



# Keith Stein Blue Thunder Marching Band Handbook for 2017-2018

Please download, read, and retain for future reference

# Keith Stein Blue Thunder Marching Band Student Handbook

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The understanding of this handbook is required for this course.

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<b>Percussion Instructor</b>	James Harrison
<b>Color Guard Instructor</b>	Amy Burden
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To request permission to copy any material used in this handbook,  
please contact the marching band office directly.

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## Contact Information

### Mailing Address

Boise State University  
Keith Stein Blue Thunder Marching Band  
1910 University Dr.  
Boise, ID 83725-1561

### Physical Location

The Blue Thunder offices and rehearsal areas are located in the Keith & Catherine Stein Band Hall, which is connected to the East side of the Caven-Williams Sports Complex (indoor practice facility). The building is located near the northwest corner (Entrance 2) of the stadium, which is found on the east end of campus.

### Phone Numbers

Main Desk: (208) 426-1846  
Administrator: (208) 426-4159  
Fax Machine: (208) 426-1887

### Online Contacts

Website: <http://thunder.boisestate.edu>  
Email: [thunder@boisestate.edu](mailto:thunder@boisestate.edu)

## Using This Handbook

This handbook contains information, policies, and procedures for the Blue Thunder Marching Band and Pep Bands. Your familiarity with all of the information, policies, and procedures found within this document is expected and required. Ask your section leader or a staff member if you have questions. Failure to read and understand this handbook will not excuse you from the enforcement of the policies and procedures contained within this document.

Using this handbook requires four simple steps:

- Read it.
- Understand it, and ask questions if necessary.
- Fill out and submit the review and contract at the end.
- Keep referring to it online throughout the year.

## The Blue Thunder Image

Blue Thunder is one of the most prominent aspects of campus and community life. It serves as an ambassador for the University, and is one of the most rewarding activities any student can pursue. Blue Thunder has performed at bowl games across the United States and makes regular appearances on national television. Blue Thunder's high-energy, entertaining halftime shows and resonant sound make this band the Pride of Idaho.

Many dedicated individuals have made Blue Thunder what it is today through their contributions of time, labor, inspiration, money, and love. As a result, this band has a reputation on the local and national level as a fine organization. These efforts, however, can be destroyed in a matter of minutes by a single careless, thoughtless, or malicious act.

We are a band – a group of persons dedicated to the same purpose. When you are a part of Blue Thunder, you must act in the best interests and support of Blue Thunder. You must remember that you are always representing your organization, and act accordingly.

### **Priorities for Performance**

A band will only perform as well as it rehearses – perform at *every* rehearsal! Remember your priorities for a Blue Thunder performance:

- Big, High-Quality Sound
- Visual Excitement
- Style and Demeanor

If you are in doubt about whether or not you should do something, ask yourself one simple question: Will the outcome of my actions reflect poorly upon Boise State University, The Blue Thunder, or myself? If you base your behavior on this simple question, you will always represent the university in a positive manner.

### **Diversity**

Blue Thunder's purpose towards diversity is to foster an environment of respect for gender and ethnic diversity, create a hospitable climate for all members of the band community, and assure equitable opportunities for minority students and staff while being proactive in recruiting people of diversity. This organization is committed to creating an environment for education and performance that is free from intolerance. The Blue Thunder Marching Band shall not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, religion, gender, national origin, ancestry, disability, veterans' status, sexual orientation, or political affiliation.

## **Membership in Blue Thunder**

### **Requirements for Membership**

You must be enrolled as a student at Boise State University and registered for the Marching Band class the Thursday prior to the start of band camp in order to participate in Blue Thunder. Freshmen and sophomore members should enroll in MUS-ENS 121, and junior and senior members should enroll in MUS-ENS 321. Graduate students should enroll in MUS-ENS 321G. You must be enrolled in one of these classes by or before 5pm on August 11, 2016; you will not be allowed to participate in camp until you have done so. This is a legal matter, and there can be no exceptions.

All band members must attend band camp, which takes place the week before classes begin for the fall semester. The final numbers for the band are set during band camp. Band members are also responsible for attending all rehearsals and performances.

### **Email**

The Blue Thunder staff will send important information to you through Bronco e-mail. It is your responsibility to check on a daily basis.

## **Keith and Catherine Stein Band Hall**

### **Rules and Regulations**

- Food and drink is restricted to the lounge areas inside the main entryway. No food is permitted in the rehearsal hall, storage rooms, or dressing rooms. Absolutely no food is ever permitted on either football field.
- Please treat the lounge areas with respect, and clean up after yourself after use.
- Do not use computers, photocopiers, or other equipment without permission from a staff member.
- The Library is for staff use; please do not use without express permission. This is especially important on performance days.
- Stay off of the practice field unless otherwise directed or permitted by a staff member.
- Horseplay and unnecessarily loud socialization should take place outside.
- Remember – this building was a gift, and it belongs not only to today's band members, but also to the thousands of members to come. Treat it with care!

