email address in the next open box. Repeat the process for all performances that you want to volunteer for.

Do I need to complete a volunteer application with the school district?

Yes. You must complete and submit a volunteer application with the school district and it must be approved before you can serve as a volunteer. The application can be found on the district website:<https://www.hamilton.k12.wi.us/district/school-volunteers/>.

Why do you need so many volunteers?

When the band is entering the field for their performance, we need to move all pit equipment and props into place all at once. Some of the pit equipment require two people to move on and off the grass field quickly and without causing any damage. Props are placed at different locations across the field and can be large and heavy and thus require more than one person to move and setup safely. Be assured that you do not need super human strength to handle the equipment and props. Our strength comes in having many volunteers.

How do you get everything to the performance field?

For home football games, we roll everything directly from the practice field or band room directly to the stadium. For field show competitions, we transport equipment and props in cargo trucks and trailers.

Can you give me a breakdown of the work and timing for a performance?

Home football game: Kick off is usually at 7:00pm.

- 5:30pm - Meet at the practice field for assignments and instructions.
- 6:00pm - Move equipment and props to staging positions in the stadium.
- 5-7 minutes before the start of halftime - Go to staging positions and prepare to move.
- Start of halftime - Move team benches and equipment to the sides. Move equipment and props into place, connect power to the audio console, setup props and drum major stands.
- Halftime - Enjoy a great show put on by the students. The show runs 6-8 minutes long.
- End of performance - Quickly move equipment and props off of the field. Move team benches and equipment back into place. Take all equipment and props back to the band room, clean and dry if needed, and place in storage locations.
- High five your fellow volunteers on a job well done!

Field Show Competition:

The band and color guard will hold a pre-show rehearsal at the school prior to departing for the competition. Mr. Waite will publish a detailed schedule for the students for each competition.

- 30 minutes before the end of pre-show rehearsal - Meet at the transport trucks for pre-show briefing and assignments.
- End of pre-show rehearsal - Move equipment and props from the practice field. Load trucks and trailers. This takes about an hour.
- Dinner break. Food is provided to the students and volunteer by the Band Boosters.

- Depart for competition. Volunteers who are not riding the buses as chaperons will need to provide their own transportation to and from the competition.
- Arrive at the competition location - Unload trucks and trailers. Stage equipment and props by the trucks ready to be moved to the stadium.
- 30-45 minutes prior to scheduled performance time - Move equipment and props to stadium entrance/pre-show staging location.
- Completion of performance on the field - Move all equipment and props into place, connect power to the audio console, setup props and drum major stands.
- Performance by the band and color guard - Enjoy a great show put on by the students. The show runs 6-8 minutes long.
- End of the performance - Quickly move all equipment and props off of the field so the next band can get setup for their performance. Move all equipment and props back to the trucks. Load trucks and trailers and prepare to return to the school.
- Arrive at the school - Unload trucks and trailers. Clean and dry equipment and props if needed and place in storage locations.
- High five your fellow volunteers on a job well done!

Do students help move the equipment and props?

For field show competitions, the pit musicians will help move their instruments to and from the stadium. Sometimes they need to stay behind to watch the other bands and the awards ceremony. In those cases, it will be up to the volunteers to move everything back to the trucks.

For home football games, the volunteers will move the pit instruments to the stadium while the students change into their uniforms. At the end of the performance the pit musicians will help move them back to the band room.

Props will only be moved and setup by the volunteers.

Who drives the trucks and trailers?

The Head Band Roadie (me) will drive the rental truck (one of the perks of the job). The district truck is driven by a district employee (we are fortunate to have a band parent who works for the district). The trailer(s) is(are) provided by and pulled by volunteers.

Do I need to wear or bring anything special?

Volunteers are encouraged to wear their band show t-shirt. At home football games, volunteers will be provided with a name tag which will allow you entry to the game for free. Name tags need to be returned to the Band Boosters at the end of the performance. Handy things to have are bug spray, comfortable shoes (we do a lot of walking), a head lamp (you can find these with the camping gear at most stores), and a water bottle.

GO CHARGERS!