

February 22, 2008

Dear Twirler,

Thank you for your interest in the University of Arkansas Razorback Marching Band, and in the twirling positions in particular. Registration for the 2008 RMB Majorette Auditions will begin at 7:30 am on Saturday, April 5, in Bud Walton Arena. Please complete the attached application and return it via mail or fax by Tuesday, March 25, 2008. You may also bring it to the band office if you like.

If you are not currently on a band scholarship, we offer a \$500.00 fall semester scholarship for our majorette line; therefore, we are very selective in choosing our majorettes. We can offer up to ten (10) positions on the majorette line each year. We also offer a \$750.00 fall semester scholarship for up to two (2) feature twirlers.

Majorette line candidates are required to have a 2:00-2:30 minute prepared twirling routine to music, incorporating one and two batons, a 64 count downfield strut to march music which we will provide, and to learn a short twirling routine that will be taught to all candidates to test the grasp of fundamentals enclosed with this letter and to evaluate the ability of each candidate to learn quickly.

Feature twirler candidates are required to have a 3:00-3:30 minute dance twirl routine that incorporates one, two, and three batons (novelty equipment is accepted but not required) and a 64 count downfield strut to march music (we will provide). Candidates who audition for feature twirler only will not need to learn the twirling routine taught on the day of the auditions. Candidates may opt to audition for both majorette and feature twirler on this date.

Bud Walton Arena will be open for individual practice on Friday evening, April 4, 2008 from 6:00 -10:00 pm for our prospective majorette candidates.

If selected, we will use the BMI (Body Mass Index) as a guideline to establish a healthy height to weight ratio throughout the season. The BMI is a good indicator of health and is an effective tool to track your overall health throughout the football season, instead of requiring a measurement that might not reflect your level of health and conditioning. The twirling position in the RMB is a very physically demanding activity and your overall health and well-being are our greatest concern.

We also require that a candidate be at least tentatively admissible to the University of Arkansas based on the general selective admission policy of the U of A. We would suggest that you apply as quickly as possible. Write: Office of Admissions, University of Arkansas, 200 Hunt Hall, Fayetteville, AR 72701, or check them out online at www.uark.edu.

I hope to have the opportunity of seeing you twirl in the very near future.

Sincerely,

Timothy Gunter
Director of Athletic Bands

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS RAZORBACK MARCHING BAND MAJORETTE BASIC FUNDAMENTALS

Date/Time: Saturday, April 5, 2008 at 8:00 am

Site: Report to Bud Walton Arena at 7:30 am for Registration
(Razorback Road, U of A Campus)

Parking: The southeast or southwest lots off Leroy Pond Street.
Enter the arena from the main entrance on the south side
of the building.

The following fundamentals are only the basic skills on which a twirling routine is built. These descriptions are not intended to inhibit the creativity of a routine's choreography, but to encourage the use of good fundamentals. All tryout routines should include a variety of fundamentals, releases, catches, kicks, leaps, and choreography to showcase their ability.

ONE-BATON FUNDAMENTALS

RIGHT HAND THUMB / TIME TOSS

Start with baton centered in right hand, palm up, ball to the left, centered in line with chin, waist level; turn baton clockwise for one full revolution and allow baton to roll over the thumb before releasing. After full revolution, allow one more revolution in air, centered, low (not to exceed shoulder high); catch this flip, at waist level, centered, thumb to ball, left palm up and repeat. Do not watch baton and work for smoothness, speed and control.

LEFT HAND THUMB / TIME TOSS

Start with baton centered in left hand, palm up, ball to the left, centered in line with chin, waist level; turn baton clockwise for one full revolution and allow baton to roll over the thumb before releasing. After full revolution, allow one more revolution in air, centered, low (not to exceed shoulder high); catch this flip, at waist level, centered, thumb to ball, left palm up and repeat. Do not watch baton and work for smoothness, speed and control.

RIGHT HAND - TURN

Execute a right hand thumb toss. Spin one half rotation to the right to face back. Catch baton in right hand behind the back. Do not watch baton while turning.

RIGHT HAND SPLIT FINGER TWIRL

Start with baton grasped in right hand, ball up, baton perpendicular, thumb toward ball; execute front forward figure eight, level with and directly front of right shoulder; after inside circle of figure eight, allow baton to roll into the right index finger and continue twirl over first, second finger into last two fingers of right hand; next, execute loop towards left side with baton grasped by same two fingers of right hand; at left side, with right hand, roll baton back through second, first finger to thumb grasp; loop ball over to right side to index finger and repeat. Work for smoothness, speed and proper pattern. (Pattern...parallel between right and left side).

