

From: [J. R. Hinkson](#)
To: [University Bands](#)
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July 2025 Newsletter

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Hello, RMB 2025!

The drum majors for this season (Juan, Jose, Matthew, and Abby) are thrilled to welcome you back to Fayetteville! We can't wait to see your kind faces and kick off the 151st edition of the Best in Sight and Sound!

To all our new members: welcome to the Razorback Marching Band! We are eagerly awaiting your arrival on The Hill and are excited to welcome you into our ever-growing family. As we turn the page from celebrating 150 years of bands on our campus, we now have the unique opportunity to help write the next chapter of the University of Arkansas Bands, laying the foundation for another 150 years of tradition, passion, and excellence.

As you prepare for your arrival to Fayetteville over these next few weeks, here's a look ahead at our Spirit Days for Early Week evening rehearsals:

Sunday, August 10th: Pool Party

Monday, August 11th: Superhero/Super Villain Day

Tuesday, August 12th: Clone Day (like twin day... but it's the whole section)

Wednesday, August 13th: Wild Side Wednesday (any animal... real or fictional)

Thursday, August 14th: Holiday Day

Friday, August 15th: Razorback (Go Hogs!)

Listed below are our Instagram accounts and email addresses. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions or just want to say hello! See y'all soon!

Juan Ramos - Head Drum Major

Insta: @ruanjamoss

Email: jer023@uark.edu

Jose Rodriguez

Insta: @crazyjlr

Email: jlr096@uark.edu

Matthew Senetho

Insta: @mackle_shimo

Email: msenetho@uark.edu

Abby Skelly

Insta: @abby.skelly

Email: amskelly@uark.edu

Health, Consent, and Release Form

If you have not completed your Health, Consent, and Release Form, please do so. The form takes about 15-20 minutes to complete and will require your UARK username and password. You will not be able to check-in at Early Week until it is complete. You can find the Health, Consent, and Release Form on [SharePoint](#).

To complete it you will need:

- Information about two emergency contacts
- Insurance and medical information

You will not be allowed to check-in to Early Week or Leadership Camp until the Health, Consent, and Release Form is submitted.

Fall 2025 Sorority Recruitment

If you are planning to participate in sorority recruitment, please email Mr. Jones at nj033@uark.edu. We will communicate a list of all RMB students participating in recruitment to the Greek Life office so you can complete your commitments to the recruitment process and minimize your Early Week absences. It is possible to be successful in both these areas as long as you communicate!

Leadership Camp

All student leadership will attend Leadership Camp on August 1st to 3rd. The camp will include an orientation on our leadership structure, music and marching pedagogy, team building, and guest speakers.

Friday, August 1 (9am-8pm)

Saturday, August 2 (9am-8pm)

Sunday, August 3 (9am-4pm)

Lunch and Dinner will be provided each day. More information will be shared via the RMB Leadership Slack Channel in the coming weeks.

Registration for Leadership Camp will be in the Janzen Rehearsal Hall located in the Epley Band Building at 9:00 am on Friday, August 1st (during this time you will also pick up your requested school owned instrument).

Important: you must complete your Health, Consent, and Release Form before check-in. You can find the Health, Consent, and Release Form on [SharePoint](#).

Early Week & Fall 2025 Schedule

The Early Week schedule and "Year-at-a-Glance" schedule for Fall 2025 can be found on [SharePoint](#). Here are some highlights:

- New students will move into your campus housing on Wednesday, August 6
- New wind students, and all color guard, percussion, twirlers, and Leadership will begin Early Week on Thursday, August 7.
- Returning wind students will begin Early Week on Friday, August 8

Early Week "Chair" Placement Auditions

On Saturday, August 9th, all wind students will complete a visual and music audition. The results of the audition will set the chair order for each section, which will be used to determine initial placement in pregame and halftime shows. Students will be placed into 1) their own spot; 2) a shared spot with another student (alternate); or 3) begin the season as a shadow (without a permanent/alternate spot) if they are not prepared for the audition. (The Razorback Marching Band alternate system will be covered in more detail during Early Week.)