## Chain of Command

When you have questions, concerns, or conflicts, you should address the next person up in the chain of command. If this person is unable to help you, only then should you move up to the next level of command. The chain of command is as follows:

Director  
Program Administrator  
Instructors  
Graduate Assistants  
Band Council – Drum Majors  
Your Section Leaders  
Band Members

For further information about utilizing the chain of command to deal with problems, make sure to read the section on Conflict Resolution following this section.

### **Band Council**

The elected officers of Band Council include the President and the Council Members. A representative from the student organization, Kappa Kappa Psi, is appointed by the BSU chapter and is also an officer of the Band Council. Auxiliary members of Band Council may include the Drum Majors and Section Leaders.

The Band Council, headed by the President, assists the Director with matters not of a musical nature. This group helps promote the legacy with enthusiasm and a positive attitude throughout the band. The Council also helps the individual members by handling concerns in an effort to constantly improve the band.

The Officers and Drum Majors will serve as a disciplinary board and will meet on an as-needed basis to determine matters of attendance, student discipline and of maintaining the legacy. Before any decisions are made, all members shall be involved in the decision-making process. The final decision shall be made by the Officers and Drum Majors and then recommended to the Director, to enable him to pass it through the proper University administrative personnel.

### **Drum Majors**

Drum Majors are responsible to the Director and are responsible for providing leadership on the field and during performances. They assist in instruction during band camp and at performances and rehearsals during the season. Blue Thunder Drum Majors are highly talented and trained performers who help set the bar for the entire ensemble's showmanship.

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## **Section Leaders**

Section Leaders are responsible to the Drum Majors and are responsible for their assigned sections. They report any disciplinary problems directly to the Director or Council. Section Leaders will also assist with drill instruction, music interpretation, horn maneuvers/position, etc. The Section Leader may call sectionals at his or her discretion, and will run weekly sectionals as scheduled by the Director.

Section Leaders will take attendance at all rehearsals; those not present will be reported and disciplined according to policy. It is imperative that Section Leaders take accurate attendance and cooperate with the staff in maintaining records. These records permit the staff to tabulate grades, scholarship information, and section performance factors.

Section Leaders should display a positive attitude and shall promote enthusiasm and spirit within the band, as well as a cooperative atmosphere conducive to the betterment of the ensemble.

Students unwilling to fulfill all responsibilities of the Section Leader should not apply.

## **Band Members**

Band Members are the real soul of the band. Blue Thunder would not exist without the many outstanding students who make up its numbers – each and every member is a priceless and necessary element of the ensemble. Much like a machine, a good marching band is the combination of hundreds of individually moving parts working towards a collective and powerful whole.

The band can operate best and achieve the most when its members always follow three basic principles:

- Work hard at all times.
- Bring a positive attitude at all times.
- Show up on time.

## Student Leaders 2017-2018

<b>Drum Majors:</b>	<b>Band Council:</b>
Mariessa Robles	<b>President:</b> Gabi Touriel
Matt McMichael	<b>Council Members:</b> David Davis,
Sam Wildeman	Rachel Hernandez, Andrew Kinsey
	<b>KKPsi Representative:</b> filled from those listed above

Blue Thunder Section Leaders- 2016-2017						
	Music		Visual		Visual	
Piccolo	Madi	Booth	Katherine	Seo	Gabi	Touriel
Clarinet	Rhiannon	Terry	Luke	Pacifici	Rachel	Nutting
Alto Sax	Zander	Hicks	Kaila	Ho		
Tenor Sax	Emily	Foster	Josh	Braziel		
Trumpet	Mitch	Mikuchonis	Nicolette	Guerin	Catie	Hartman
Mellophone	Kylie	Sheffield	Andrew	Kinsey	Holly	Haas
Trombone	Bryan	Rosenblatt	Alex	Sessa	Ryan	Knutzen
Baritone	Hannah	Gibson	Andrew	Hensiek	Rob	Dougherty
Tuba	David	Davis	Lindsey	Hobbs		
Snare	Rachel	Hernandez				
Quads	Matt	Clay				
Bass	Nate	Sarazolla				
Cymb.	Allysn	Rennie				
Guard Capt.	Kelsey	Cooper				
Asst. Guard Capt.	Shiloh	Bagley				

## **Attendance and Grading**

Your preparation, positive contribution, and attendance are all determining factors in earning your grade for marching band. Perfect attendance is the norm and is expected from all band members. Section Leaders take attendance at all rehearsals and performances and attendance is reported to the band staff each week.

For your records, we have included a copy of the attendance policy contract you signed at the beginning of the season. You can find this contract in the Appendix.

### **Excused and Unexcused Absences and Tardy Minutes**

Absence forms are available at the receptionist desk. It is your responsibility to pick up a form, fill it out, and return it to the office with supporting documentation no later than five academic days after the absence or tardy. When possible, submit the form in advance of the absence. All absence forms will be evaluated by the Blue Thunder faculty and staff for approval; if your absence is unexcused, you will be notified as soon as possible.

