



*Membership in the Mandarins is a profound personal growth experience. We require your best effort, a great attitude, a total commitment, and both personal and financial responsibility. You will receive the same in return from the Mandarins.*

**Our MISSION is simple, yet powerful...**  
*Celebrating Youth, Transforming Lives*



## **Our History, Our Philosophy**

We celebrate our **55th** anniversary in 2018. The Ye Wah Drum & Lyra Corps' first rehearsal was on March 23, 1963 and in 1967 our name was changed to the Mandarins Drum & Bugle Corps. The Mandarins are a Drum Corps International (DCI) World Class drum corps, as part of "Marching Music's Major League". The Mandarins have taught thousands of young men and women the **values of Respect, Excellence, Personal Responsibility and Service to Others** – values which are carried through school, careers, and back to the community – with a true sense of purpose.

Competition is intense in drum corps, and it will be an exciting part of your experience, but it is not our primary mission. We look at competition as a way to pace each other to new levels of excellence. You will learn that to be truly successful, you must first meet your own standards, and that the most demanding judge you will ever encounter should be yourself. We, as the Mandarins, are successful when we give you an environment in which it is safe to take risks, try new things and experience amazing breakthroughs. *You will find you are capable of much more than you ever realized.*

We will help you set and achieve goals, and we will help you set new standards and expectations for yourself that will last a lifetime. You will find here a safe place to discover who you really are. You will come away from a summer with us more mature, motivated and self-confident, and with new, lifelong friends.

A key facet of our success is our consistent and committed teaching, design and support staff. Combined with tremendous support from our community and many volunteers, the Mandarins continue to grow and succeed.

**We build the Mandarins one member at a time. We are committed to providing a positive, healthy and supportive atmosphere for you and your entire family.**

Dear Future Member of the Mandarins,

Congratulations! You have taken a big step toward an incredible experience as a member of the Mandarins! Enclosed is information about our program – what it offers and what it requires. The next step is to attend our Experience Camps on December 1 – 3 at Rosemead HS in Sacramento or December 16 – 17 at Arcadia HS in Southern California.

Our audition process evaluates your talent and experience, but also takes into consideration your commitment, attitude, financial and personal responsibility, attendance, and parental support and participation.

THERE IS NO OBLIGATION IN ATTENDING AN EXPERIENCE CAMP. Find out what we are all about. Even if you don't become a Mandarin, ***you will learn a great deal at the Experience Camp.*** You will participate all weekend and perform on Sunday as a Mandarin. In the process, we will assess your skills, answer your questions and make you comfortable with our program and the Mandarins family.

Our preseason schedule is limited, so attendance is important. Attending part of a weekend is better than not at all. If you have conflicts, communicate with us. We will work with you, but **communication is critical**. You do not have to choose between school obligations and the Mandarins during the school year, but you must communicate.

The cost for your first weekend Experience Camp is \$100.00 (Returning members receive a \$25 discount for all camps.) (Mandarins Academy members receive a \$ 25.00 discount for their first Experience Camp) This fee covers the cost of meals, lodging, rehearsal facilities and instructors; however, once you are offered a position and become a corps member, you no longer need to pay a camp fee. Video auditions are \$100.00, but do not include an overnight stay or meals.

Following your Experience Camp you will be told by the staff that you will receive:

- 1) an offer of membership
- 2) a callback for a second audition (January 12 – 14, 2018 in the Sacramento, CA area
- 3) a suggestion that you try again next year

Most new people will receive a callback to a second rehearsal, so plan accordingly.

Membership in the Mandarins is an amazing experience for you and your entire family, but it takes tremendous dedication, hard work, commitment and personal responsibility.

*Experience at least one weekend before deciding anything about membership in the Mandarins. A life-changing summer of travel, achievement and success awaits you, but it can't happen if you don't try a weekend first!*

Finally, ALWAYS double-check the Mandarins website ([www.Mandarins.org](http://www.Mandarins.org)) and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/mandarins.sacramento>) for any changes immediately before traveling to a Mandarins weekend for any last minute information or changes.

