

# GE Member Handbook

---

As you complete your journey this season, you will learn that the most important aspects of being a member of Golden Empire have to do with what you do **“off of the field”**. This handbook is meant to provide an introduction to what that means as well as what to expect from and how to prepare for your experience.

The details in the handbook are important, but in general you should always keep this in mind: **Everything that you do is a reflection on the corps, the college, our community, and of course yourself.** Let that guide your decisions this summer and beyond! On that note, let's start with a reminder of why we are here...

## Our Mission:

Our mission is to leverage the power of performing arts to help youth in our community develop the *life skills* they will need to thrive in this world by providing unique educational and competitive programs that emphasize commitment, teamwork, and the pursuit of excellence.

## Our Vision:

- Golden Empire will sponsor a comprehensive *marching arts* program, featuring the southern San Joaquin Valley's premiere drum and bugle corps, in partnership with Bakersfield College and other local organizations.
- The educational staff will be led by experienced teachers who will develop programs and curricula that inspire and challenge our students as well as engage our audiences.
- Golden Empire will cultivate meaningful relationships, bringing together friends, family, alumni, fans, donors, volunteers, and other stakeholders to strengthen the organization, actively promote performing arts, and enrich the lives of the citizens our community.
- Our students will be served at the highest level possible by an organization that strives for efficiency and sustainability in its operations.

## Overview:

The Golden Empire Drum & Bugle Corps is the premiere drum corps in the southern San Joaquin Valley. The corps is comprised of youth who are furthering their education in brass, percussion, and visual performance.

Students rehearse monthly in the spring and daily once school is out for the summer. They receive high quality instruction from a diverse staff led by experienced teachers as they prepare for local public performances and a tour of CA.

GE Corps is the realization of a vision that has existed for years in our community and is an extension of the Bakersfield College Drumline program. GE competes in the Open Class of Drum Corps International, Marching Music's Major League.

## Tour Conduct

Golden Empire Drum & Bugle Corps members are expected to behave in a respectable manner at all times. You are representing the corps, Bakersfield College, and our community.

## Housing Sites

**When housing at a residential site**, be respectful of your location and neighbors around you. Respect the hosts who are housing you by maintaining good manners, language, and etiquette. The host families are not your parents and do not clean up for you. **Leave the site cleaner than you found it.**

**When housing at school sites** the same rules apply as housing with hosts. Treat the facility with the utmost respect. Specific rules to follow:

- Only water is allowed in the gymnasium (no other food or drink)
- NO SMOKING at any time at a school site
- Carry your luggage in the gymnasium to avoid leaving marks
- Always stay in the allotted areas
- Be respectful of other groups that may be using the facility
- Always wear appropriate & non-offensive clothing
- T-shirts MUST be worn when indoors and when not rehearsing
- Lights out means it is time to sleep. Be quiet and get some rest.
- When showering in gym locker rooms, be respectful of others' personal space
- Use locker rooms and bathrooms for showering and personal hygiene (brushing teeth, etc.)
- Be respectful of others and yourself at all times

## Uniform Rules

When in uniform you are the embodiment of the Golden Empire Drum & Bugle Corps. Represent yourself with pride and integrity. **The following rules apply when in uniform:**

- You may only drink water, no other food or drink
- Avoid sitting anywhere except the bus or stadium stands
- Never use inappropriate language or suggestive behaviors
- NO SMOKING

**Other rules that pertain to the overall look of the corps:**

- Keep hair clean and neat (Long hair must be put up securely inside your shako)
- Facial hair must be kept neatly trimmed
- Wear proper undergarments under the uniform: shirt, underwear, and socks
- Limit earring use to one small stud in each ear (uniform colors only)
- Horns and shoes must be polished before every performance
- The Corps Director reserves the right to make and/or change these policies at any time

## When Traveling on the Road

When riding on the corps bus, remember that other vehicles/people can see inside our buses. Be aware of your actions at all times. Maintain appropriate behaviors and voice volume so members who want to sleep can do so without disruption.

If the bus convoy makes a stop, you may or may not be able to get off the bus to stretch and/or use the restroom. These stops must be as short as possible, **and you must be on the bus when it is ready to travel.** Corps members are not permitted to make purchases during these stops unless otherwise announced by the corps director.

## Drugs and Alcohol

The Golden Empire Drum & Bugle Corps has a strict policy when it comes to drugs and alcohol: All members will abide by the laws of the state of California relative to the use of alcohol and chemical substances as well as Bakersfield College rules and regulations.

