



Tryout Packet

Hello! We are so excited that you are interested in becoming a member of our competitive Cougarettes team! This packet is designed to help you and your family become more familiar with our program. The Cougarettes Teams are select groups that perform with a variety of equipment including flags, props, sabres, and rifles. The group is strongly oriented toward dance. The Cougarettes Team can be physically demanding, and is not appropriate for students with chronic health problems.



7th & 8th Grade Cadet Tryouts: Tryouts are closed to the public and to cell phones

- **STEP 1:** Click on the following link (or QR code to the right) to register for tryouts. Once you register, you will receive the tryout video. <https://forms.gle/X8792Udii7JW9ZXx8>
- **STEP 2:** Practice the basic techniques and choreography on the tryout video.
- **STEP 3:** Attend the 1-day tryout on Friday, February 19th at 4:15-6:30pm in the YCHS Band Room
 - Come prepared to show what you learned from the video (see Step 1) – it does NOT have to be perfect! All students trying out should WEAR ALL BLACK on tryouts day. This can be black gym shorts, black yoga pants, black leggings, black tank top, black T-shirt, etc. Students should wear hair up and back.
 - Where is the YCHS Band Room? Take Lincoln Rd to Cat Scratch Alley bus loop/side entrance of YCHS. Park in the Band/ROTC parking lot in the middle of the bus loop. You will see 2 sets of double glass doors. Enter through the set on the RIGHT closest to the brown metal garage door.
 - It is important to understand that students who participate in winter/spring sports will NOT be able to commit to their sport and Cougarettes at the same time.

Selection Criteria:

Performing with independence	Accountability	Posture
Personal appearance & grooming	Trainability	Ability to perform with expression
Attitude	Understanding of rhythm, time, & tempo	Precision
Work Ethic	Understanding of dance movements	Poise & Confidence
Ability to work with others	Coordination of body	Ability to recover after mistakes

Tryout Results: Students will receive a results letter.

Requirements once selected to be on the *Cougarettes* team

- **ORIENTATION**– There will be mandatory Parent Orientation Meeting. You will receive information in advance.
- **REHEARSAL/CAMP ATTENDANCE** – Attendance is required to be able to stay on the team and perform with the team. We rehearse 1 day a week, and have half day camps every other Saturday. *(Full calendar included with this packet. You can access the calendar at www.yorkcougarbands.com.*
- **FEES** – The membership fee is \$180. This can be paid in full or in payments each month *(detailed later in this packet)*. Checks should be made to YCHS Bands.

Cougarettes Program Policies & Procedures

Note: You will see some text that has a strike through or red addition because of COVID-19 limitations and protocols.

WINTER COUGARETTES

These are highly competitive groups that perform competitive shows in gyms. Performances include **virtual** competitions, ~~pep rallies,~~ and possible community events. The focus of this group is development of fundamentals of movement, equipment, and design. All current & future members must tryout. ~~Participation in our Summer Dance Program is EXPECTED of all members.~~ Winter Cougarettes can be physically demanding, and is probably not appropriate for students with chronic health problems.

Team Structure

Cadet Team - The Cadet Winter Cougarettes will be comprised of 7th & 8th graders. This is a competitive group that tends to be larger and very entertaining. The focus of this group is training and fundamentals of movement, equipment, and basic design. These students will compete in a class with other groups also comprised of all middle school students. These students should try out for Fall Cougarettes in the spring to further develop their skills and continue and grow in the YCHS Cougarettes program. All current & future members must tryout for the fall.

Varsity Pearl & Diamonds Teams - The Varsity Winter Cougarettes will be comprised of 9th -12th graders (~~current 12th graders may continue in the program, but only new 9th -11th graders may audition~~). This is a highly competitive group that tends to be smaller and produce more theatrical shows. The focus of this group is development of intermediate and advanced of movement, equipment and design skills. These students should try out for Fall Cougarettes in the spring to further develop their skills and continue and grow in the YCHS Cougarettes Program. ~~All current & future members must tryout.~~ All high school students selected for the Varsity Team will be expected to enroll in the 2nd semester Winter Guard course.