Visual Audition

- Will consist of 5 visual exercises unique to our pregame show or halftime fundamentals
- Instructional videos can be found on [SharePoint](#)
- New students will have two days to review these exercises on August 7 & 8 before auditions on August 9
- Returners are expected to review and be prepared for auditions on August 9

Music Audition

- Students will be expected to arrive to Early Week with their pregame music memorized
- The audition will consist of performing excerpts from pregame music from memory
- Music you should have memorized by the time you arrive to Early Week: Pregame Fanfare, Arkansas Fight & Variations; Semper Fi, National Anthem, Rock N' Roll, Swing March, William Tell
- You may find sheet music on the link "RMB Music" on [SharePoint](#)

Optional Merch

The RMB Houndstooth store will be open until **August 1st**. If you want to order anything from that store, get your order in before then! Find the link to order in [SharePoint](#). Once the link is no longer active, Houndstooth will then send the order to production, and you will

receive your order within 10-15 business days.

OTHER ITEMS ON YOUR OWN

Black Shorts

All brass, woodwind, and percussion members are responsible for providing their own black shorts. You may purchase black shorts through any retailer you choose provided they meet the following criteria:

- 100% solid black, chino-style or golf-style shorts
- no mesh, gym/athletic, or cargo shorts
- no highly visible branding
- your shorts should hit between 2 and 4 inches above your knee when standing

E-Flip

RMB is a 100% paperless organization and you'll be using your phone for learning music as well as drill. We have two suggested products to bring to every band rehearsal: a battery pack to allow you to extend the life of your phone and an e-flip to use your phone with a traditional lyre for your instrument.

E-flip: <https://tonalinnovation.com/pages/eflip>

Ear Plugs

Wearing ear protection is crucial for protecting our hearing, especially in loud environments such as rehearsals and games. Prolonged exposure to loud noises can cause permanent hearing damage, tinnitus, and other related health problems. By taking precautions such as using earplugs, we can maintain our hearing health and prevent further damage. Below are links to several companies that I have used with success in the past. Regardless of what brand you pick, it's important to look into ones designed for musicians that do not affect your ability to perform your instrument well.

Vibes: <https://www.discovervibes.com/our-products>

Earasers: <https://www.earasers.net/collections/musicians-hifi-earplugs/products/earasers>

Etymotic: <https://www.etymotic.com/product/er20xs/>

Uniforms

Winds/Percussion: Uniform fittings will take place during Early Week

Guard and Twirlers: Speak with Trey and Cecely

Move-in Information

RMB members living in on-campus housing should be able to select a move-in time sometime on Wednesday, August 6th. If you do not have move-in date of August 6th, please contact JR Hinkson at hinkson@uark.edu.

Scheduling Conflicts

Razorback Marching Band rehearsals for fall 2025 are Tuesday/Thursday 3:30 PM - 5:45 PM and Friday 3:05 PM - 5:00 PM at the Baum East parking area on campus.

If you anticipate being late or missing rehearsal due to a class conflict, you will need to [request a Course Conflict Accommodation](#). Once submitted, we will verify that the course in question must be taken during that semester and in that section. RMB members who are late or miss a rehearsal without an approved accommodation see a reduction in their course grade.

Fall Concert Band Auditions

In-person auditions for fall concert bands will be held on **Saturday, August 16th and Sunday, August 17th** in the Epley Band Building. Signups will be communicated later in the summer via @uarkbands social media, Arkansas News, and bands.uark.edu.

For fall 2025 all students who successfully audition, place, and participate in both a fall concert band and the Razorback Marching Band will receive a one-time \$750 scholarship to their student account.

Audition excerpts are available now on SharePoint. If you anticipate participating in a fall concert band, please enroll in one of the following sections. Enrollment may be adjusted after auditions if necessary.

Wind Ensemble: MWF, 12:55-2:15pm, Dr. Knighten

- Freshmen: MUEN 16901
- Sophomores: MUEN 26901
- Juniors: MUEN 36901
- Seniors: MUEN 46901
- Fifth-Year Students: MUEN 48601
- Graduate Students: MUEN 56091

Wind Symphony: MWF, 12:55-2:15pm, Mr. Jones

- Freshmen: MUEN 14601
- Sophomores: MUEN 24601
- Juniors: MUEN 34601
- Seniors: MUEN 44601
- Fifth-Year Students: MUEN 46601
- Graduate Students: MUEN 54601

Scholarships

For students receiving a scholarship - do not expect the award to appear in Workday until at least the first week of school. No late fees will be assessed to your account for a balance

that a scholarship in process will cover.

Make sure you are enrolled in the proper courses so your scholarship disbursement is not delayed. If you have any questions about your scholarship requirements, reach out to JR Hinkson.

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Upcoming Dates

Leadership Camp

August 1–3

Early Week

August 7–16

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August 15