

# Tips for Guard Parents 2022-2023

This should let you know what to expect. However, in this “Sport of the Arts,” schedules change and the show is always evolving. Please keep informed using the following means of communication.

## **COMMUNICATION:**

Make sure you’ve supplied a good email and phone number for the contact list, which will be distributed to the parents. Our web page is [SPMS Winterguard Team](#). Make sure that you join our Winterguard 2022-2023 Facebook page. We also communicate through the [BAND App](#) which allows posts, emails and texts. Please encourage your kids to check the BAND App frequently. We’ll also have parent meetings, usually monthly, as warranted.

## **PARENT MEETINGS:**

Generally, parent meetings occur at the conclusion of practice on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month, as needed.

## **REHEARSALS:**

Rehearsal is held after school on Wednesdays and Thursdays until 5:30PM. At the conclusion of rehearsal, all members help with folding the floor and cleanup. Please allow a few minutes for this. Rehearsals usually begin the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of school and run through Championships (usually end of March early April); although additional practices may occur before Night of the Arts. Your student should wear all black, hair up, bring water & a quick snack.

Occasionally, there will be extra practices, clinics and/or “spin parties.” They may be at the school or hosted by a member of the team at their home/neighborhood. Attendance at the extra practices is not mandatory, but is recommended. These are often scheduled on short notice, and we know you may not be able to participate in all of them. Team members are also encouraged to practice at home and with other guard members. Teamwork, sportsmanship, respect, behavior, academics and cooperation are very important (see Audition Packet).

## **REHEARSAL STRUCTURE:**

During rehearsals, your performer is expected to be present, respectful and without distraction. We only rehearse 2 times a week as a consideration for family time and academic priorities so maximizing that time is of utmost importance. Rehearsals consist of warm-up, dance basics, equipment basics, present new choreography/staging/show material. Writing, staging and designing the show will begin in August and will continue through December.

## **COMPETITIONS and EVENTS:**

We compete in the FFCC Colorguard Circuit (see [ffcc.org](http://ffcc.org) for more information) Competitions begin mid-January and run through late March or early April. SPMS does not compete in ALL FFCC competitions – dates & locations are chosen by the Director. It is mandatory that ALL members are present for ALL scheduled events and competitions. Teams compete within their “class,” which is determined by prior success at competitions. This season SPMS will perform in “B” Class.

**Where & When:** Events and competition schedule will be provided as soon as possible. Some of the events we have participated in the past were local competitions (Fleming Island, Oakleaf, and others). We may also have competitions in the Flagler county and Orlando area. Championship competition is held in Daytona. We also participate in various Friends and Family Nights to support our sister guards as well as the SPMS Night of the Arts.

**Travel:** Parents are responsible for their own travel arrangements to competitions. Some will choose to travel to and from the event on the same day, but this can make for a long day. Others will choose to reserve a hotel room the Friday before or Saturday night depending on distance and the amount of performance ensembles on the schedule.

Watch carefully for corresponding happenings during the competition dates this season. If we are scheduled for an Orlando area show during a large Daytona event such as Bike Week or Daytona 500, or in conjunction with Spring Break, you will want to reserve your room early. The hotels will book up for these events all the way to Orlando. Also, you will want to allow extra travel time during those events.

**Costs to attend:** the team members’ costs to attend competition are included in the “fair share” you will pay. The admission fee for spectators is usually around \$15 per person to attend (\$20 at Championships). Note: the ticket purchases are NON REFUNDABLE even if you miss your team’s performance. Please ensure plenty of time before and after the scheduled time for the performance as the schedules can change for a myriad of reasons at the last minute. Most locations sell concessions, and some strictly prohibit outside food/drinks. Other costs to attend will be gas, hotel (optional), meals, and sometimes professional photos.

**Schedules for the day of the competition or events:** FFCC will release the final logistical schedule close to the date of the competition. Our staff will then send out the SPMS schedule for the when and where for competition day. In other words, you will know when you have to be at the location and approximately when the team will be released just a few days prior to the event date. It is important to note that competitions are a day-long event. They begin early in the morning (sometimes as early as 8) and can continue later into the afternoon or evening.

**Check-In/Hair & Makeup:** Generally, you can expect that the check in time will be a few hours prior to our performance time. The team is expected to arrive in full show hair and makeup. We will provide a competition day check-list to ensure you have all of your equipment and other necessary items. You **MUST** be on time, as the team cannot check in until all members are present. The coaches will inform you what attire is expected at arrival and for retreat when the schedule is released. The team will unload the floor and props from the trailer, warm up, hydrate, etc. before they perform.