The YCHS Guidance department will work with individuals to ensure their placement in the course.

Winter Cougarettes Camp Days

Camp is a crucial time in the development of our members and our productions. These high-intensity rehearsals give us the training time we need to insure all of our members' success in the show, time to teach the choreography/drill, and time for changes noted by judges. Attendance is mandatory at these rehearsals per the attendance policy. Performance spots cannot be guaranteed for those members who do not attend these camps.

Winter Cougarettes Season

Winter Guard is an indoor competitive circuit where color guard units compete by themselves to pre-recorded music in gyms. The Winter Guard season usually begins in December or January and lasts until March **- this year March-May**. The rehearsal schedule is very minimal compared to other programs during the season. Once published, the schedule can be found on our online calendar with the other band program happenings. Our teams usually compete 2-5 times within a ~~9-week~~ competition season. Attendance is crucial to the success of these teams due to the minimal training schedule.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory at all scheduled rehearsals, camps, and performances which take place outside of school time. Excessive absences and tardies could result in **demotion, loss of performance time, or dismissal from the program**. Attendance at after school rehearsals count as a grade for all YCHS students.

When Absences May Occur:

- In case of sudden illnesses, please email or call the directors so that we know the location of your student.
 - We are accountable for all students when there are scheduled events.
- When tardy or absent from a practice, a signed written statement is required for documentation.

<u>EXCUSED ABSENCES</u>	<u>UNEXCUSED ABSENCES</u>
Personal Illness or quarantine	Doctor/Dentist Appointments (please schedule accordingly)
Funerals	Work Conflicts
Emergency	School events/meetings**(without director approval)
School Events/Meetings (with director approval only)	Any other absences

Communication

In order for our program to be the best that it can be, we cannot allow ourselves the luxury of making excuses or letting problems go unresolved. Good communication is vital if we are to maintain our Superior tradition!

Effective ways to communicate (for parents and students):

- Seek guidance in handbook, www.yorkcougarbands.com, Facebook Page, or email newsletter
- Email Supervising Directors – Mrs. Brooks – LBROOKS@york.k12.sc.us, Mr. Brooks – DBROOKS@york.k12.sc.us,
- Call band office - Mrs. Brooks – 803-818-6247, Mr. Brooks – 803-818-6246,
- Set up an appointment

Ineffective ways to communicate (for parents and students):

- Call or show up – Coaches & directors will not take calls or see anyone during instructional time without prior notice.
- 30 minute rule: Wishing to speak with directors or staff 30 min before/after an event or rehearsal.
 - Only in emergency situations – other situations and planning need to be taken care of in advance
- Communicating with anyone in the “heat” of a moment.
- Passing information which could be viewed as “gossip.” If you want the real story seek the source.

Our Forms of communication:

- Email Distribution List: We send emails with news and reminders once to 5 times a week.
- Text Service – Instructions to enroll:
 - Text the message @ychsbands to the number 81010. If you have trouble, text the same message to 803-443-0421
 - Follow the directions as prompted
- Visit www.yorkcougarbands.com – LIVE calendar on website.
- York Cougar Bands Facebook Page! “Like” York Cougar Bands to get our news feed and pictures

Dress Code for Rehearsals – Black exercise clothing – black shorts/leggings/yoga pants, white, gray, or black tops – no pajamas.

Rehearsal Expectations

- Be on time (you should arrive approx. 10 minutes early), Cell phones off, Quiet, Focused, Positive Attitude, Prepared, Willing and ready to learn
- These will be expanded upon once the teams are selected.