LEFT HAND SPLIT FINGER TWIRL

Start with baton in left hand, thumb to ball, baton perpendicular, ball up; begin same as in Right Hand Split Finger Twirl, and continue in reverse fashion, with full attention to pattern, technique and bodily positions.

RIGHT HAND FOUR FINGER TWIRL

Same as split finger except roll past the third finger, execute loop to other side grasping baton in the 4th finger, and roll back through the fingers.

LEFT HAND FOUR FINGER TWIRL

Same as left hand split finger except roll past the third finger, execute loop to other side grasping baton in the 4th finger, and roll back through the fingers.

HORIZONTAL SPLIT AND FOUR FINGER TWIRL -- RIGHT AND LEFT HAND

Same as other finger twirls except in the horizontal position. Execute a horizontal loop before going through the fingers.

LEFT HAND BACKHAND TOSS

Start with baton in left hand, thumb to ball; begin with thumb up and rotate baton clockwise until thumb is pointing down. Release baton as it begins to roll over back of hand (even with pinky finger); push toss up to desired height.

RIGHT HAND VERTICAL HIGH TOSS

Execute a thumb/high toss except with several revolutions. It should be approximately 1 foot higher than head level.

VERTICAL 1 SPIN

Execute a vertical high toss. Spin once on the left foot, and catch facing the front.

VERTICAL 2 SPIN

Same as 1 Spin, except spin twice.

VERTICAL BOW TOSS

Execute a high thumb toss. Bend deeply at the waist until looking at the left kneecap. Keep left leg forward and straight, with toe pointed, while keeping right leg back, bent to support weight. Raise back up quickly to catch high toss. Do not watch toss while in bow.

HORIZONTAL BOX-TWIRL HIGH TOSS

Begin with baton thumb to ball in the left hand. Circle the ball horizontally counter clockwise above head, then loop down under the arm until palm ends up. At that point release baton horizontally in the air. Catch horizontally in the right hand.

HORIZONTAL 1 SPIN

Same as a Vertical 1 Spin, except with a horizontal toss.

HORIZONTAL 2 SPIN

Same as a Horizontal 1 Spin, except spin twice.

HIGH KICKS and LEAPS

A variety of kicks and leaps should be included. Keep leg lines straight and toes pointed.

ILLUSION

Standing feet together, step right as if to begin a cartwheel; keep right foot in place. Kick left leg back and rotate body around; left leg will make a complete vertical circle until you return to upright, facing left from original position. This fundamental can be performed other directions by repeating the procedure to the left, by stepping right across the left foot, or by stepping left across the right foot.

TWO-BATON FUNDAMENTALS

DOUBLE FLASH

Flash right baton as usual; do backwards figure 8 with left baton simultaneously.

DOUBLE HEADSCRATCHER (BACKSCRATCHER)

Loop both batons while turning left one revolution; loop right baton over right shoulder, and loop left baton over left shoulder simultaneously.

DOUBLE FINGER TWIRLS

Perform simultaneous right and left hand fingertwirls in any combination.

SPLIT HORIZONTAL/VERTICAL TOSS

Left baton must be rotating horizontally while right baton is rotating vertically. Execute a low horizontal box toss from left hand; pause, then execute a vertical high toss from right hand. Catch first horizontal toss in right hand, pass to left hand, then catch second vertical toss in right hand.

SHOWERS (JUGGLES)

Perform at least 3 repeated tosses (may be sling tosses or thumb tosses); all tosses must be released from right hand only. After first toss, pass second baton and release; catch first baton and release again; repeat process. Work for continuity and smooth rhythm.

DOUBLE HORIZONTAL TOSS

Both batons must be rotating horizontally. Toss first baton from left hand; pass second baton to left hand; then toss second baton from left hand. Catch first baton in right hand; pass to left hand; then catch second baton in right hand.

DOUBLE VERTICAL HIGH TOSS

Both batons must be rotating vertically. Toss first baton from right hand; pass second baton to right hand; then toss second baton from right hand. Catch first baton in right hand; pass to left hand; then catch second baton in right hand.

DOWNFIELD STRUT

Strut is the blending of baton and body work while staying in step with march music. A successful strut includes good posture and body lines, a combination of baton work and body work, the ability to march in step, and good presentation skills. Twirlers will perform a 64-count strut in one straight line, covering the span of a basketball court. The strut must begin with a salute, then the first four (4) steps must be a high-knee march. The routine should include eight (8) more marching steps at any time during the strut and must also end with a salute. No more than three (3) low tosses and no more than two (2) high tosses may be included in the strut (a 1-spin will be considered a high toss). Forward motion should be maintained throughout the strut, forward meaning the direction the twirler is moving (one can move side-to-side and backward if the direction across the floor is continued).

