



Atlanta
CorpsVets
all-age / drum & bugle corps

2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 & 2008 DCA South Regional Champions

2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 & 2009 DCA Finalist Corps

2001 DCA Class A Champions

2010 CV Member Guide

INTRODUCTION

The Atlanta CorpsVets are an entertaining, crowd pleasing organization dedicated to providing our members an educational experience which allows them to grow as performers through team work, discipline and excellence. We are a 501(c)3 not for profit organization. We rehearse and compete mostly on weekends allowing our members to spend more time with their families and work during the weekdays compared to touring corps. We compete in regional and national DCA (Drum Corps Associates) and DCI (Drum Corps International) competitions before large audiences. CorpsVets also performs for the community in local parades, standstill concerts, exhibitions and hosts educational clinics for local high school students.

The CorpsVets started as a simple idea in the summer of 1997. The first rehearsal of the corps was in January of 1998 with the very first performance occurring that March at the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Atlanta. Subsequent years have shown steady growth in both the membership and talent of the corps. Every year since our founding, we have performed for thousands of fans throughout the Eastern United States.

The CorpsVets had a very exciting year in 2001 when the 65 member corps won the Class A title at the championships with a record score in that division. CorpsVets moved to Open Class competition in 2002 and has remained an Open Class finalist every year since. As an organization, the corps has steadily increased the demand and scope of the field show every year in order to create a quality product enjoyed by audiences and judges alike as well as create a challenge for members.

CorpsVets has established itself as a leader in the drum corps community as a member of Drum Corps Associates and by establishing the first regional DCA circuit in 2003. This circuit facilitates all Southern corps by providing a network of regional support and competitions without the expense of repeated trips to the Northeast.

WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A CORPSVET

The CorpsVets continue to strive to be a crowd-pleasing drum corps in the South, DCA and DCI. As a member of the CorpsVets, it is your responsibility to help keep that tradition going. We expect all members to represent the corps on a professional performing level. CorpsVets is proud to be able to accept members from diverse backgrounds. The most important requirement to being a member of the corps is merely the desire to participate in a world-class competitive organization. This desire alone prompts most to make appropriate decisions, but some of the more important aspects are discussed below.

Members are expected to be at all corps rehearsals and performances. The staff works very hard to announce the schedule and any changes to that schedule as far in advance as possible. Although emergencies may arise, it is the member's responsibility to contact their section manager (or other designated corps representative) if an emergency will keep them from being on time to a corps event. If a member has a need to miss a rehearsal, it is their sole responsibility to notify their section manager. Failure to do so 3 times is cause for suspension of

membership. Absence of a member affects the entire ensemble so every member must make every effort to be a positive influence on his or her peers.

Members are expected to take care of themselves and keep themselves in appropriate shape to rehearse and perform. Adequate water and breaks will be provided but members need to remember that they are “in training” the entire season and not just on weekends. Especially during the hot summer months, members need to remember to acclimate themselves to the heat and humidity during the week so that their system is not shocked during weekend rehearsals. Members should also remember to hydrate themselves, especially right before and during camps.

Members must keep up with their financial obligations to the corps. Equipment, staff, uniforms, show fees, etc. come at a financial cost that the Board of Directors works to keep as reasonable as possible for all members. Multiple fundraising opportunities are provided to give members the chance to work off their tuition. By adhering to the payment schedule, tuition will not be a problem for you. However, anyone falling two payments behind in the payment schedule may be dropped from the roster, unless special accommodations are made with the executive director or assistant executive director. Member scholarships are also available through the Board of Directors. **Tuition and fees are non-refundable.**

CorpsVets has ignited many lifetime friendships. A drum corps is a wonderful way to meet and be with other people who share your passion for performing; there are also many opportunities to hang out and enjoy each other’s company. CorpsVets could focus entirely on its competitive aspects, but its much more fun to perform (and rehearse all summer long) when you like the people around you. The corps adheres to a strict Zero Tolerance Policy with respect to the use of illegal substances or under-age use of alcohol that applies to any corps gathering. Also, most high schools and many other municipal properties where we rehearse are tobacco and alcohol free.

The corps requires that members respect the facilities and adhere to local rules and regulations. We always leave every rehearsal facility better than we found it including removal of all trash generated to the appropriate receptacles. Members must use sensitivity and common sense in dress codes while inside of schools, especially if summer sessions are occurring. Shirts and shoes that would be deemed appropriate in a school setting should be worn and clothing changes should occur in an appropriate place. We ask that members be sensitive to public audiences, including utilizing language that is appropriate for professional and student populations.