Competitions

We will be competing in the performance association circuit, CWEA. ~~Competitions are all day events and attendance is required.~~ **Competition will be virtual and will be video recorded the week before the scheduled competition. At competitions, we perform our show for an audience and compete against other groups in our class.** After we perform, we will watch other guards, and will typically go to concessions for lunch. ~~At competitions, you must stay in groups of 4 at all times. Until awards, you may eat, go to merchandise stands, and watch guards. At other times the whole guard must sit together as a unit. We will applaud respectfully for other guards, and be professional at all times. Performers, staff, and chaperones will stay in a group while sitting in the gym and while traveling back stage at all performance venues. This includes, but is not limited to, holding/staging spaces and transitioning on and off the floor. After awards, we will go back to the buses and head home. Specific schedules for each competition will be handed out the week of the competition.~~ **There will be no travel during the competitive season. Students will not need to be on campus on the day of a scheduled virtual competition unless there is a scheduled camp day. Those dates are simply denoted on the calendar to communicate when judging is taking place.**

~~Parents should attend our competitions to cheer on our teams. It is very appropriate to yell and cheer us on and hold up posters. Parents are asked to stay in the performance venue as we transition on and off the floor to prevent traffic issues for our teams and other teams performing. Admission at competitions is usually approx. \$8-\$10. Parents will also be needed on competition days for chaperoning, driving the truck, and helping with moving equipment. This will be decided and communicated the week of the designated competition.~~ **If at all possible, we are planning to have a parent/community “show and tell” performance/exhibition.**

Equipment & Supplies

- ✓ One roll of white and one roll of black electrical tape at all times

It is also suggested that Cougarettes members purchase their own flag, rifle, and sabre for personal practice.

- 6' silver pole with a 36"x54" flag silk
- 4"x1/2" and a 3 1/2"x1/2" carriage bolt from Lowe's or Home Depot
 - Contact Kathy Pickens - retail seller for DSI (Director's Showcase International) to order a personal student's flag, rifle, sabre! Kapick@charter.net

Costuming & Make Up

Theatrical makeup is very different than “every day” makeup. It is darker, more intense, and exaggerated. Please understand that this makeup is not meant for normal – everyday wearing. Due to lighting, distance, and show concept this dance makeup is a must to enhance facial features so that performers do not appear “washed out” and details can be seen.

Membership Fees

Both parents and students will have opportunities to earn credit (through fundraising) towards fees and trips. Once a student has been assigned a uniform, flags are purchased, etc., the student is responsible for their fees whether they continue with the program or not. If a student quits in the middle of the season without paying their fees, the fee will become a YCHS school debt and will follow the student from year to year until the fee is paid off.

WINTER COUGARETTES FEES

Please make all checks payable to YCHS Bands

Winter Guard Fees

~~\$325~~ **\$180**

One-time purchases:

Logo T-Shirt	Included
Show Shirt	Approx. \$22 *Optional
Flag Bag	\$32 (buy from us) *Optional
Gym Bag	Purchase from online store *Optional
Gloves	\$18/pair
Undergarments	Purchase on your own at local retailers depending on your rehearsal and costume needs *Required

Seasonal

Makeup	TBA – instruction will be given
Hair supplies	Various (bobby pins, gel, hair spray, etc)

Suggested Payment Plan:

~~*Dec 2nd – \$325 onetime payment (pay at the mandatory meeting)~~

*Dec 2nd – \$50 **\$45 – Due at last rehearsal in Feb**
*Jan 9th – \$90 **\$45 – Due at last rehearsal in March**
*Feb 15th – \$90 **\$45 – Due at last rehearsal in April**
*March 5th – \$95 **\$45 – Due at last rehearsal in May**
Full payments of \$180 may also be received.

Meet the Coaches!

Ms. Reinhart is an alumnus of York Comprehensive High School and the Cougarettes Program. She has trained and performed with The District presented by Etude, an open class winter guard competing in WGI in Dayton, Ohio. After graduating high school, she attended Winthrop University for Early Childhood Education. Her mother teaches in YSD1 at Harold C Johnson Elementary School. She has been a color guard and winter coach on staff with the Cougarettes for the past 3 years. Ms. Reinhardt resides in Fort Mill, SC.