Sincerely,

JW Koester  
Corps director

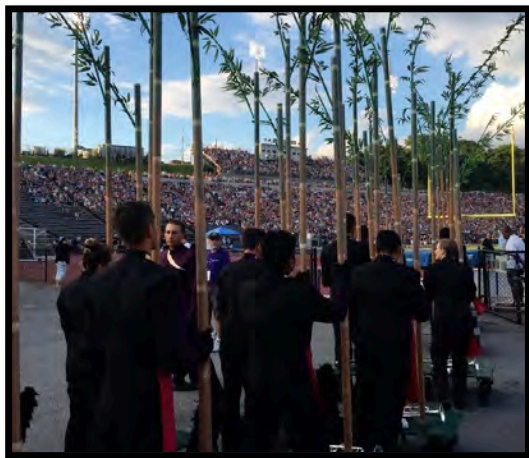
Jim Tabuchi  
Executive Director

## You Can Be A Mandarin!

*Young people ages 16 through 21 are eligible. (If you turn 22 after June 1, 2018, you are eligible for this season). Our average age is about 19 years old.*

Many of our members are from the Northern and Central California area, but from many other states, and overseas as well.

You are encouraged to bring friends; just make sure that we know they are coming. Pre-register at [www.Mandarins.org](http://www.Mandarins.org).



Our member return rate is typically 50% or more. This is an important endorsement of the Mandarins experience. All positions are open, and will be awarded to the people who demonstrate their strong desire to be successful.

*Still don't know how to be here? Join our Mandarins 2018 Interest Group on Facebook. There is a way!*

You will typically not be asked to attend more than two weekend rehearsals before you are given a decision about your membership.

*Some of your best friends are here; you just haven't met them yet. You won't regret being here! You won't know what you've missed if you don't attend. If you come to rehearsal nervous and unsure – GOOD! This means you're normal. Everyone had his or her first rehearsal and it can be intimidating.*

## Mandarins Audition Process



*We are looking for talent, growth, experience and commitment from our potential members.*

No matter what your schedule, membership status, where you live, or participation in winter guard or winter drum line, *you must attend one of the December Experience Camps or submit an online video to be considered. If you are offered a callback position you MUST attend the January camp (12 – 14).* Please contact us early if this is a problem.

We offer prospective members the option to submit a video audition via YouTube, Facebook or other online video site. However, priority will be given to those attending camps. For detailed information as to what needs to be submitted on the video, please contact the appropriate caption head.

Everyone will rehearse and perform as a part of the Mandarins for the entire weekend. Members will also be evaluated for visual and movement skills.

Shortly after you complete your Experience weekend you will receive an email that states your standing with the drum corps. You will receive a: contract offer, a call back offer or a decline letter.

Your talent and skills are given primary consideration in the selection process. However, we also consider your commitment level, communication, personal and financial responsibility, your parental support, your attitude and your growth and improvement.

## Audition and Section Information

Audition and section information is summarized below. For specific section audition information, please check our audition web page at: <http://www.mandarins.org>



### Brass Members

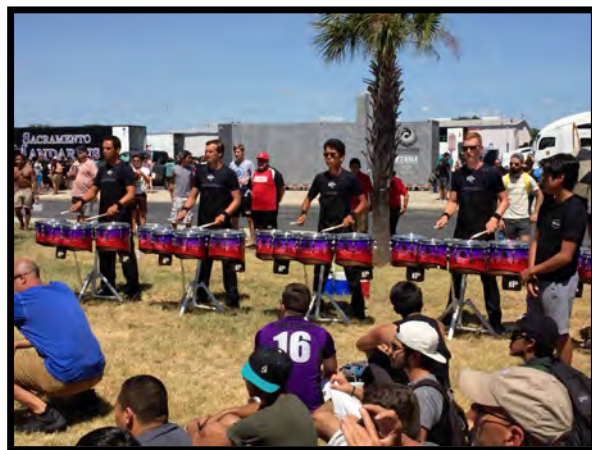
Be prepared to perform the posted exercises available on the audition web page as well as the instructions listed in the 2018 brass handbook. We will listen to you individually and place you in an appropriate section of the corps for the weekend.



Please bring your own brass instrument and mouthpiece. If you do not have one, come to auditions anyway. We will have a limited number of Mandarin instruments available for weekend use. We play on the following marching brass instruments: Bb Trumpets, F Mellophones, Bb Baritones and Euphoniums, and Bb Marching Tubas.

### Percussion Members

Be prepared to perform the exercises available in the audition packet. We will evaluate you individually, and as a part of the line. We want to see how well you adapt to new techniques, information and materials. Individuals in the front ensemble should also be prepared to play all major scales. Battery players, please bring your practice pad and sticks, and front ensemble, your mallets.



### Color Guard Members

Please bring the following: Black pants and black shirt, dance shoes and/or tennis shoes, your own rifle and sabre (if possible) and comfortable rehearsal clothes. *(No jeans for rehearsals!)*

The Mandarin color guard will include 30 - 40 young men and women. We incorporate flags, rifles, sabers, dance and other unique elements to visually interpret and enhance our show. New flags and new uniforms are provided each year to fit the style, selections of music, and the theme.





