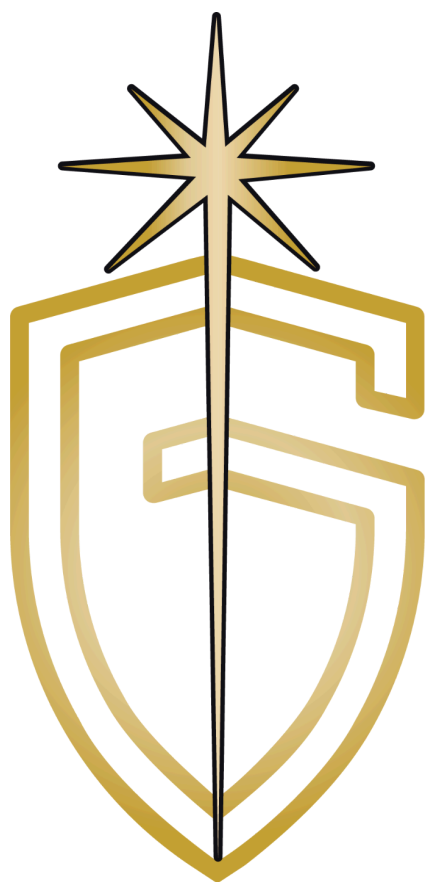




GUIDING Light *Winterguard*

OUR MISSION - Guiding Light Winterguard is dedicated to providing young people with opportunities for artistic expression and personal growth through the performance art of competitive color guard. Rooted in biblical values of truth, beauty, and goodness, our organization fosters excellence, integrity, and teamwork within a supportive and Christ-centered environment.

“Arise, Shine, for your light has come!” Isaiah 60:1

Audition Questions:

What should I expect at auditions?

At Guiding Light auditions you will be introduced to our training and basics programs and learn dance & equipment choreography.

You will then perform the choreography in groups to be evaluated by our staff.

What are you looking for when you evaluate my performance?

What we want to see the most is a good work ethic, positive attitude and perseverance as well as a teachable spirit. We want to know that if you get information you will apply it. We are not looking for perfection or even that you have all the skills. Skills will come with time and perfection doesn't exist! We would like to see improvement from week one to week two. Do not compare yourself to those around you, only to your own personal improvement from week one to week two.

What should I wear?

Wear clothes you can move in that are either form fitting or skim the body, we need to be able to see extension and leg lines. Please do not wear clothes that are too baggy. Slim track pants, leggings, or jazz pants are good. Slim tshirts/tank tops are great. Make sure you wear appropriate and comfortable undergarments. If you choose to wear shorts bring pants with you as we may be sliding on the ground.

What other clothing accessories to wear/bring?

Bring or wear socks, knee pads (not the bulky style), long pants (we may slide on the ground), guard gloves, sweatshirt or zip up in case it's cold.

What do I do with my hair?

Hair needs to be out of the face, if you have long hair make sure you wear/bring a hair tie and hair clips.

Do I need dance shoes?

No, you can dance in socks or bare feet, however ballet or jazz shoes are acceptable. There are some exercises you will want to do in bare feet so you don't slide around. If you have a foot injury or wound etc and need shoes please bring them and let us know when you arrive.

Anything else I should bring?

Yes, deodorant. This is a physical sport and you will sweat a lot. Please remember your hygiene and brush your teeth and take a shower and put on deodorant before arriving. In respect of those around us we must maintain good hygiene.

Bring water, snacks/lunch. We will be taking a mid day break, it's very important you eat and stay hydrated.

What should I prepare for auditions?

Once you register we will send training videos of some of our dance & equipment blocks which you can start working on.

Taking dance classes either in person or online would be a great way to prepare. We spend a lot of time in dance block so getting a head start on this would be beneficial.

Here is a list of what to prepare:Dance

Dance conditioning & warm ups - video link emailed once registered

Stretch - once warmed up spend time stretching to increase flexibility.

Plies, Tendues and other basic ballet/modern techniques

Across the Floors - video link emailed once registered

Any jumps you can do; i.e. chasse, saute, grand jete, etc...