Ms. Moore is also an alumnus of York Comprehensive High School and the Cougarettes Program. After high school she attended the University of South Carolina and graduated with degrees in Business Administration – Human Resources and Marketing. While at USC she enjoyed being the color guard and winter guard coach at Blythewood High School in Blythewood, SC. She now a Human Resources Representative for Ross Stores Inc. Ms. Moore resides in Rock Hill, SC.

Contacts:

Ms. Reinhardt, Head Coach and Choreographer

Ms. Moore, Assistant Coach

Mrs. Brooks, Supervising Cougarettes Director, Director of Bands - Lbrooks@york.k12.sc.us

Mr. Brooks, Supervising Cougarettes Director, Associate Director of Bands & Financial Coordinator Dbrooks@york.k12.sc.us

Ms. Benn, Supervision Cougarettes Administrative Assistant, Administrative Assistant for Cougar Bands -

Dbenn@york.k12.sc.us



2021 Winter Cougarettes Calendar

Tentative Schedule: Diamonds Cadets

January

M – 25th 5-8pm Diamonds

February

M – 1st 5-8pm Diamonds

M – 8th 5-8pm Diamonds

S – 13th 3pm-9pm Diamonds Camp (bring bag dinner)

M – 15th 5-8pm Diamonds

F – 19th 4:15-6:30pm Cadets Tryouts

M – 22nd 5-8pm Diamonds

R – 25th 5-8pm Cadets

S – 27th 9am-3pm Diamonds Camp (bring bag lunch) / 3pm-9pm Cadets Camp (bring band dinner)

March

M – 1st 5-8pm Diamonds

R – 4th 5-8pm Cadets

M – 8th 5-8pm Diamonds

R – 11th 5-8pm Cadets

S – 13th 9am-3pm Cadets Camp (bring bag lunch) / 3pm-9pm Diamonds Camp (bring bag dinner)

M – 15th 5-8pm Diamonds

R – 18th 5-8pm Cadets

M – 22nd 5-8pm Diamonds

R – 25th 5-8pm Cadets

S – 27th 9am-3pm Diamonds Camp (bring bag lunch) / 3-9pm Cadets Camp (bring bag dinner) / Virtual Competition

M – 29th 5-8pm Diamonds

April

R – 1st 5-8pm Cadets

S – 10th Virtual Competition

M – 12th 5-8pm Diamonds

R – 15th 5-8pm Cadets

S – 17th Virtual Competition

M – 19th 5-8pm Diamonds

R – 22nd 5-8pm Cadets

S – 24th 9am-3pm Cadets Camp (bring bag lunch) / 3pm-9pm Diamonds Camp (bring bag dinner) / Virtual Competition

M – 26th 5-8pm Diamonds

R – 29th 5-8pm Cadets

May

M – 3rd 5-8pm Diamonds

R – 6th 5-8pm Cadets

S – 8th Virtual CWEA Championships



Cadet Winter Guard Tryouts and Winter Guard Rehearsal/Camps Protocols

Please be sure to read all the information below regarding our safety protocols. Our first priority is to provide a safe space for our students and continue with Winter Guard in a modified way. The plans below are subject to be altered as we receive more information concerning best practices in these conditions.

Resources used to prepare this document include but are not limited to the following:

CDC, National Federation of High Schools, South Carolina Band Directors Association, American Bandmasters Association, College Band Directors National Association Athletic Band Symposium, YSD1

Cadet Winter Guard Tryouts Protocols and Procedures

- Following the practices of the YCHS Dance Team Tryouts:
 - 7th & 8th grade students interested in trying out will fill out an electronic interest form.
 - Once the interest form is received, students will receive an instructional video that will walk them through all of the tryout choreography.
 - Students will be expected to learn the choreography from the video independently.
 - Students will report to the YCHS Band room after school on the designated tryout day (approx. Feb. 5th).
 - Students will wear masks and be socially distanced while in the band room.
 - Hand sanitizer will be available in the band room.
 - Students will not use touch any equipment during the tryouts (i.e. flags etc.).
 - No one other than students trying out will be admitted to the band room or in the building at YCHS.
 - The coach will review the tryout choreography for approximately 30 minutes, then adjudicate small groups for the actual tryout. Students waiting to tryout will be socially distanced in the band, choir, and/or art halls.
 - Students will be dismissed once they have completed their tryout.

