

2026 FUSION CORE PARENT INFORMATION SHEET

Administration:

Executive Director – Holly Marino holly.marino@fusioncore.org

Assistant Director – Giustina Ragan - garegan01@gmail.com

Business Manager – Nick Carlson – admin@fusioncore.org

Logistics – Ralph Marino - Ralph@taxsearchnow.com

Admin Assistant – Vanessa Hamilton - vahamilton72@gmail.com

GOALS: To provide our members with positive, healthy, productive, experiences on and off the competition field that will benefit them throughout their life. We want our members to make the meaningful relationships that are made in the marching arts activity. Lastly, we want our member's parents to enjoy the experience as much as the members and we hope everyone will be "Changed For Good".

●What are the fees to be a member and what does it include?

The total fees amount to \$2,400.00* and will be paid in monthly installments on ACTIVE. There are six semi-monthly payments of \$400.00 each, starting in May, to meet the July 15 deadline. However, if a member signs up early, they can begin making payments sooner, reducing the total amount of their two monthly payments. We also offer tiered discounts for groups of members from the same school, as well as multi-year, family, and "bring a friend" discounts. Monthly payments are preferred, and all fees must be paid in full by July 15, 2025.

This year, we are also offering AFFIRM for an additional fee, but it does give members more time to pay their fees.

●Are there fundraisers?

Yes. We typically will do Gertrude Hawk, Krispy Kreme, and Calendar Fundraisers, but are open to new ideas. We can also provide you with a Sponsorship request form. All donations made to Fusion Core are tax-deductible. There is a one-time MANDATORY, all-member fundraiser that goes directly to the Core only: a 50/50 fundraiser. Members are obligated to sell 20 50/50 tickets at \$10.00 each, so start getting together 10 friends now to buy a ticket!!

- Where will my kid be every weekend?

Our “home base” is Wekiva High School in Apopka, but we may have a couple of “satellite” rehearsals in the winter to introduce members from other areas of Florida to Fusion Core. Starting at the end of April, we will meet regularly every weekend.

- Is there housing for the regular season?

YES! We have secured housing at beautiful Camp Wewa, located in Apopka, not far from our rehearsal facility. These are bunk bed accommodations in air-conditioned cabins.

- When do the competitions start?

Our first competition is at the end of July. We leave on a Thursday for a Friday night competition in Alabama, followed by a Saturday night competition in Atlanta, Ga. The second weekend in August is our Championships in Indianapolis. We leave on Wednesday, August 5th and return Monday, August 10th.

- Can I buy tickets in advance to Championships?

Yes. Fusion will have a block of tickets available for purchase in the very near future.

- Does my child need to be at every practice and Competition?

YES, to ensure your son/daughter has a successful drum corps experience, it is important that our members are 100% committed. We do, however, encourage our members to get involved in school events/programs. All we ask is that once school is out, members are 100% committed to Fusion Core. With so little time, members will need to

commit to the process.

- What if my child has an allergy?

All members are required to fill out a health form in their membership packet. It is CRUCIAL that we have a complete medical history to provide to a medic in an emergency. If your child has a food allergy, we will make sure an alternate option is available for the meals provided. If they have severe allergies or have very specific dietary needs, we recommend that they let us know immediately.

- Where and when are Championships and how will my son/daughter get there?

Championship weekend will be held the second weekend in August at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. Members will travel by bus to Indy, if you are planning to travel to Indy together as a family on your own, that is fine, as long as this is discussed with the admin early in the season. Bus costs are very high, and the difference between 1 bus and 2 can be 10s of thousands of dollars.

Members are required to stay in member housing and will travel with the core to the stadium in Indy for the performances.

- Are there any social/leisure trips involved that don't involve competing?

Possibly. Depending on the year, we may include an optional trip. Information would be sent out well in advance if there was going to be such an event. This year, we are possibly planning a trip to Universal Studios, the weekend after Championships.

- What are some of the ways we can volunteer?

GREAT QUESTION!! Here are some volunteer positions we could use your help with

- TRUCK DRIVERS - We have a 16 ft. trailer that can be pulled with an F150.

- Cooks - We love to provide our members with home cooked meals and it's amazing what you can do with some sternos, electric frying pans, and an air fryer!! We provide the supplies, all you need to do is the preparing

- Food Handlers _Once the food is cooked, the next most important person are the people who can get about 75 - 150 people through the line in about 90 minutes. We need efficient, calm, friendly people to help make that process happen.
- Merchandising - We have really upped our merch game, but we are running low on inventory. Have you ever wanted to run a small business. Well, this would be a great opportunity. We need people to do the research, the purchasing and the selingl at our souvenir booths at shows. The souvie team always has a good time. Just bring a smile and a positive attitude 😊
- Seamstress - Sometimes, members will need last-minute fixes to their uniforms. That can be very stressful for the members. Having someone on hand to help would be great. So, if you love sewing and can help, please let us know.
- First Aid - Mom, Dad, other family members who are medical personnel are always welcome. Drum Core is a physical sport, and having a medic on-site can be super helpful. They don't have to be doctors. They can be certified medics or RNs. - *Currently, this position is filled.*
- Equipment Manager: Are you good with spreadsheets and very organized? We can use your skills to keep track of our equipment.

I'm sure I may have missed some things, so please feel free to ask. No question is a stupid question. The more info you have, the better experience you and your child will have. Thanks for reading!!

If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to call me at 973-945-5367 or email me at holly.marino@fusioncore.org.