Golden Empire is opposed to any type of drug use except in the case of **necessary medical reasons** by any of its staff, members, or volunteers.

Golden Empire expects all members, staff, and volunteers to retain a state of mind and physical condition that allows them to perform their assigned duties and responsibilities in a competent and safe manner.

Golden Empire strictly forbids any members, staff, and volunteers to have drugs, drug paraphernalia, or alcohol on school grounds or in our vehicles or to provide or distribute these said items to underage individuals. Any member, staff, or volunteer associated with Golden Empire Drum & Bugle Corps violating these rules will be subject to state regulated laws and regulations and may be dismissed from the corps immediately and face legal repercussions.

## Injury and Illness

In the event a member has an illness or is injured and is unable to attend, rehearse, or perform, they must inform their section leader and staff member as soon as possible. The corps director will be notified immediately to address the situation. You must inform the appropriate staff members to be excused from a rehearsal or performance.

## Electronic Devices

Cell phones or other electronic devices are not to be used during rehearsals or performances. The corps director can make an exception during rehearsal if necessary. Try to keep electronic use to a minimum and find a balance between staying in touch with your friends and family back home and spending time with your corps family.

## Leaving the Tour

Except for family emergencies or school obligations, you will not be allowed to leave when on tour. Exceptions can be made but will have to be reviewed and cleared by the corps director and the staff. You have made a commitment to Golden Empire and are expected to honor that commitment.

## **PDA**

Public Displays of Affection (PDA) are not tolerated when traveling with the corps.

## **In Case of Emergencies**

In case of an emergency contact the corps director: Tim Heasley (661) 900-0989

## **Your Commitment to the Corps**

We are proud that you have chosen Golden Empire Drum and Bugle Corps as your performing arts ensemble. We will do everything to ensure that your experience is of quality, integrity, and safety for all members of the corps. In turn we expect you to conduct yourself with the same integrity and be proud of who you are and what you represent. We also expect that you will maintain your obligations financially to allow this corps to provide quality instruction, staff, housing, transportation and the food preparation you deserve.

## **Sample Packing List for Tour**

- Sleeping bag
- Pillow
- Light blanket or sheet
- Small/Medium suitcase or duffle bag
- Backpack
- 1-gallon water jug (MADATORY!!!)
- Hat
- Sunglasses with UVA/UVB protection
- Sunscreen, SPF 30 (or higher)
- Prescription medication needed for the duration of tour
- Toothpaste and toothbrush
- Shaving cream and razor (if needed)
- Deodorant
- Shampoo/conditioner and other hair products
- Make-up (if required)
- Towel & bath sponge
- Flip flops for shower (must wear in showers)
- Socks for tour (enough for all days)
- 1 long sleeve t-shirt
- Underwear (enough for all days plus a few extra)
- Comfortable rehearsal shorts
- Athletic pants
- Shoes to rehearse (you may want 2 comfortable pairs)
- Waterproof poncho or jacket (lightweight)
- Clothes for free days
- Rehearsal supplies (i.e. pencils, etc.)
- Plastic bag to put dirty clothes in
- Mobile phone and charger
- Wallet with identification, credit card/money, any medical information

## **Housing Manners when staying with a Host Family**

- Be on time for rides to and from rehearsal (on time means AHEAD of time!)
- If you are offered a bed to sleep in, see that it is made as nicely, or better, than before you slept in it.
- Be prepared with your own sleeping bag and pillow in case no bed is offered.
- Be courteous about your noise level as others in the host family may be trying to sleep.
- Bring your own bath towel and all personal items.
- Keep your bathroom items in your own bag and not all over the bathroom counter.
- When finished with showering, leave it as clean as you found it, and make sure your towel is hung to dry, unless you are packing it to leave that day.
- If you are offered any meal or snack at your host's home, be gracious, and offer to pay some money for the food. If the host says "no, that's not necessary" be grateful and accept their hospitality.
- If you eat at a restaurant at any time with your host, **PAY FOR YOUR OWN FOOD.**
- It's ok to let your host know about food allergies, but don't be picky about the food that you are offered, and also don't waste food.
- When you have finished your meal, clear your table and help rinse up your dishes if possible.

**Thank your host family especially at the end of your stay with them. Remember that you are a part of the host's family while you are with them. As such, don't expect to be waited upon. Be helpful, tidy, courteous and appreciative and your host will be happy to have you. You will also be a great representative of the Golden Empire Drum & Bugle Corps.**