Unexcused absences and tardies for games are in general completely unacceptable; excused instances are extremely rare and require director approval. For your situation to be considered as an excused absence, paperwork must be filed 30 days prior to the scheduled absence. The Director will heavily scrutinize all such requests and will require documentation supporting the request for an excused performance absence.

Absences incurred due to university-sponsored trips are excused; however, we require that the professor organizing the trip provide you with an excused absence letter and appropriate documentation, which you will need to submit to the band staff for approval. If you do not clear such absences ahead of time, they may not be excused.

Work conflicts will not be excused. Military conflicts will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Absences due to illness require documentation from a doctor (and must specifically state why attendance at rehearsal is prohibited). All absence forms require appropriate supporting documentation.

At times, you may have emergency situations, illness, and other exceptions. The Director will handle all such circumstances on a case-by-case basis. If you are sick or have an emergency, you need to call 426-1846 before rehearsal. This phone number has voice mail; if no one answers, leave a message! All messages will be collected before rehearsal. Calling ahead will help ensure that your absence is excused.

In ALL cases, you must fill out and submit an absence form within five academic days of your absence. This is your responsibility and your responsibility alone. Failure to submit an absence form will result in an unexcused absence.

### **Unexcused Tardy Minutes**

A graduate assistant will record the number of minutes that a band member is late to rehearsals and performances. This number will be recorded in the band office, where a tally of all tardy

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minutes will be kept. When a student accumulates 50 tardy minutes, he or she will receive one unexcused absence; the penalties for unexcused absences will apply.

## **Other Information**

If a student is absent from the rehearsal immediately prior to a performance, for whatever reason, the Section Leader and Director will determine whether the student will be permitted to perform in the show.

In some instances the Director and/or Band Council may allow students to do service work or practice time in order to expunge unexcused absences or tardy minutes from his/her record. This is entirely at the Director's discretion and is not a certainty.

## **Grading**

Your Blue Thunder grade is determined by your preparation, positive contribution, and attendance. The following rubric explains how each grade category is earned:

<b>A+, A, A-</b>	Consistently prepared. Strong evidence of positive contribution to rehearsals and performance. Up to one unexcused rehearsal absence. Zero unexcused performance absences.
<b>B+, B, B-</b>	Frequently prepared. Excellent evidence of positive contribution to rehearsals and performances. Up to two unexcused rehearsal absences. Zero unexcused performance absences.
<b>C+, C, C-</b>	Inconsistently prepared. Good evidence of positive contribution to rehearsals and performances. Up to three unexcused rehearsal absences. Zero unexcused performance absences.
<b>D+, D, D-</b>	Frequently unprepared. Little evidence of positive contribution to rehearsals and performances. Up to four unexcused rehearsal absences. Zero unexcused performance absences.
<b>F</b>	Consistently unprepared. Poor evidence of positive contribution to rehearsals and performances. Five or more unexcused rehearsal absences. One or more unexcused performance absences.

Preparation refers to rehearsals and performances and includes, but it not limited to: music execution (may be demonstrated via a formal music check), drill execution, possession of appropriate and required materials, instrument upkeep, and knowledge of Blue Thunder policies and procedures. A positive contribution to rehearsals and performances includes, but is not limited to: the demonstration of a positive attitude, strong work ethic, and team-oriented demeanor.

Situations throughout the season that require disciplinary intervention by Section Leaders, staff members, or the Director may affect your final grade in this class.

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Every member of Blue Thunder starts out with an A in this class. It is up to you to keep that A – a very easy task, so long as you come to rehearsals and performances ready and willing to do your very best!

Remember that as a university class you are required to come to the final exam period. This is according to university policy; please check the university final exam schedule for times. More detailed information will be announced toward the end of the semester.

## **Music Memorization**

All music performed on the field should be memorized. Generally speaking, music will need to be memorized by the day the band starts setting drill for that particular piece. It is recommended that you memorize your music as quickly as you can after receiving it.

If memorization does not seem to be progressing in the section, Section Leaders and Directors may conduct memorization checks. Grades will only be affected if it is obvious that little or no effort has been made in this area.

## Uniforms

Each band member will receive a uniform at the beginning of the season. The uniform consists of several pieces, each of which is specifically checked out to you. Uniforms should be stored in the uniform room, not taken home. You must have all parts of your uniform at all performances. Missing pieces must immediately be brought to the attention of the Uniform Manager or a member of the band staff so that they can be replaced. Students will be charged for the missing items if not recovered by then end of the season.

### Uniform Checkout

Each member of the band will be fitted for and assigned a uniform during band camp. Uniform checkout takes place in the afternoons following rehearsal; each section in the band is assigned a specific day for this process. Members who require especially small or especially large sizes should arrange with the Uniform Manager to be fitted on the first day of band camp.

You should have been notified of your assigned day for uniform checkout in the summer band mailer. This is a mandatory activity, and it is essential that you are present on time and on your assigned day. If you cannot make your assigned day, you must make arrangements with the Uniform Manager for a different checkout day. All uniforms will be assigned during camp.