Equipment Basics - Exercises will be done on both sides!Flag

Drop Spins

Spin locks - video link emailed once registered

Flip locks & flip locks to toss - video link emailed once registered

Tosses:

Singles, 1 ½, Doubles from silk and pole.

45' tosses and variations from beginning level and up

Parallel

If you would like to audition on weapon here are some skills we will be doing:

Rifle

Regular Spins - working up to 100 on both sides

Spins to double fast, Spins to singles, Combining spins, double fast and singles (video link emailed once registered)

Stops - position and working path of the hand (video link emailed once registered)

Tosses - Triple, Quad, Fives. If you can throw higher you can show that in the "let's see what you can do" session. Any body under tosses can also be shown during that time.

Sabre

Regular spins

Blade tosses - single, double, triple. Quad and up if you can do it but not required.

Hilt tosses - triple, quad, five.

If you have higher tosses to show or exceptional skills in dance, flag, rifle or sabre be prepared to show those in the "look what I can do" session!

This is where you get to show off and bring all the tricks and tosses!

If you have a skill you are working on and would like help on it, this would also be a good time for that. We would love to help!

**We want to bring out your best so if you can do it
we want to see it!!!**

Do not be worried if you do not have all these skills, come as you are and do the best you can! We are looking for progress not perfection! We can see beyond what you are doing and where we know you can go!!

Be courageous, be bold, be you!!!

WHERE WE COMPETE

Guiding Light will perform at the MidWest Colorguard Circuit (MWCGC) as well as Winterguard International (WGI)

CLASS OF COMPETITION

We plan to compete in the Independent A Class. While formerly viewed as a starting point, Independent A class has shifted exponentially over the last few years. Today, particularly within Wintergard International (WGI), Independent A serves as a rigorous, intermediate-level division.

Whether you consider yourself to be at a beginning, intermediate or advanced level we will develop your skill sets and utilize them as much as possible. Do not let the class of competition whether you consider it too hard or too easy to deter you from auditioning. Take the chance! Take the opportunity!

If you have the skills, rest assured we will use them. Our staff has teaching experience in all levels of competition from the A class to the World class and our plan is to develop your skills to the highest level possible.

ELIGIBILITY

Membership is open to young men and women ages 14-22. Members must not be OVER the age of 22 on or before April 1, 2027. **Students under 14yrs of age may be considered if they show exceptional maturity and talent and we feel they would be able to handle the rigorous rehearsal culture and schedule. If we feel they are not ready yet, we may suggest they attend our summer events and return the following year.*

If you are currently attending a high school that competes within the MWCGC or WGI, we may need authorization from your band director to participate during our competitive season. **We encourage you to march your high school winterguard however with proper authorization we will consider your participation in our program on a case by case basis.*

2027 SEASON DUES

Our final membership dues will be determined by our total membership numbers, however we are able to provide a range at this time.

Dues for the 2027 season will be between \$999 and \$1,450 per member. These can be paid in full or paid in monthly installments starting in November through March.

Our goal is to make dues as affordable as possible through group fundraising efforts and personal fundraising opportunities for our members. Members will be expected to participate in fundraising efforts. We are committed to providing opportunities that can help offset the cost of membership and make the Guiding Light experience accessible to as many performers as possible.

Don't let price deter you from auditioning. Where there is a will there is a way! We are happy to help you find ways to pay for your season.

ATTENDANCE & COMMITMENT

All rehearsals & performances are MANDATORY, and members are expected to plan their schedules around the Guiding Light calendar. If you know of any conflicts with our season calendar, let the director know in advance of signing your contract. On rare occasions we may make exceptions for significant events.

We understand that unexpected circumstances happen, and requests for an absence will be considered case by case.

Regular absences are not permitted, with exceptions generally limited to extreme illness or a death in the family.

Optional activities including; sports, clubs, social events, church missions (do these off season), job, weddings, dental/doctor appts, vacations, spring break trips etc.. should be scheduled around the Guiding Light schedule.

Every member's commitment matters, and being present is essential to our success as a team.

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE - Once we are able to register for MWCGC & WGI events at the end of September we will have a final schedule out. It will not vary much from this draft so rest assured you can start planning around this one now.