Diamonds (YCHS) & Cadet (YMS) Rehearsal/Camps Protocols and Procedures

General Information

- Do not come to rehearsal/camps if you do not feel well, have a fever of 100.4 or higher, or have been around anyone who is ill or has been exposed or confirmed to have had COVID-19. Do not come to rehearsal/camps if you have been quarantined.
- NO parents, guardians, visitors will be allowed in the school for any reason. If you need to speak with a director or coach please email, or call to arrange for a meeting or phone conference.
- Face coverings will be required for all students and staff when spacing may be less than 6-ft.
 - Students should try to maintain a 6ft distancing when arriving/dismissing, during transitional times, and during breaks. Masks will be required during these times.
- Students should bring their own RED water jug to properly hydrate throughout rehearsals/camps. When it is required to bring a bag lunch/dinner, students must have their own meal in their own container or bag and not plan to share with anyone.

- Students should bring their own hand sanitizer (also provided), and should sanitize their hands throughout their time on campus. The sanitizing wipes with 70% alcohol may also be used.
 - We will also have these items on site, but it will maximize instructional time if student have their own.
- Students may only bring assigned equipment, red water jug, and one backpack/gym bag, meal (if specified for that day) to rehearsals/camp. Students should not share or touch another student's instrument, equipment, or supplies.
- Staff will indicate when students put face coverings on or can take them off. Students may also choose to wear their mask when staff/directors have given approval to remove them.
- Equipment such as flag poles, rifles, sabres, etc. will not be shared. Please arrive dress out for rehearsal/camp, and bring your red water jug FULL of ice and water. Due to YSD1 protocols will not have a refill station.
- If a student begins to not feel well during rehearsal/camp with a headache, stomachache, sore throat, etc., they will be sent home immediately. If a student complains of joint or muscles aches directly associated to the physical activity required, the student will be given time to rest and/or a wrap, and ice and may carry on with rehearsal/camp.
- Depending on the size of the groups, we will utilize staggered transitions and restroom breaks allow for better social distancing.
- All rehearsals/camps will take place at YCHS. Most rehearsals will take place in the YCHS band room. Most camps will take place in one of the YCHS gyms.
- There will be at least one coach and at least one YSD1 director/employee at every rehearsal/camp to monitor safety and behavior.
- We are members of the CWEA (cwea.us) competition circuit and will be participating in some of the Virtual Competition Experiences they will be offering. These competitions will require no travel and will not require our students to be on campus the day of the competition. All of the CWEA Virtual Experiences are listed on the calendar. We would send in a video performance prior to the date listed. The date listed is the date the judges would judge the videos.
- Since there will be no live competitions, we will hopefully be able to offer a live exhibition performance for at least our Winter Guard families in our home gym. Date: TBD
 - Capacity would be limited; Masks and social distancing would be required.

Arrival

- Do not arrive any earlier than 10 minutes before your designated arrival time. If you do, you MUST stay in your car.
- Arrive on time with face coverings on and enter at the band room doors from the bus loop. Take Lincoln Rd. to Cat Scratch Alley for the bus loop.

Dismissal

- Students will be dismissed from instruction time for pack up procedures. Pack up procedures will take approx. 10-15 minutes.
 - Students are strongly encouraged to take all items home, wipe them down, and use these materials to practice what they learned until the next rehearsal/camp
- Students must leave immediately after pack up procedures. Parents are expected to pick up their student on time to prevent students for "hanging out"/loitering outside the band room or in the parking lot. Students that drive are expected to go directly to their car and leave school grounds. There should be no loitering in the parking lots.

Sanitation and Cleaning

- Any student that does not abide by the safety protocols will be sent home immediately.
- YCHS custodial staff will be sanitizing restrooms and heavily touched surfaces each day.