### Band Uniform Components

Each member of the band (excluding Color Guard) will be assigned the following items:

- Jacket
- Bibbers
- Shako (hat) and hatbox (excluding sousaphones)
- Uniform bag
- White gloves (excluding percussion)
- Black hip bag
- Music flip folder or binder for percussion
- Band Polo (yours to keep, but must be available and clean for all necessary performances)
- DriFit Shirt (yours to keep, but must be available and clean for all performances)
- Baseball cap (yours to keep at the end of the season); which is to be kept in shako/hat box. It is not to be taken home. You are to mark your name in permanent marker on your hat's label tag.

Each band member is responsible for purchasing the following uniform components:

- Black socks
- Black MTX marching shoes (purchased through the band)
- Khaki pants

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You will be required to own the exact shoes specified by the Director. These shoes cost \$35, and orders will be placed during band camp. It is not necessary to purchase new shoes each year. Shoes must be polished and clean for all performances.

Feather plumes for the shakos will be distributed for each performance, and collected immediately afterward. Plumes must be stored in their special container and not in your uniform bag or in the hat box.

Some sections may have specific sectional uniform components, as specified by the Section Leader. These are optional, and must be approved by the Director, and director only, before being worn for performances. Head bandanas are not acceptable, no exceptions.

## **Color Guard Uniform Components**

Each member of the color guard will be issued the following items:

- Uniforms
- Shoes
- Poles
- Performance flags
- Uniform bag

Each new color guard member pays approximately \$100 in membership dues (returning member's dues will be adjusted), which cover items used in practice & performance.

Color guard members may also purchase a duffel bag for an additional fee.

## **Care and Cleaning of Uniforms**

At no point should members of the Blue Thunder sit or lay on the ground in uniform. Do not wash or repair any portion of the uniform yourself! Cleaning the uniform in a home washer/dryer may damage or destroy it.

If your uniform needs cleaning, take it to the Uniform Manager or a member of the band staff. Make sure to fill out the appropriate paperwork as well, so that your uniform will be returned to you. Uniforms will be taken to a professional cleaner at no expense to you. If your uniform does not fit at any point in the season, the Uniform Manager may be able to exchange, otherwise will certainly have alterations done. NEVER attempt to exchange uniform components yourself or alter your uniform on your own.

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The uniform must be hung up on the provided hangers when not in use. Be sure the creases of the pants are folded correctly to minimize wrinkling. Place the uniform inside the uniform bag and hang it neatly in the uniform room. If your uniform gets wet, leave the zipper of the uniform bag open for ventilation.

If you have recently dyed your hair, particularly with a non-permanent and/or brightly colored dye, please clean the shako thoroughly immediately after wearing to prevent staining.

Plumes must be stored in their cardboard tubes inside the plume box. Never store a plume in your uniform bag or in your own hat box! Before placing the plume in your shako, gently fluff the feathers. Avoid handling the feathers, as the feathers will become dirty and yellowed from the oils in your hands. Also avoid exposure to water. If the plume gets wet, allow it to dry in a clean area before returning it to the plume box.

If your uniform is damaged, take it to the Uniform Manager or a staff member as soon as possible. Make sure that the Uniform Manager is aware of the damage and what needs to be done. In most cases, the uniform will be repaired by a professional seamstress at no expense to you. If it is determined that the damage was caused deliberately or through gross negligence, you will be fined based on the list below.

## **Replacement of Uniform Components**

If a piece of your uniform is lost or stolen, report it immediately to the Uniform Manager or a member of the band staff so that every effort can be made to find it. Remember, your uniform is your responsibility! You must keep tabs on all parts of your uniform at all times. Shakos are often misplaced during games, so please be careful.

You will be responsible for the replacement cost of any uniform components that are not returned at the end of the season. A charge will be added to your student account for the items. If you do not pay these replacement fines, academic holds will be placed on your Boise State accounts. The standard replacement costs for uniform components are as follows:

Uniform jacket:	\$225
Uniform pants:	\$175
Shako:	\$85
Raincoat:	\$90
Uniform bag:	\$25
Travel bag:	\$100
Hip bag:	\$12
Flip folder:	\$12
Baseball cap:	\$12
Blue Band Polo:	\$15
DriFit:	\$15

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If you are missing part of your uniform on a performance day, you may be able to check out or purchase a replacement item for that day. Returns shall be made the same day or by the next band rehearsal. Failure to return items will result in a charge made to your account based on the list above.

Any personal items found in the performance and rehearsal areas will be placed in the Lost and Found Box, located in the lobby of the Band Hall; required uniform items will be given to the Uniform Manager. Any school-issued items will also be collected and will be available in the office. The student will be fined \$5 for any neglected items. Remember that stadium staff personnel or other people in the stands may collect your personal items, which may prevent their return to you.

## **Equipment**

The Keith Stein Blue Thunder Marching Band provides many instruments to its members; however, there is a limited capacity for some sections. It is encouraged that each student considers a secondary instrument for this reason. We are always looking for energetic and adaptable students to perform sousaphone and mellophone, while saxophone sections tend to be abundant. Final instrumentation for the band will be determined during band camp.