Guiding Light Schedule:

Auditions:

Oct 24th 10am - 6pm

Oct 31st 10am - 4pm

Regular Season Schedule:

Fri Nov 6th 5pm-9pm Rehearsal

Sat Nov 7th 10am-9pm Rehearsal

Fri Nov 13th 5pm-9pm Rehearsal

Sat Nov 14th 10am-9pm Rehearsal

Fri Nov 20th 5pm-9pm (3 day training camp)

Sat Nov 21st 10am-9pm (3 day training camp)

Sun Nov 22nd 1pm-6pm (3 day training camp)

Fri Nov 27 OFF - THANKSGIVING BREAK

Sat Nov 28th OFF - THANKSGIVING BREAK

Fri Dec 4th 5pm-9pm Rehearsal

Sat Dec 5th 10am-9pm Rehearsal

Fri Dec 11th 5pm-9pm Rehearsal

Sat Dec 12th 10am-9pm Rehearsal

Fri Dec 18th	5pm-9pm (3 day Design Camp)
Sat Dec 19th	10am-9pm (3 day Design Camp)
Sun Dec 20th	1pm-6pm (3 day Design Camp)
Fri Dec 25th	OFF - CHRISTMAS BREAK
Sat Dec 26th	OFF - CHRISTMAS BREAK
Fri Jan 1st	OFF - New Year's Day
Sat Jan 2nd	10am-9pm Rehearsal
Fri Jan 8th	5pm-9pm Rehearsal
Sat Jan 9th	10am-9pm Rehearsal
Fri Jan 15th	5pm-9pm Rehearsal
Sat Jan 16th	10am-9pm Rehearsal
Fri Jan 22nd	5pm-9pm Rehearsal
Sat Jan 23rd	10am-9pm Rehearsal
Fri Jan 29th	5pm-9pm Rehearsal
Sat Jan 30th	10am-9pm (may include a friends & family show preview)
Sun Jan 31st	FIRST SHOW DAY! Naperville Central HS (Time TBD depending on show schedule; plan for all day event)
Fri Feb 5th	5-9pm Rehearsal

Sat Feb 6th	10-9pm Rehearsal
Fri Feb 12th	5pm-9pm Rehearsal
Sat Feb 13th	10am-9pm Rehearsal
Fri Feb 19th	5pm-9pm Rehearsal
Sat Feb 20th	SHOW DAY Lake Park HS (Time TBD depending on show schedule; plan for all day event)
Fri Feb 26th	5pm-9pm Rehearsal
Sat Feb 27th	SHOW DAY Chicago WGI Regional prelims(all day)
Sun Feb 28th	SHOW DAY Chicago WGI Regional finals (all day)
Fri Mar 5th	5pm-9pm Rehearsal
Sat Mar 6th	10am-9pm Rehearsal
Fri Mar 12th	5pm-9pm Rehearsal
Sat Mar 13th	SHOW DAY HerseyHS (all day)
Fri Mar 19th	5pm-9pm Rehearsal
Sat Mar 20th	SHOW DAY MWCGC Championships Prelims (all day)
Sun Mar 21st	SHOW DAY MWCGC Championships Finals (all day)
Fri Mar 26th	5pm-9pm Rehearsal
Sat Mar 27th	10am-3pm Rehearsal (early dismissal for Easter weekend)
Fri Apr 2nd	5-9pm Rehearsal

Sat Apr 3rd 10am-9pm Rehearsal (possible send off show
either local or with other WGI bound groups at Lockport HS)

WGI Championships!!! Dayton, OH

Depart Tues evening April 6th or early Wed April 7th (HS &
college students will need to be excused from school) Possible rehearsal Tuesday night
or Wed morning before we depart.

Thursday April 8th - Prelims

Friday April 9th - Finals

Sat April 10th World Class Finals (we will stay and watch)

Sun April 11th Depart for Home in the morning, arrive at
home Sunday late afternoon/early evening.

Guiding Light 2027 Post Season Banquet TBD

Please contact the director Kylene Mitchell with any other
questions you may have;

kmitchell@guidinglightwinterguard.org

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!