**Post-Performance & Retreat:** After the team performs, they will remain with the group for most of the day. They will put away the floor and props, have a snack and will assist other teams and pull their floors. They may or may not change clothes at that time, they will be given instruction on show day. The team sits together on the rear of the performance area in the gym to watch the other teams perform until it is time for retreat. Retreat is where scores and awards are given. A few members of the team, either the captains or other members chosen by the coaches, will represent the team during awards. We applaud the efforts of all teams, as they have all worked hard. The team may or may not be scheduled to assist with other teams after retreat, and will likely have a short team meeting prior to being released. It is nice to stay to watch our sister teams like Bartram Trail HS and others to show support. As the season progresses, it is recommended you take some time to stay later into the evening to watch some of the upper teams perform. This is where you and your performer can see the higher classes compete and introduce them to new skills and show concepts. You will sign your child out with the coach or sponsor prior to taking them off site. They must stay with their team members until then.

**Championships:** This is a weekend event at Ocean Center Daytona Beach, starting Friday. Some families will come only for the day we are scheduled to perform, others will stay longer. Some will go down the day of performance, others may go the night before. This is personal preference. We will not know the day of our classes competition until we get closer to the date.

If we perform on Friday, your student will need to submit a form for “excused absence” to the school, and is responsible for making up work missed while at Championships. Solos are usually performed on Saturday evening, and our members are welcomed and encouraged to participate. This is an additional cost (\$20~) and does go later in the evening - this is completely voluntary. Parking for each day is between \$10-\$20 depending on where you choose to park.

The FFCC arranges group rates once the Championship dates are finalized. This is usually at the Hilton Ocean Walk which is across the street from the Ocean Center. Note: overnight stays are not mandatory and are completely your responsibility for costs. If you choose to participate, the Director will collect and arrange payment to FFCC for the rooms.

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

### **Non-Competition Commitments:**

- Summer Camps (Wednesdays throughout the summer, dates TBD)
- St. Augustine Parade (Mid-December)
- DIVAS (December)
- SPMS Friends & Family Pre-Premier (January/February)
- Friends and Family Nights at sister schools (poss Feb, usually March)
- SPMS Night of Arts (April)
- End of Year Banquet (May)
- Auditions for the following season (May)

**Other Expenses:** These are some **estimates** to give you an idea of what to expect. You may or may not incur them this year, or there may be similar miscellaneous expenses.

- Rifle and/or Sabre - if your performer decides to participate on the weapon line
- Weapons bag, if applicable
- Practice clothing (black shorts & shirt)
- Gloves
- Strapping and electrical tape
- Misc summer camps

### **FUNDRAISERS:**

Fundraisers are an excellent opportunity to continue to offer a low fair share cost for the members. We also rely heavily on fundraisers to help with the cost of show enhancements, end of the year activities and possible additional equipment.

**BOO Grams (October):** Boo Gram bags are assembled by team members and their families prior to BOO Gram week. These are paper bags with candy inside with a “gram” stapled to the outside. The grams are small papers with a halloween theme background. During school the volunteers set up a table in the hallway in a pre-approved area. Students come by and purchase the gram, they sign or address the grams. The volunteers staple the gram to the bag and they are delivered to the respective classrooms the day following the sale. Lots of work, but definitely worth it \$\$\$.

**Friends and Family Night (January):** This event is open to the community. There is a small price for admission (usually \$5 per person, small children free). During this event we will have a raffle

for prizes as well as sell water and baked goods. We will need lots of volunteers for this event as well.

**Corporate Sponsors:** Know someone in a business that could use local marketing opportunities? Ideas are real estate agents, builders, lawn services, orthodontists, insurance agents, gyms, bankers, fitness studios, dentists, pretty much anything you get in your junque mail could be a potential sponsor. We have an approved sponsor form to provide to them with varying levels of support.

This year we have a special opportunity to purchase and store a trailer at the school! If you know a trailer company that would like to donate the entire trailer cost. We will wrap or vinyl decal their business in a large area on the trailer. We would even note them as a DIAMOND sponsor!

**Spirit Nights:** Various restaurants around town offer Spirit Nights where the team promotes a particular, pre-scheduled night to drive sales to their business. The team members attend and hand out flyers sharing the details of the event and promoting our activity as well. Usually it is 10% of food sales during that period but some can be more generous! Some businesses that have sponsored a spirit night in the past are TAPS Bar and Grill, Moe's, Gator's Dockside, Tropical Smoothie, and others we may not know about!

## **SUMMER CAMPS**

Summer Camps are a great way to build your performers' skill set and confidence. These camps also team camaraderie, good sportsmanship as well as discipline. We have listed some below and will share more as we are informed of the details.

**Music N Motion** <https://music-n-motion.square.site/>

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**Pictures:** Please share your pictures on the SwissWinterguard Shutterfly account (<https://swisswinterguard.shutterfly.com/>). You will get an invitation to join. These pictures are used when we create the yearbook, and are also nice to post for other parents to order prints or download.

**How can you help?** Transporting equipment to or from an event (do you have a vehicle with a hitch?), building props if applicable, hosting spins parties, volunteering to help at fundraisers.

Have special talents? See a need? Want to help? Please speak with one of the SPMS staff