Blue Thunder provides the following instruments and equipment to its members:

- Piccolos
- Clarinets
- Saxophones
- Trumpets
- Mellophones
- Trombones
- Marching Baritones
- Sousaphones
- Percussion equipment
- Color Guard equipment
- Flip Folders
- Hip Bags

The silver trumpets, mellophones, sousaphones, trombones and baritones must be handled using soft, clean gloves during both rehearsals and performances. Brass players must exercise diligent care of these instruments to ensure that they will remain in good condition for as many years as possible. The silver surfaces require frequent polishing, and may stain clothing. Do not rest silver instruments on the turf or pavement, as the surface may be scratched. Each instrument should be in excellent playing condition; it is your responsibility to make sure the instrument is maintained at all times.

School-owned instruments are to be returned in the same great condition at the end of the season. If any damage occurs, report it to your Section Leader right away. Damage to school instruments should be reported to the band office. While general wear and tear on an instrument is to be expected, any excessive damage to a school-owned instrument may result in the student being charged for repairs. Brass instruments shall be cleaned and flushed out, with oiled valves and clean, greased slides. Percussion instruments shall be cleaned and stored according to the Percussion Instructor's instructions.

## Rehearsals

### Regular Schedule of Rehearsals

Rehearsals begin during band camp, which takes place the week immediately prior to the start of fall semester classes. Beginning on the first day of fall semester, the rehearsal schedule is as follows:

- Monday, Wednesday, and Friday: 12:00PM to 1:50PM
- Any extra rehearsals and sectionals as designated by the Director or Section Leaders

Please do not schedule another class during any of these rehearsal times. You may want to consider the location of your classes when scheduling them immediately before or after band rehearsal, as it can take some time to cross campus and get ready for rehearsal. You need to be on time every day, and should be prepared to stay at rehearsal until 1:50.

Rehearsals also take place in the hours immediately before football games. The exact time of these rehearsals will be announced the week prior to the game.

All rehearsals, unless otherwise indicated, take place in the stadium. Never assume that a rehearsal is cancelled due to inclement weather. Rehearsal is often moved indoors if absolutely necessary. Report to the band hall at the usual rehearsal time for further instructions.

### Questions and Concerns

Follow the chain of command when dealing with questions of music or marching. When a problem arises, see the Director or another staff member immediately. We can't solve problems until they are discussed.

## Performances

### Performance Policy

This is not an ensemble wherein the band members socialize, do homework, play electronic devices, text message or talk on cell phones. The Blue Thunder Marching band is a part of the spirit squad and is constantly under scrutiny by the spectators and by television cameras. At any given time, expect that someone is watching you!

Do not remove any portion of your uniform during the game unless directed to do so by the Director.

During the entire game, all members will stand – not sit – with their sections and will participate in the proceedings. However, occasionally during games the Director will require you to sit, move, etc. Your quick and considerate cooperation improves the performance experience for everyone and ensures that the band has a professional appearance and reputation.

### Attire and Appearance

#### Uniform

Must have all parts and must be clean. This includes *polished* black shoes, **high black** socks, and your DriFit. You must wear your DriFit under your uniform jacket as sweat damages the material. Make sure that the pants' legs are adjusted so that you are not stepping on the hem nor showing your socks. Please check the section on uniforms for further details.

#### Black hip bags/“butt bags”

Bags will *not* be worn on the field during performances unless otherwise instructed by the Director.

#### Hair

Hair that is longer than collar-length must be secured and worn up inside the hat. No loose hair should be visible from outside the shako. Be careful of hair dyes so that you do not stain your hat.

#### Baseball caps

Only Blue Thunder baseball caps are permitted while in full uniform. These hats are to be worn in the stands at all times unless otherwise instructed by the Director. If you lose your hat, you may purchase a replacement.

#### Jewelry/Sunglasses

No jewelry will be worn with your uniform, with the exception of stud earrings, wedding rings, and watches. One small KKΨ pin, or other affiliation pins, as

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Winter accessories (hats, headbands, gloves, etc.)

approved by the Director, may be worn on the jacket collar. Sunglasses are not permitted when performing on the field. Sunglasses will be permitted during tailgate and in the stands.

Bandannas, “do”-rags, and other uniform modifications

Gloves must be white or must fit completely under the white marching gloves. Hats or headbands may be worn under the shako or baseball cap so long as they are not visible.

Not permitted for any reason.

When in doubt about a uniform part or modification, always ask your Section Leader or the Director.

## **Schedule of Performances**

All band members will be at the stadium in full uniform as specified before the game by the Director or band staff. Call time is generally four hours before kick-off. Pre-game rehearsal ordinarily takes place two hours before kick-off. Homecoming will have additional rehearsals and performances, so call times will be earlier.

Section Leaders will inspect and tune their sections fifteen minutes before line-up time, which will be announced at the end of pre-game rehearsal.