Weekend camps are a parent's opportunity to see our program close-up and get to know the people who make it work. Also, your help is needed in the kitchen with meals for the weekend, work sessions in the Mandarins Center, uniform fitting, clerical

help, sewing, vehicle work and other special projects.

In several instances, we also award tour credit for volunteers to help offset the cost of membership.

## Parents Invited...Needed

***Members! Please share this information with your parents.***

We expect parents to have lots of questions and the best way to get the information you need is to attend with your student. Parental attendance is strongly encouraged in our activity.

The Mandarins program cannot survive without parent volunteers!!! We need parents to volunteer in a number of different areas. Your help is appreciated during any and all weekend rehearsals, for any number of important tasks!

In any given season, many hours of invaluable volunteer time is contributed. Volunteerism is cherished in the Mandarins and is critical to our continued success.



## Host Families

We often have members who come from a distance—Nevada, Southern California, Hawaii, Japan, Brazil, Colombia, Ireland, Malaysia and other locales.. These members need a place to stay when they come for weekend camps. Especially the day before or the day after each camp as their travel arrangements don't always align with the start and end of each camp.





The figure does not count the many hours of voluntary work and donations provided by parents, boosters, instructors and members. To pay for this, the Corps runs six weekly bingo sessions, our major fundraiser, and various other fundraising activities.

As successful as our fundraising is, it is not enough. Of the estimated cost per member, you are required to pay the following items. The Corps pays for everything else.

## Cost of Membership

Member fees cover less than 50% of the over \$6,000. it costs to place one member on the field. You will find Mandarins fees compare favorably to quality summer music and other camps and to other top DCI corps.

We work very hard to keep membership fees as low as we can and at the same time are careful and efficient in our operations. We are committed to keeping your membership affordable. A sponsorship program and several other fundraising opportunities are available to you to help you earn your fees.

The corps' costs include show design, music arrangement, instruction, equipment, uniforms, props, other performance costs, equipment repair, facility rental, camps, food, travel and transportation, and other administrative and support costs needed to field a corps at the International Championship level.



### POTENTIAL MEMBERS

#### Experience Camp Fee: \$100.00

Cost for attending each Mandarins Camp. After you join the Corps, you no longer pay the camp fee. Returning members receive a \$25.00 discount.

#### Member Fees

Membership and Performance Pack (non-refundable)	\$300.00
Tour Fee	\$3,000.00

Returning members receive a \$25.00 Discount for membership.

#### FYI: The Performance Pack includes the uniform fee, two warm-up shirts, marching shoes, gloves and member / tour shirt.

Additional costs include an optional Corps Jacket (\$75.00) and occasional meals (laundry, free time, etc.) and personal spending money (souvenirs, toiletries, etc.) on tour.

## Payment

Once you have received your offer to become a member of the Mandarins you must submit your completed application, proof of date of birth and medical permission slip. And you must pay your \$300.00 Membership / Performance Pack Fee plus \$200.00 of your Tour Fees (\$ 500.00 total first payment). **These fees are non-refundable.** Only then will we secure your spot in the Mandarins Drum and Bugle Corps.

Only members may check out equipment and instruments after all fees and forms are turned in.

Payment may be made on-line at <https://shop.mandarins.org> or can be made by cash, money order, traveler's check, check (payable to Sacramento Mandarins), or credit card (Visa, Discover, MasterCard, or American Express) in person at camps. Please make sure you get a receipt.

Your Membership / Participation Fees & Tour Fees must be paid in full by **May 25, 2018** before the competitive season begins. The payment schedule is below. You must pay at least one fourth of your Tour by the following dates:

**Payments due on:**  
**1st payment \$700 - February 4, 2018**  
**2nd payment \$700 - March 18, 2018**  
**3rd payment \$700 - April 29, 2018**  
**Final payment \$700 - May 25, 2018**

**Reduce your fee by \$100.00 ! Pay in full by March 18, 2018 and earn the Early Payment Discount.**

If you have questions regarding your payment account status, please contact our personnel manager (contact information can be found at the back of this handbook).

Although color guard and percussion members may not attend all camps, you must still pay the fee on the date indicated. You may pay online at the Mandarins website or mail your payment to the Mandarins, P.O. Box 22297, Sacramento, CA 95822. Write the member's name in the memo section of the check. You can also pay by credit card over the phone by calling our personnel manager.

### REFUNDS

**No refunds are made after May 1, 2018.**



In order to provide the best experience for members who seriously commit to the Mandarins, we regret that, **if you do not meet your responsibility and pay your fees by the posted deadlines, you will be dropped from the Corps.**

Returned checks will be subject to processing fees. If you have more than one check returned, you will be required to pay the rest of your fees by cash, credit card, cashier's check or money order only.

