

Sam Houston State University
Bearkat Marching Band (BMB) & Drumline
2025 Information Packet



Dr. Boyce Jeffries
Director of the Bearkat Drumline

Dr. Brian Gibbs
Director of the BMB

Prof. Darla McBryde
Assistant Director of the BMB

Foreword:

The Bearkat Marching Band (BMB) is the largest spirit organization on the SHSU campus. Our mission is to support the athletics department, entertain the fans who attend the games, and represent the School of Music at the highest level possible. The BMB is one of the most visible performance groups on campus, so it is imperative that we conduct ourselves professionally as both people and musicians.

College marching band is *not* high school, but it is *also not* DCI or WGI. Our attitudes must reflect this position; the goal is to be at our individual and collective best. Each of you come from different walks of life with different experiences. What I care most about is your character, dedication, and your willingness to be a member of a team. With the right mindset, you can improve your own skill and your collective skill as a drumline.

The motto of the BMB is three simple words: Passion, Family, Excellence. It is up to you, individually and collectively, to embody these words in order to create a successful and memorable season.

Please take a few minutes to read through this informational packet so you have an understanding of what is expected of our current and potential members. If you still have questions after reading through this packet, please feel free to email me (bwj009@shsu.edu) and I will be happy to assist you as best I can.

- Dr. Jeffries
Lecturer of Music (Percussion)
Director of the Bearkat Drumline

Checklist (BEFORE you come to the drumline audition camp):

- Fill out all necessary forms on the [BMB website](#), including the Summer Band Online Registration Form when it becomes live . Be sure to check the website for updates leading up to audition /band camp.
- Fill out the [DRUMLINE INFORMATION FORM](#) no later than July 1st, 2025. This will also be the deadline to submit your prescreen tapes (more information below)
- Attend the Drumline Audition Camp (School of Music, Room 201) from **AUGUST 14–16th**. Housing information should be available in the BMB Online Registration Form.

NOTE: More updates will follow as the dates approach. BMB Summer Band Camp will begin August 16th (registration), but the goal is for the drumline to join starting Sunday the 17th. Please check your email regularly for correspondences regarding that camp.

Required Materials:

For the audition camp, you *must* bring the following items. You will need them for the entire season. If you do not come to the first day of camp with these items, you will be asked to leave to acquire them.

- Metronome (mobile phone apps are acceptable), Practice Pad, & Sticks
- Three ring binder containing sheet music (e.g. warm up book, cadences, halftime show music)
- Pencils to make edits / notes on sheet music
- Hearing protection (i.e., ear plugs; NO AIRPODS / HEADPHONES)
- Reusable water bottle / canteen to hydrate yourself during rehearsal
- [Slack app](#) (for day-to-day communication purposes)
- [UDBand App Pro](#) (more information will be given on this once we start learning drill)

Location & Parking Information

The address for the SHSU School of Music is:

1751 Ron Randleman Blvd.
Huntsville, TX 77320

Parking: Permit parking is available to students on an annual basis starting on AUGUST 14th. Therefore if you do not have an existing parking permit, you will have to pay a daily rate in the Sam Houston Parking Garage, which is right across from the School of Music. Pay kiosks are located on the first and ground floors near the elevators / stairs.



Rules & Rehearsal Etiquette

Respect

Toward Others:

You are to treat one another as you would like yourself to be treated (e.g., the “Golden” rule). Disrespect or physical / bodily harm to *any* BMB members, graduate assistants, or staff members (professors / instructors) **WILL NOT BE TOLERATED**. Based on the severity of your actions, you will be asked to leave rehearsal / a game, may receive a suspension from activities (e.g., sitting out a performance) and subsequently receive a lowered grade in the course, or be dismissed from the drumline altogether. In the event of extreme cases, you may face legal / criminal consequences.

Toward Equipment / University Property:

You are to be stewards of the drumline equipment, which belongs to the School of Music and Sam Houston State University. Any deliberate damage to any property (e.g., drum heads, drum stands, covers, cases, rehearsal spaces, etc.) will result in: 1) immediate dismissal from the drumline; 2) financial costs associated with property damage; 3) legal action.