Band members must attend the entire game unless approved by the Director. Remember: there are no excused absences for performances. You are expected to be on time and to participate until the game is over and the band’s post-game performance is complete.

After the game, all uniforms must be properly hung and returned to the uniform room. All band-owned equipment must be properly cleaned and stored.

Please plan your schedule based on the Blue Thunder performance schedule. It is important to remember that the football schedule can change with short notice due to television contracts. In the case that a performance is on a weekday, Blue Thunder will provide an excuse letter for your professors. Please speak with your employers ahead of time so that they are aware of the tentative nature of your performance schedule and that your attendance is mandatory at all events. Any scheduled parades, pep rallies, or other school-related performances are also mandatory.

## **Travel**

The band may travel to an away game or to a post-season bowl game. As much notice as possible will be given to you so that arrangements can be made with your professors and employers. Travel costs will be covered for mandatory trips, and if it takes place during the term, we will provide an excuse letter for your absence. If you have any unexcused performance absences, the director reserves the right to remove your name from the travel roster to any post-season games.

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Trips are considered performances – from the moment you leave the stadium until you return – the same policies apply. Follow the basic principles previously stated in this handbook, and remember: your actions reflect not only on you, but also on the band and the entire university.

## **Pep Bands**

### **Joining the Pep Band**

Members of the basketball pep bands are selected from within the Blue Thunder membership and are based on auditions. Blue Thunder will fill openings in the pep bands as they become available. If you are interested in joining a pep band, contact the Director.

All members of the pep bands are required to read and sign a contract, a reference copy of which is available in the appendix of this handbook. Members of the basketball pep bands will receive academic credit for the spring semester. For more information, contact The Administrative Assistant as the spring registration period approaches.

### **Attendance**

As a member of the pep band, you are required to attend all home games for which you are scheduled, as well as any post-season games and away games as dictated by the athletic and band programs.

If you cannot attend a game, you are required to secure a substitute from the list of approved substitutes (distributed at the beginning of the season). You will then contact the band office and let them know who will be subbing for you. It is suggested that all members getting substitutes do so in writing. You must reimburse your substitute \$30 for each game within five days of the event. Substitutes who are hired without approval will not be accepted, and you will receive an unexcused absence for that game.

The attendance policies for the regular football season apply to pep bands. Failure to uphold these policies will result in loss of scholarship and/or other penalties.

### **Membership Requirements**

Members of pep bands:

- Will enthusiastically support the team and invigorate the spectators as a contributing member of the spirit organization.
- Will follow all rules and regulations of the University, and of the band as set forth in this handbook.
- Will attend all performances appropriately attired in the required uniform.
- Will refrain from distracting or non-productive activities, such as homework, handheld games, cell phones, or socialization.
- Will not attend band functions while under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs.
- Will not consume or possess alcohol or illegal drugs while at band functions.
- Will cooperate with the Director and Grad Assistants at all times.
- Will act at all times as a representative of the University.
- Will learn and prepare music before performances.

## **Student Leadership**

If you wish to be considered for a leadership position in Blue Thunder, please remember that you are auditioning for that position every day of your career at Boise State. Also remember that leadership is a great privilege, but it is also a great responsibility and requires much work.

There are four official leadership capacities within the band program: Band Council, Drum Majors, and Section Leaders. In order to apply for any of these leadership positions, students must have at least one year of experience in Blue Thunder.

Any qualifying band member may apply for a leadership position in the band. The processes for different positions vary and are described below.

### **Applying to Become a Section Leader**

Section Leader applications are available in the band office toward the end of the season. In order to apply, fill out and submit an application by the deadline designated by the Director. Section Leaders are selected by the Director and staff. Peer evaluation forms (collected at the end of the season) may also be used in determining section leaders.

### **Auditioning to Become a Drum Major**

Drum Major auditions take place in the spring preceding the marching season. Audition materials will be available to prepare for the audition.

The auditions take place in front of a panel including the Director, band staff, and Blue Thunder members. The panel will select the next season's Drum Majors based on directing ability, preparation efforts, style, leadership qualities and their contributions to the Blue Thunder in prior seasons. All people interested in becoming Drum Major, including current Drum Majors, must audition. Candidates for Drum Major must also meet scholarship requirements for the Blue Thunder Marching Band or they will not be considered for the position.

### **Running for Band Council**

The Blue Thunder Band Council consists of five members: four elected and one appointed from KKPsi. They are elected at the end of the season for the following year's term.

Additionally, Band Council members must be fully participating members of the ensemble. By assuming this position, officers agree to participate in Blue Thunder in the following season.

Band Council elections shall take place at the end of marching season prior to the band banquet. The election process is under the supervision and jurisdiction of the standing Band Council and the Director.

## Keith Stein Blue Thunder Marching Band Student Handbook

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Nominations will be accepted on a designated day prior to the election. Nominations must be seconded by another band member and then accepted or declined by the nominee. A current member of the Band Council, who will then report nominations to the band office, will record all nominations. The band office will maintain a running list of nominees for use in creating the ballots.