In addition, members are asked to treat each other with respect and be open to others ideas and opinions. Any issues must be brought to the attention of section managers or other corps leadership. *The CorpsVets in no way condones any behavior that may be deemed to promote discrimination in any way, or any behavior that promotes any form of harassment. Furthermore, any sexual or romantic involvement between adult members and members under 18 years of age is unacceptable. Failure of any member to comply with this policy is grounds for immediate dismissal.*

Equipment Checkout: Horns and percussion (with the exception of sticks and mallets) will be supplied by the corps. No corps-owned horn can be taken home until you have attended two full rehearsals and paid two hundred dollars of your fees, or one hundred dollars and a credit card on file.

Corps-Owned Equipment: While in the member's possession, normal upkeep of any corps equipment will be the responsibility of the member. The member will be held financially responsible for loss, theft, and damage as a result of misuse, carelessness, or neglect. At all times, gloves must be worn when handling any corps-owned bugle. No exceptions. No corps-owned horn may be placed on its bell; the only exception is a contra, which may be placed on the bell when attended to by the member. The CorpsVets' horn sergeant is the authority on handling these instruments.

Band Students: Any member that will be a member of a marching band in the Fall of the competitive season must have a release form signed by their band director (and parent if under 18) so that they will be exempt from band obligations in order to compete with the CorpsVets. The forms can be obtained in the forms download section of the CorpsVets website.

UNIFORM GUIDELINES

The corps will provide Horn Line and Drum Line members with a uniform including jacket, bib pants and gauntlets. The members will be held financially liable for the replacement cost due to loss or damage. Horn line and Drum line members will be responsible for purchasing their own shoes and gloves. White gloves may be purchased from the corps at a reduced rate.

Guard uniform is to be determined on a year-to-year basis depending upon the show.

No drinking (with the exception of water), eating or smoking while in uniform.

Definition of "out-of-uniform": shoes, socks, bib pants and Starter brand type athletic shirt. Definition of "in-uniform": in complete uniform, buttoned up, gauntlets on, gloves on, jacket on. At times your hat may not be required to be on your head while otherwise in uniform, however, you are still considered to be in uniform. Any exceptions to "in-uniform" will be made by the horn sergeant.

REHEARSAL ATTIRE

Members are expected to wear the following clothing during every rehearsal: black shorts and a white top. Plain white tops are preferred. For females, sports tops, tanks, bikini tops, etc are acceptable as long as they are white in color. Black warm-up pants may be worn during inclement and cool weather.

All members are required to wear appropriate footwear including sports shoes (as defined by the manufacturer) or marching shoes. No other footwear is permitted at any time during rehearsals, even if not on

the field. The purpose of these requirements is to maintain uniformity of appearance for the staff's benefit, and safety of the membership. Foot, ankle, and knee injuries brought about by wearing improper shoes can sideline you for the season.

WEB RESOURCES

The primary method for communicating official corps information is via email.

The official public website and discussion forum of the corps: www.corpsvets.org

Official CorpsVets email list: corpsvets@corpsvets.org

CorpsVets Executive Director: director@corpsvets.org

CorpsVets Assistant Executive Director: aed@corpsvets.org

CorpsVets Board of Directors: cob@corpsvets.org

FaceBook: www.facebook.com/AtlantaCorpsVets

Twitter: twitter.com/CorpsVets

MEMBER ACCOUNTS

1. Each member will have an account that will consist of their tuition, the minimum fund-raising amount and any other debt the member may owe to the corps (i.e. shoes, guard uniforms, etc).
2. Once a members' tuition requirements are met either through payments, fund-raising, or a combination of both, then any other fund-raising credits will be added to their account for which a member may apply to other bills such as shoes, member jackets, etc.

PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE

We work all season to prepare for successful public performances; therefore, it is extremely important for all members to be present. If for any reason a member is absent from a corps performance (DCA or DCI) or a DCA championship rehearsal day, a \$50 charge may be assessed to their account.

OTHER FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES NOT INCLUDED ON MEMBER ACCOUNT

1. Member is responsible for food and lodging for rehearsals and trips. CorpsVets provide at least one, possibly two, full corps meal(s) per trip.
2. Member is responsible for transportation to local rehearsals and performances. CorpsVets provide bus transportation for all non-local trips (beyond GA, AL, SC, TN).

3. Members provide their own mouthpieces, valve oil, polish, drumsticks, rehearsal gloves, rehearsal attire, shoes and uniform Starter type shirt. Color guard members may be required to provide their own rehearsal equipment.

Should a member resign, or be asked to resign, their position with the corps at anytime during the season (season being the time between the first camp and DCA Championships), any fees paid to the CorpsVets are NOT refundable. These fees include, but are not limited to: tuition, fundraisers, sponsorships and/or scholarships, and any out of pocket expenses.