Follow Instructions - Listen. Listen. Listen.

Punctuality - If rehearsal / class starts @ 4PM, then it is expected that that is the moment that you begin warming up as a drumline. Not 4:01, 4:02, 4:03, etc. 4 PM sharp.

No Pecking - Do not peck on your drums while you are walking to the practice field, in the music building, etc. Do not peck if another section is being worked with. If you need to practice something, use a practice pad.

No Chatter - If you are talking while someone is being given instruction / feedback, you are interfering with their opportunity to learn and improve. Consequently, you are interfering with the growth and improvement of the entire drumline.

Chain of Command - Communication is essential. If you have a question, ask your section leader first. If they do not know the answer, they will or they will have you ask the graduate assistant or the drumline director.

Adhering to the Course Syllabi - Once the semester begins, you will be receiving a syllabus for the course. You are to adhere to those policies, also.

Organizational Structure

Dr. Brian Gibbs
Director of the Bearkat Marching Band
Associate Director of Bands

Prof. Darla McBryde
Assistant Director of Bands

Dr. Boyce Jeffries
Lecturer of Music (Percussion)
Director of the BMB Drumline

Graduate Assistant(s)

Student Leadership
(Drum majors, student assistants, section leaders)



Drumline Camp Schedule (subject to changes / alterations)

Thursday, August 14th

12:00 pm - Returning Members Only – Pre-Season Discussion & Drum Maintenance
2 pm - Lunch (provided by Dr. Jeffries)
3 pm - Drum Maintenance (continued) / Bring some snacks / dinner for yourself
5:00 pm - Welcome Meeting (Room 201) (returning & prospective members)
5:30 pm - Full Battery Ensemble
8:30 pm - Debrief then Dismissal

Friday, August 15th

9 am - Full Battery Ensemble (Room 201)
12 pm - Lunch (on your own)
1:30 pm - Sectionals / Individual Auditions & Evaluations (as necessary)
4 pm - Dinner (on your own)
5:30 pm - Full Battery Ensemble (Room 201)
8:30 pm - Debrief then Dismissal

THE LINE WILL BE SET FRIDAY NIGHT (SATURDAY BY LUNCH AT THE LATEST)

Saturday, August 16th

9 am - Full Battery Ensemble (Room 201)
10:30 - Sectionals / Individual Auditions & Evaluations (as necessary)
12 pm - Lunch (on your own)
1:30 pm - Sectionals
4 pm - Dinner (on your own)
5:30 pm - Full Battery Ensemble (Room 201)
8:30 pm - Debrief then Dismissal

Sunday, August 17th (likely to be adjusted / subjected to changes once the full band camp schedule is posted)

10 am - Sectionals
12 pm - Lunch (on your own)
1 pm - Full BMB Camp Activities
(TBA / TBD)

Monday, August 18th - Friday August 22nd

FULL BMB BAND CAMP - Schedule on those day-to-day activities will be given to you as soon as it becomes available.

Gear

The Bearkat Drumline proudly endorses Evans Drumheads, Innovative Sticks, and Yamaha Drums. Our Yamaha Field Corps series were purchased brand new in 2021 and the only time we remove the drum covers is for performances, be they game days, homecoming parades, or exhibition shows. We would like to keep our equipment in good working and cosmetic shape, so it is expected that the drumline members are diligent stewards of the gear.

Harnesses = Randall May

Drum stands = Randall May Airlift Stadium Stands

Sticks

You should get at least one pair of your own for audition camp and the beginning of the season. Due to budget timelines, there will be delays in receiving the order for our new heads and sticks (after September 1st). Bass drum mallets will be provided, but must be returned at the end of the season. For the upper battery, you will only be provided 2 pairs of sticks for the entire season.

Snares will use: [Innovative Field Series FSTR Tom Raricks](#)

Tenors will use: [Innovative Paul Rennick Multi-Stick](#)

Snares and Tenors: Please be sure to purchase your own roll of white electrical tape.