On election day, the full band will meet at a designated location. Pre-printed paper ballots will be distributed. A non-student staff member will collect and tally all votes. Results of the election will be revealed at the annual Band Banquet.

Any questions or concerns regarding Band Council elections should be presented to the President / Council Leader.

### **Kappa Kappa Psi National Honorary Band Fraternity**

National leadership opportunities are available for band members who are selected for membership in Kappa Kappa Psi. You can visit the chapter's website at <http://www.iotakappa.net>. If you would like more information about the national organization, please visit [www.kkpsi.org](http://www.kkpsi.org).

## **Policy on Controlled Substances**

The Blue Thunder Marching Band is a university organization, and each of its members represents not only the band but also Boise State University and the community at large. Boise State regulations forbid the consumption, possession, or distribution of alcohol or illegal drugs on campus or at any event sponsored by the University. As a result, and as a mark of pride for the conduct and reputation of our band, members are held to the highest standards regarding these substances.

This band takes its controlled substances policy very seriously, and all members are required to follow this policy.

The following rules are in effect any time you are representing the University or the Blue Thunder Marching Band, including all rehearsals, performances, and trips:

1. The purchase, possession and/or consumption of drugs or alcohol by a member in any place, or at any time, is prohibited, even if you are of legal age to do so.
2. No use of tobacco products is allowed while in uniform or within any band facility, including the stadium.
3. No person shall attend any performance or rehearsal while under the influence of alcohol or any controlled substance.

Any person found to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be turned over to University Authorities immediately and may be subject to additional disciplinary action by the Director. These actions may include dismissal from the organization, forfeiture of scholarship, receipt of a failing grade, and loss of any positions held within the organization.

For your records we have included a copy of the controlled substances policy contract you signed at the beginning of the season. See the appendix for more information.

## **Appendix: Policy Forms and Contracts**

The following pages consist of the Blue Thunder controlled substances policy and attendance policy for your records. Each member of the band signed a copy of these policies on the first day of band camp. It is essential that you understand and remember these policies so that you can follow them.

These are copies for your records – you have already submitted these contracts and do not need to do so again.

We also include a copy of the general pep band contract for your information.

If you have any questions or concerns about these policies, discuss them with the Staff or Director. They are in place for your protection and to maintain the good reputation of the Blue Thunder.

## **Controlled Substances Policy**

The following rules are in effect any time you are representing the University or the Blue Thunder Marching Band, including all rehearsals, performances, and trips:

1. The purchase, possession and/or consumption of drugs or alcohol by a member in any place, or at any time, is prohibited, even if you are of legal age to do so.
2. No use of tobacco products is allowed while in uniform or within any band facility, including the stadium.
3. No person shall attend any performance or rehearsal while under the influence of alcohol or any controlled substance.

Any person found to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be turned over to University Authorities immediately and may be subject to additional disciplinary action by the Director. These actions may include dismissal from the organization, forfeiture of scholarship, receipt of a failing grade, and loss of any positions held within the organization.

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By signing below, I indicate that I understand and agree to follow the guidelines of this policy.

Print Name: FOR YOUR RECORDS ONLY – DO NOT REMOVE

Section: FOR YOUR RECORDS ONLY – DO NOT REMOVE

Signature: FOR YOUR RECORDS ONLY – DO NOT REMOVE

Date: FOR YOUR RECORDS ONLY – DO NOT REMOVE

## **Attendance/Grading Policy**

All members of the Blue Thunder Marching Band will abide by this policy. It is in effect for scheduled rehearsals (MWF 12:00-1:50) as well as rehearsals before games, performances, sectional rehearsals, and any other outside performances.

### **Excused Absence Policy**

If a member is absent from any portion of a scheduled rehearsal, that member is responsible for completing and turning in an absence form. These forms are available at the receptionist desk. It is your responsibility to pick up a form, fill it out, and return it to the office with supporting documentation no later than five academic days after the absence or tardy. When possible, submit the form in advance of the absence. The Blue Thunder faculty and staff will evaluate all absence forms for approval; if your absence is unexcused, you will be notified as soon as possible.

### **Tardiness Policy**

A graduate assistant will record the number of minutes that a band member is late to rehearsals and performances. This number will be recorded in the band office, where a tally of all tardy minutes will be kept. When a student accumulates 50 tardy minutes, he or she will receive one unexcused absence; the penalties for unexcused absences will apply.

### **Other Information**

If a student is absent from the rehearsal immediately prior to a performance, for whatever reason, the Section Leader and Director will determine whether the student will be permitted to perform in the show.

In some instances the Director and/or Band Council may allow students to do service or practice time in order to expunge unexcused absences from the record. This is entirely at the Director's discretion and is not a certainty.

