Hello, and thank you for your interest in joining the 2023 Towson University Marching Band! The Towson University Color Guard invests in young people and encourages school and community spirit through high-caliber musical and visual entertainment. The guard fosters leadership, physical and mental wellness, diversity and inclusion while promoting skill based performances that engage our greater community. We intend for our members to feel successful, comfortably challenged, and proud of their development in the activity.

This packet will provide you with detailed information about our new audition process. We understand that an audition can be intimidating to some, and we want to treat you and your development with great care. The process is meant to serve as a vehicle for staff to get to know you as a performer as well as a person and to establish an early relationship that will foster growth within the section. This will consist of an exploration of your individual movement and spinning skills along with your performance value. Your preparation and improvement throughout the summer will also be considered during this process. Through summer spin clinic days, the guard staff will assess each member's development, give detailed feedback, and will make revisions after each clinic until the roster for the color guard is finalized.

We encourage performers of all experience and talent levels to audition for the color guard and to present their most authentic selves. We strive to make sure that anyone auditioning has a chance to gain education and experience that enhances their growth in the color guard activity. However, space is limited. For the 2023 season, we intend to have a roster of 30-36 members. Positions in the color guard will be given based on the following criteria:

* *Understanding and application of equipment and movement principles*
* *Achievement of blended body and equipment challenges*
* *Development of technique through breath, muscle, tension, and range of motion*
* *Overall preparation, attitude, work ethic and communication during the audition process*
* *A commitment to the schedule, standards, and excellence of the Towson University Marching Band*

The audition material covers a small range of skill sets and difficulties that will be expanded upon during the summer. Please prepare this material to the best of YOUR ability. If you have any questions along the way about the audition material or process, please feel free to reach out for support. The staff are here to guide you through the process, and we want to see you succeed!

**Jalen Swain**

**Administrative Assistant/Director of Color Guard  
*The World Famous* Towson University Marching Band**Center for the Arts 4060 | 8000 York Rd. | Towson, MD 21252  
Office: 410-704-5485 | Cell: 240-644-5856

Email: [jswain@towson.edu](mailto:jswain@towson.edu)

**\*\*Audition Dates/Details\*\***

**Audition Form (REQUIRED):**

Everyone intending on auditioning for the Towson Color Guard MUST fill out the audition form below. Here, you will submit your audition videos. This form inquires about your guard experience, special talents, and styles of learning. The final portion of the form asks for a written statement (no longer than 250 words) for why you want to join the TUMB and the Towson Color Guard. [**2023 Towson Color Guard Audition Form**](https://forms.gle/aGWae6TMjqm6yMMCA)

*\*Note: The audition videos should be completed before submitting the form!*

**DUE: June 16th, 2023**

**Preliminary Video Audition:**

The preliminary audition will be a video submission to the Color Guard Captain and Staff. This is the very first step in the process, and is your opportunity to make a strong first impression. No decisions will be made after the submission of these videos. However, we will provide guidance for each individual on how to proceed towards the next stage of the audition. If you need access to equipment for this process, please contact [jswain@towson.edu](mailto:jswain@towson.edu)

**What to Prepare:**

\*Please visit the audition materials folder for specific details and filming instructions\*

Movement

* A 64 count phrase provided by Towson Choreographer Jessica Dunkley.

Flag

* A 3 minute warm up exercise provided by Towson consisting of drop spins, cones, pole hits, flourishes, and tosses.

Weapon (Optional)

* A 1-2 minute warm up exercise provided by Towson consisting of drop spins/stops and tosses on the weapon of your choice (rifle or sabre).

**Spin Clinics Callbacks:**

The summer spin clinics will serve as callback auditions. They are modeled as day-long group rehearsals consisting of a movement academy and equipment sectionals that further breakdown and expand upon the video audition material. The guard staff will assess how you have grown from the preliminary feedback and how you operate as an individual performer as well as within the section. Decisions will be made after each clinic, and the final roster for the season will be set after the July clinic. The August clinic will only be for members given a position in the color guard. We hope that you are flexible and open minded during this process. It is very common during this time for a member to receive multiple forms of feedback and move between multiple pieces of equipment. Also, please keep in mind that many students transition between sections over the course of their years in the TUMB. If you are not given a position in the guard or on your desired piece of equipment, there will be plenty of opportunities to train and work towards that goal in the future.

**Clinic Callback Dates (TENTATIVE):**

Saturday, June 17th, 2023: 10AM-4PM

Sunday, July 9th, 2023: 10AM-6PM

Sunday, July 30st, 2023: 10AM-6PM (Members Only)

**Location for Spin Clinics:**

Saturday, June 17th, 2023: TBD

Sunday, July 9th, 2023: TBD

Sunday, July 30st, 2023: TBD (Members Only)

(*If you are unable to attend an in-person audition day, please communicate with Jalen Swain to arrange an alternative audition plan)*