Bass Drums: Please be sure to purchase your own roll of orange electrical tape.

Cymbal line members: It is recommended that you acquire a pair of [Seavine cymbal gloves](#). The desired color is black, and shipments typically take about 3 weeks to arrive.

Audition Process

- 1) **Pre-screen tapes (new for 2025):** In order to expedite the audition process, and increase our productivity during the drumline and the full bandcamps, there will be a pre-screening round. Within two weeks of submitting your tape, you will receive an email telling that you have received either:
 1. A call back on the instrument you submitted a tape for. (e.g., snare)
 2. Instructed to prepare to audition on another instrument for the in-person drumline audition camp (e.g., tenors, bass drum).

Instructions for submitting your tape will be specified within each respective audition packet (e.g., snare, tenor, bass, cymbals). Returning members DO NOT have to submit an entire pre-screen tape of the materials UNLESS YOU ARE PLANNING TO AUDITION FOR ANOTHER SECTION. Example: if you played in last year's line on bass drum and would like to play snare or tenors, you must submit a FULL PRE-SCREEN tape. If you are intending to return to the instrument you played, your pre-screen tape materials will be reduced.

2) Attend the drumline audition camp (August 14th–16th). You will be notified of where you place in the drumline at some point during the drumline audition camp. Since the fall of 2022, Dr. Jeffries has not had to cut people from participating in the drumline. If you are willing to be a part of a team regardless of your role, there is a place for you in the BMB.

Audition Materials

To give yourself the best chance of earning a spot in the BMB Drumline, you need to be prepared. Look through the exercises and cadences carefully and consider learning more than one part (especially if you are auditioning for a bass drum spot). The cadences should be prepared at a maximum tempo of 120 bpm; we typically settle between 115 and 117 bpm. The warm up exercises should be prepared at a range of tempi, from about 80 to 170 bpm. With the faster tempi, it is likely that the heights will need to be lowered, but we will define this more during the audition camp. The idea is that you show up to the audition with the material LEARNED, can show good levels of control at a range of dynamics and tempi, and be a teachable person (receiving feedback and implementing adjustments).

Warm Ups

The warm up routine for the BMB Drumline is based on modularity. Most of the exercises are based in 8-measure segments that can all be performed simultaneously (as individuals and as sections). For example, if the snares need to work on their accent taps, they will play “Bucks.” At the same time, if the tenors need to work on their double strokes, they can play “Hiccups” or the paradiddle exercise. The idea is that each section of the drumline can warm up on the same or on different exercises pending the needs at that time.

Here are the warm ups for the 2025 season:

8s | Bucks (accent-tap exercise) | Hiccups (double-beat exercise) |
Paradiddles | McDiddlez (16th-based) | Sam Rolls (triplet based)

During our warm up routine, the instructional staff will communicate with you on what you will play (crescendo, decrescendo, Bucks, etc.). We will primarily use non-verbal communication (i.e., hand signals) to relay this information to you. All of this will be discussed during the audition camp as we explore each exercise.

Cadences - (for reference recordings, [CLICK HERE](#))

Our cadence cycle is as follows:

Tio Loco
Bearkat Bounce
Chow Mein
Rumble

Pending the progress of the line during audition and band camp, there may be the possibility of adding more cadences to the cycle. Two more cadences have been added to the audition packets, but will only be added if they are presentable to the public by the end of band camp.

Stands Beats - (for reference recordings, [CLICK HERE](#))

In addition to performing pep-band tunes and excerpts of cadences, this year will include “Stadium Grooves” that can be also performed in the stands and between downs. Although there are ten of these total, we will start with and prioritize Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, & 6. We are welcome to include more as the season progresses, but with limited rehearsal time during the semester, we may not be able to handle learning, memorizing, and performing all of these grooves. It is expected that you learn the above numbers *before* the in-person audition camp.

Audition Packets - [CLICK HERE](#)