# Keith Stein Blue Thunder Marching Band Student Handbook

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## Grading Rubric:

Your Blue Thunder grade is determined by your preparation, positive contribution, and attendance. The following rubric explains how each grade category is earned:

<b>A+, A, A-</b>	Consistently prepared. Strong evidence of positive contribution to rehearsals and performance. Up to one unexcused rehearsal absence. Zero unexcused performance absences.
<b>B+, B, B-</b>	Frequently prepared. Excellent evidence of positive contribution to rehearsals and performances. Up to two unexcused rehearsal absences. Zero unexcused performance absences.
<b>C+, C, C-</b>	Inconsistently prepared. Good evidence of positive contribution to rehearsals and performances. Up to three unexcused rehearsal absences. Zero unexcused performance absences.
<b>D+, D, D-</b>	Frequently unprepared. Little evidence of positive contribution to rehearsals and performances. Up to four unexcused rehearsal absences. Zero unexcused performance absences.
<b>F</b>	Consistently unprepared. Poor evidence of positive contribution to rehearsals and performances. Five or more unexcused rehearsal absences. One or more unexcused performance absences.

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By signing below, I indicate that I understand and agree to follow the guidelines of this policy.

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ FOR YOUR RECORDS ONLY – DO NOT REMOVE

Section: \_\_\_\_\_ FOR YOUR RECORDS ONLY – DO NOT REMOVE

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ FOR YOUR RECORDS ONLY – DO NOT REMOVE

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ FOR YOUR RECORDS ONLY – DO NOT REMOVE

## **Audio / Video and Photographic Release Form**

Member and Associate release and agreement form

I hereby authorize **Blue Thunder Marching Band** sole and exclusive rights to use, publish, copy, print, copyright or electronically transfer any or all photographs, video, or audio clips taken by me or of me before, during, and after any **Blue Thunder Marching Band** activity, event or function.

I also agree that **Blue Thunder Marching Band** may use such photographs, video and audio recordings taken by me or of me with or without my consent or the use of my name for any lawful purpose, including but not limited to; publicity, illustration, advertising, marketing, copyrighting and Web content.

I hereby irrevocably authorize **Blue Thunder Marching Band** to edit, alter, copy, exhibit, publish or distribute this media for Blue Thunder Marching Band activities, events, and functions or for any other lawful purpose.

In addition, I waive the right to inspect or approve the finished product, including written or electronic copy, wherein my likeness appears.

Additionally, I waive any right to royalties or other compensation arising or related to the use of any of these photographs, video, or audio clips.

I hereby hold harmless and release and forever discharge the **Blue Thunder Marching Band** from all claims, demands, and causes of action which I, my heirs, representatives, executors, administrators, or any other persons acting on my behalf or on behalf of my estate have or may have by reason of this authorization.

I am 18 years of age and am competent to contract in my own name. I have read this release before signing below and I fully understand the contents, meaning, and impact of this release.

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature FOR YOUR RECORDS ONLY – DO NOT REMOVE Date \_\_\_\_\_

## General Pep Band Contract

I, \_\_\_\_\_, agree to the following:

- I accept a band scholarship for my participation in the basketball pep band if eligible.
- I will attend all required games, including any post-season games, and perform to the best of my ability.
- If I cannot attend any game, I will call the band office and inform them at least 48 hours before the game. The office will provide a list of approved substitutes; I will then arrange for a substitute and will reimburse him/her \$30 per game within five days of the event. I understand that it is suggested I get a confirmation in writing from my substitute.
- I will follow all rules and regulations of the University, and of the band as set forth in the Student Handbook, including but not limited to these items:
  - I will not attend band functions while under the influence of alcohol and/or illegal drugs, nor will consume or possess these substances while at band functions.
  - I will refrain from distracting or non-productive activities, such as socializing, doing homework, playing handheld games, text messaging or talking on a cell phone.
  - I will cooperate with the Director and staff at all times.
  - I will at all times act in an appropriate manner as a representative of the University.
- I will enthusiastically support the team and invigorate the spectators as a contributing member of the spirit organization.
- I will learn and prepare my music before games. If my performance quality is not up to the standards of the band, I understand that I may forfeit my scholarship and position in the ensemble.
- If I am unable to complete the season or otherwise fail to be a contributing member of the pep band, I understand that I will forfeit my scholarship and my position in the ensemble.

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ **FOR YOUR RECORDS ONLY – DO NOT REMOVE**

Pep Band Instrument: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Student Handbook Contract

After reading the Blue Thunder Student Handbook, fill out and sign this contract, making sure to initial each statement, and return it to your Section Leader. Section Leaders will return all contracts to the band office.

Please use legible handwriting.

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Section: \_\_\_\_\_

	Initial
I understand and agree to uphold the controlled substances policy.	<input type="text"/>
I understand and agree to uphold the attendance policy.	<input type="text"/>
I understand and agree to uphold the band's requirements for my attitude and appearance.	<input type="text"/>
I understand the academic policies of the band.	<input type="text"/>

I, the undersigned, have read the Blue Thunder Student Handbook. I understand its contents and agree to follow the principles and regulations of Boise State University and the Blue Thunder Marching Band. I also understand the penalties for failing to follow these regulations.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_