



Sam Houston State University  
Bearkat Marching Band  
*Passion, Family, Excellence*

April 29, 2024

Welcome to the 2024 Bearkat Marching Band. We are excited to have you with us in the BMB for 2024 and look forward to seeing you in August!

- **NEW STUDENTS** (woodwinds/brass/percussion/guard) check into dorms on August 15
- **ALL Percussion and guard** begin rehearsals on August 15
- **Returning brass and woodwinds** start on August 16.

Remember that there are two steps to joining the BMB, *and you must do both*:

1. Enroll in the appropriate course
2. Register for summer band through [www.shsu.edu/bmb](http://www.shsu.edu/bmb)

### **Bearkat Kickoff**

Bearkat Kickoff (BKO) is a week of orientation activities for new SHSU students. BKO is at the same time as our summer band rehearsals, but all BMB members will participate in summer band.

- New members: BKO organizers developed the online track for you, and we will complete the required modules together as part of our summer band schedule.
- Returning members: You may volunteer to help administer the BMB Track of Bearkat Kickoff; however, you must not sign up for other BKO commitments.

### **Summer Band**

#### New Members

- Thursday, August 15, 2- 5 pm:
  - Check into your dorms. Marching band members move into their dorms the day before all the other new students arrive.
  - If you registered for summer band, no appointment is required.
  - The Residence Life office will have correct records even if you switched dorms or didn't have a dorm assignment when you registered.
- Drumline and Color Guard members will begin rehearsals on that same Thursday evening.
- Friday, August 16, 10:00 am
  - Officially check in for BMB in the lobby of the Gaertner Performing Arts Center.
  - We will verify that you are on campus and have your correct contact information. We will also measure you for your marching uniform and issue your BMB polo.

#### Returning members

- Thursday evening, August 15 – Drumline and Color Guard will begin rehearsals
- Friday, August 16
  - 1:00 pm: All returning members officially check in for BMB in the lobby of the Gaertner Performing Arts Center

#### All Members

- Friday, August 16
  - 5:30 pm: Orientation dinner in the Orange Ballroom of the Lowman Student Center.
  - You will meet and sit with your sections to begin getting acquainted.
- Saturday, August 17
  - 8:00 am: Summer Band begins!

### **CUSA Football Schedule**

Our CUSA football schedule includes two midweek games: Wednesday, October 16, and Tuesday, October 29. The broadcast networks will not confirm the kickoff time for these games until ten days in advance. The performance calendar has all the details we know right now.



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### **Apartment Move-in Dates for Summer Band**

Please check with your apartment complex to verify your move-in date.

- If needed, I will write a personal letter to the apartment manager asking for an early move-in date. Please send their contact information to [bxg012@shsu.edu](mailto:bxg012@shsu.edu)
- You may prefer to stay with friends if your apartment isn't ready by August 15.
- Otherwise, the BMB can help with a room at the University Hotel.
  - You will room with one or more other band members.
  - Use this [link](#) right away if you need a hotel room for summer band.

### **Parking**

Beware: YOU MUST HAVE A PARKING PASS. Leniency with parking violations is a thing of the past.

### **Communication**

. Please subscribe to these BMB social media platforms:

- The Band App: BMB 2024: <https://band.us/n/a3ac0ec94bhbb>
- Instagram: @samhoustonbmb

### **Summer Uniform**

We will wear the summer uniform for pep rallies, the homecoming parade, and football games when the temperature is too warm to wear the marching uniform.

- BMB provides the BMB polo and BMB cap
- YOU provide:
  - Khaki shorts
    - Tan khaki rather than the off-white or olive version. T
    - Conservative style that is not the cargo style.
    - The inseam should be 7" to 9"
    - *Khaki shorts are not required for color guard members and twirlers.*
  - Black belt
  - Black socks
  - Black marching shoes
    - Plain black marching shoes (flat finish, not shiny) from high school are okay for BMB if they are in good condition.
    - You may purchase the marching shoes for \$48 cash directly from our vendor on Tuesday, August 20, at 1:30 p.m.

We will wear the summer uniform to the orientation dinner on Friday, August 16, to ensure everyone has what they need. We will also wear the summer uniform for the New Student Convocation photo on Sunday, August 18.

### **New Student Convocation on Sunday, August 18**

The full band will be involved in the New Student Convocation photo. We will have a pep band performing at the two indoor events, but afterward, the entire band will outline a large SH formation on the intramural field near Johnson Coliseum. The new students will fill in the form for a group photo.

### **Hydration**

We require each BMB member to bring their own insulated water jug (at least ½ gallon) to each marching rehearsal. We must not share water jugs. We have learned from our ROTC medics that it takes at least



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three days of increased water intake to prepare for outside temperatures at this time of year. Be sure to start increasing your water intake By Monday, August 12.

### **Clothing**

Remember to bring appropriate clothing for marching rehearsals. Shorts, socks, athletic shoes, sunglasses, a hat/cap, and sunscreen are all essential items.

### **Rehearsal Sites**

- School of Music Building, 1751 Avenue I, across from the Sam Houston Parking Garage
- Pritchett Field: Avenue 0 between 17th and 19th Streets

### **Sheet Music**

Our marching music is posted under the [Sheet Music](#) tab on the BMB main page. The Alma Mater, Fight Song, Berkak Fanfare, National Anthem, and Them Basses are part of pregame, and you can access them now. *Please do not share the password with non-BMB members to protect against copyright infringement.* Password: thembasses

### **Invite Your Friends!**

If you know someone at SHSU who was a great band member in high school, please ask them to join us! If you provide us with their contact information, we can formally invite them. The social aspects of marching band membership help you make new friends and create a sense of belonging at SHSU.

### **Student Leadership – Congratulations!**

- Our Drum Majors are Baylor McDugle, Anna Ng, and Kynnady Sparks
- Our Student Assistants are Brandon Bashaw, Steven Boone, Holly Hendrickson, Qays Syed, and Alyssa Vandyke

I'm looking forward to seeing you when we begin in August!

Sincerely,

Brian Gibbs, Ph.D.  
Professor of Music  
Associate Director of Bands  
Director of the Berkak Marching Band  
**Sam Houston State University**