

2026

WESTERN THUNDER COLOR GUARD AUDITION INFORMATION

*Everything you need to know
to begin your journey as a
member of the Western
Thunder Color Guard*



**DUE JULY
1ST 2026**

*Please contact Emily Ottoes with questions
eottoes@uwyo.edu
wtmlcolorguard@gmail.com*

Audition Information

Hello and thank you for your interest in the Western Thunder Color Guard! We are so happy to have you and can't wait to meet and work with you! A complete understanding of the following list of skills are **preferred** but **not required** to secure your place as a member of the color guard, so we ask that you just do your best and refer to the attached videos to show us where you stand skillwise. This is less of a formal "audition" and more of a gauge of technique and skill level so we can create the most beneficial experience for every single performer.

Following your introduction portion, please refer to the list of skills and accompanying videos. Most skills have an **explanation** video and a **demonstration** video. PLEASE WATCH EVERY VIDEO. We request that you perform each skill as described in the videos. Once you complete each skill to the best of your ability please put them together into one collective video and post to an UNLISTED link on YouTube titled:

WTMBCG 2026 Audition-Your Name

Once you've completed your video and uploaded it to YouTube, fill out the Marching Band Registration Form on the website, insert the link to your video and submit.

You will receive an email response with your member status and comments on your audition within 1 week of the audition deadline.

Introduction Video

We request that you begin your audition with a brief introduction in which you tell us a bit about yourself and your interest in the program. Please refer to the prompts and example video below.

Please Tell Us:

- Name and pronouns
- Year in school
- Hometown
- Color Guard Experience
- Major
- Any personal interests outside of guard
- Why band/guard is important to you

Example Video:

<https://youtu.be/rZ1Q66E2HxM>



Movement Skills



A solid foundation of dance and movement technique is vital to a complete and engaging color guard education. Proper body movement and dance technique informs the movement of the equipment and creates a more dynamic performance.

Skills

- Ballet- First position, second position and third position
- Pliés- demi and grande, first and second positions
- Tendus- **both legs**
- Chassés- **both legs**
- Sautés- **both legs**

Please perform each skill to a metronome set at 100 bpm, as described in the explanation videos

Video Links

Ballet Positions:

<https://youtu.be/IWiMZUAaWfU>

Pliés Explanation:

<https://youtu.be/otDFvzEAC64>

Pliés Demonstration:

<https://youtu.be/uYDKo56jBjg>

Tendus Explanation:

https://youtu.be/m0Hv55-_D1Q

Tendus Demonstration:

<https://youtu.be/nhO-mFavCbU>

Chassés Explanation:

<https://youtu.be/-eSpp1pEiAM>

Chassés Demonstration:

<https://youtu.be/lkhhXVH5b04>

Sautés Explanation:

https://youtu.be/l_i78J-34wc

Sautés Demonstration:

<https://youtu.be/E3GoEvR1kss>

Flag Skills

at Western Thunder we use 6' poles. If you don't have access to this exact type of flag that is OK just do your best with what you have

- Drop Spins- Right and Left sides
- Cones
- Flutters- Right and Left sides

Please perform each skill to a metronome set at 100 bpm, as described in the explanation videos

Tosses

- Standard single, single ½, and double if you can
 - Parallel
 - Standard Single 45
 - **Flag Choreography**
- >“Purple Rain” by Prince & The Revolution-starting at 1:52
- **Any additional skills or tricks you would like staff to see**

Video Links

Drop Spins: <https://youtu.be/nFNF-ZsNaoE>

Cones Explanation:

<https://youtu.be/WoaGPouvBcA>

Cones Demonstration:

<https://youtu.be/WQnom9tT90s>

Flutters: <https://youtu.be/m1Q-BcQI-Mg>

Tosses: <https://youtu.be/7WG49NyGvKk>

Choreography Explanation:

<https://youtu.be/tzIUyle8tpE>

Choreography Demonstration:

https://youtu.be/o8jteeDSk_4

Things to Keep in Mind While Performing

Performance Quality

- While technique and skills make up the foundation of a good performer, the performance quality of an individual separates good performers from great ones
- Performance quality begins with your posture and the way you present yourself
- Take yourself through a mental checklist, take inventory of all your muscles, making sure they are actively engaged and ready to support your performance
- Be sure to stand up straight and project with your shoulders back and relaxed, looking confident
- FAKE IT TILL YOU MAKE IT! If you don't know how to do something that is OK but acting confident is the key
- HAVE FUN! or at least make it look like it!
- Try your best to smile and look pleasant, make us believe you're enjoying yourself

Attire

- We request that you wear athletic clothing that allows free movement with athletic shoes and your hair pulled out of your face
- We do spin with gloves here at Western Thunder, but they are not required for the audition

Attitude

- Attitude is THE most important contributor to your success as a performer
- A good attitude and a growth mindset allow you to surpass your expectations for yourself and allow you to grow as a performer and as a person
- It is easy to become frustrated with yourself as you navigate new and difficult experiences and learn new skills, but a positive attitude will never fail you
- Keep your head up, do your best, and don't be afraid to ask for help