If you foresee any difficulty in paying your Membership / Performance Pack and/or Tour Fees, please speak to JW Koester, Corps Director, as soon as you can. Do not wait until the last minute!

## Help In Paying Fees

The Corps has set up some ways to help you pay your Tour fees. Please take advantage of them and make them work for you.

**Early Payment Discount** Members who pay their entire Membership / Performance Pack and Tour Fees by **March 18, 2018**, will receive a **\$100.00** discount on their Tour and Participation Fee.

**Sponsorship** The Corps provides each member with sponsorship forms to help you solicit donations from family, friends, neighbors, social groups and businesses. These non-refundable donations go directly towards your tour fees. Some members have used the sponsorship program to cover all of their tour fees. All Sponsorships must be turned in by **May 25, 2018**.

**Mandarins Scholarships** The Corps provides a limited number of partial scholarships to deserving members with financial need. Applications will be available in April (typically at the April camp).

**Seniority Subsidy** In your fourth and subsequent years you will receive a **\$200.00** seniority subsidy to help offset your tour fee. This recognizes both the contribution you have made in your Mandarins career, and the contribution we expect from you in terms of leadership and setting a good model of what a Mandarins member should be.

**Kitchen Crew Credit** Parents, guardians and other adult supporters who help as kitchen crew at camps and on tour, can earn up to **\$30.00** of credit per full day. This credit can only be used to defray the Tour Fee.



Kitchen crew/chaperoning is both hard work and a wonderful and rewarding experience. You will plan, shop for, and prepare meals. You help members with minor medical issues. You become an integral part of the behind the scenes preparations, and see how the members put together their fabulous shows. If you are interested, talk to the Booster Manager, Cathy Sackett, as soon as possible (Contact information available at the back of this handbook).

**Truck-driving Credit** Parents and other adult supporters who help by driving Mandarins trucks, can earn up to **\$30** of credit per driving day. This credit can be used towards Tour Fees.

All credit for the 2017 season must be earned by **August 10, 2018**. Credit earned after that will be carried over to the next season. The only exception is if your member is aging out, your volunteer credit earned to the end of the season in August will be applied to this season.

Truck driving is a critical part of supporting the Mandarins. The trucks and trailers carry all of the members' performance equipment as well as food supplies and cooking equipment. You will typically be driving with another volunteer driver, and you usually will be in a convoy of trucks and buses. Your ordinary valid driver's license is all that is required. Contact Transportation Manager, Jerry Sackett, as soon as possible (Contact information available at the back of this handbook).



## 2018 Season Camp Schedule

Dates subject to change

Please keep checking our calendar on the corps' web site, as it is updated as more information becomes available.

Mark these camp dates in your calendar:

- Sacramento Experience Camp  
December 1-3, 2017 (Overnight, All sections)
- Southern California Experience Camp  
December 16-17, 2017 (Overnight, All sections)
- Camp January 12-14, 2018 (Overnight, All Sections)
- Camp February 2-4, 2018 (Overnight, Brass/Percussion)
- Camp March 16-18, 2018 (Overnight, Brass only)
- Camp April 27- 29, 2018 (Overnight, All Sections)
- May 25, 2018  
Spring Training Move In

Note: Meals and lodging are provided for all camps.



## The Summer Season

We will be in Spring Training for approx. 4 weeks and on the road for approx. 7 weeks, traveling thousands of miles to over 25 states and performing in hundreds of thousands of people.

**First Season West Coast Shows:** During mid June through early July, we will be appearing in shows throughout the west coast, including Northern and Southern California.

**DCI National Tour:** *early July through mid-August*

Our DCI tour includes competitions at DCI Regional shows in St Louis, MO; San Antonio, TX; Atlanta, GA; and Allentown, PA. The season concludes August 8 – 11 with the DCI World Championships at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, IN. We anticipate returning back to Sacramento by bus on Monday, August 13, 2018 (early evening).

# Mandarins Marching Member Code of Conduct

## Mandarins Values

### Respect, Excellence, Personal Responsibility, Service to Others

1. Be on time to all rehearsals. If you are going to miss a rehearsal, inform your instructor well in advance. It is **your** responsibility to know when and where rehearsals are. Check the e-calendar on the website.
2. Arrive at rehearsals prepared and ready to rehearse. Start and end on time. Know and understand the objectives/goals for each rehearsal. If you don't know, **ask!**
3. Swearing and abusive language will not be tolerated. Rehearse and perform professionally. You have the right to expect the same professionalism from the instructional staff.
4. You are a *role model* for other corps members. Remember that fact at all times. Other corps members will act and behave as they see you act and behave. This role model responsibility applies at all times -- on the rehearsal/performance field and off.
5. Set *high standards* for yourself. Ensure that you know and understand the Corps director's and instructional staff's expectations for the year. If you don't know their expectations, you will not meet or exceed them.
6. Smoking and/or vaping in front of other corps/staff members is not acceptable. This includes rehearsals, performances, bus rides, and any other functions associated with the corps. Most of the schools and facilities at which we stay/perform are tobacco-free campuses. Please respect their regulations.
7. Alcohol use at any time is not allowed. This includes rehearsals, performances, bus rides and any other functions associated with the corps. Most of the schools and facilities at which we stay/perform are alcohol-free campuses. Please respect their regulations. A violation will result in dismissal from the corps.
8. Illegal drug use at any time is not allowed. This includes rehearsals, performances, bus rides, and any other functions associated with the corps. All of the schools and facilities at which we stay/perform are drug-free campuses. A violation will result in dismissal from the corps.
9. Take care and **respect** your uniform, your equipment and your rehearsal/housing facilities. If something needs repair, please advise an instructor, a support staff member, or the director. No climbing fences. Leave the premises *cleaner* than when we arrived.
10. Treat other corps members as you would like to be treated. Respect their personal needs and requests. This awareness applies to rehearsals, sleeping areas, and the bus. Tolerance is paramount. Ensure that your relationships with others include **no** inappropriate behavior. If you have a concern with someone, please advise the corps director for further support or action.
11. Stealing is not tolerated in the Mandarins. Taking property belonging to other people, the Corps, or to our practice/housing sites, etc. will be dealt with severely.
12. Treat your Drum Major, sectional heads, instructional staff, support staff, drivers, boosters, other corps, parents and fans with **respect**. Support staff, drivers, chaperones, etc., volunteer their time for your benefit; most of them work full time and often use vacation time for the benefit of the Corps. Treat them with appreciation and respect for the dedicated work they perform. When you need their help, be courteous and ask **politely**.

13. Remember that any unhappiness or anger with other corps' behavior is dealt with at the Director level. Corps members and parents may be tempted to log on to newsgroups and forums to complain about others, but this is NOT the way the Mandarins do business. Don't dishonor the Mandarins' good name by posting negative comments that can be interpreted as representing the Mandarins organization's opinion. Don't start flame wars, even if you think you're right. If you have nothing nice to say, then don't say it. Staff is serious about protecting the Mandarins' reputation.
14. Leave nothing to the last minute. Plan ahead of time to get things done.
15. You represent the Mandarins **at all times**. It doesn't matter where you are – rehearsals, performances or other non-corps related functions. If someone knows you are a member of the corps, then you represent the entire organization. Make that action happen with **pride** and **class**!
16. Failure to adhere to the Mandarins Code of Conduct could lead to your dismissal from the corps and a forfeiture of your tour and participation fees.

***Create memories to last a lifetime...  
become a member of the Sacramento Mandarins***

# The Mandarins Family

Thank you for expressing interest in the Mandarins. You will find a family atmosphere committed to excellence, success, achievement and support for you and your entire family. Contact us for anything you need to make your membership a reality.

## **Sacramento Mandarins Drum and Bugle Corps**

P.O. Box 22297, Sacramento, CA 95822

### **Executive Director – Jim Tabuchi**

916-719-7368 ♦ jimtabuchi@yahoo.com

### **Corps Director – JW Koester**

408-921-6231 ♦ jwkoester@sbcglobal.net

### **Booster Manager – Cathy Sackett**

916-799-4953 ♦ cmsackett@surewest.net

### **Tour Director – Keith Sanpei**

209-518-7615 ♦ keithsanpei@gmail.com

### **Personnel Manager – Cris Flores**

916-225-2599 ♦ cflores@surewest.net

### **Transportation Manager – Jerry Sackett**

916-541-9430 ♦ sackettj@mycci.net

### **Volunteer Manager – Sheri Heuer**

916-206-8535 ♦ heushe@gmail.com

### **Uniform Manager – Susan Miyasato**

209-810-3960 ♦ ssmiyasato@sbcglobal.net

### **Program Director – Ike Jackson**

### **Visual Caption Head – Michael Samson**

### **Percussion Co-Caption Heads – Darren VanDerpoel**

### **Brass Co-Caption Heads – Tim Snyder**

### **Color Guard Caption Head – Mario Ramirez**

Please also see our entire instructional staff listing, along with email links, at <http://www.mandarins.org>