

the Crossmen

2007 BATTERY REHEARSAL TECHNIQUE

1. Always look good.

As a Crossmen you are always in the spotlight and are always being watched. Fans, friends, family, alumni, school administrators, and even school janitors are just a few of the many people who will view your actions while traveling with the Corps. Thus, it is important that we always look good, and appear professional and under control at all times. From the first camp in December until the end of the season in August, our actions – both on and off the field - represent all Crossmen of the past, present, and the future.

Bottom Line: If you think you shouldn't be doing something, DON'T DO IT!

2. To BE ON TIME is to be late!

Rehearsals blocks BEGIN at the scheduled time. In other words, you need to in your spot – be it the arc, a drill set, or your sectional – ready to take the first step or play the first note at the times listed. We will always set the arc five minutes before the scheduled time. If you are ever late...RUN!

3. Traveling in “Twos”

The Crossmen have a long standing tradition of traveling in twos, or “lining it up.” This means we will lineup as a full battery in order to move to and from rehearsal, meals, or anything that requires travel. In some cases, you will travel in sections, in which you will line it up in a similar manner. When traveling in twos, you are to exude the attitude of the Crossmen at all times.

4. Never talk or play when a staff member is speaking – LISTEN WITH YOUR EYES.

In order to learn and receive instructions, you must focus on the instructor who is speaking. It is extremely difficult for a staff member to communicate well if members are playing or talking. This also includes playing on the rim. Our staff is here to teach us and make us better – we must respect them. By the same token, members who are not paying attention will more than likely miss instructions, resulting in wasted time.

Don't allow your mind to drift during rehearsals. “Listen with your eyes” by looking directly at an instructor when he or she speaks to you. It is respectful and also shows that you are receiving the information.

5. The First Time Rule – If you do not understand something, PLEASE ASK!

We will move at a quick pace throughout the season and instructions may be confusing at times. We cannot afford to waste time because of misunderstood or unheard instructions. It is important we get things right the **FIRST TIME** in order to max out our rehearsal time, and give our staff an accurate idea of where we stand as a drum corps. Instead of just guessing at what we are about to march or play, raise your hand and ask! If someone does the wrong drill move, it could result in serious injury. NO ONE will be angry at you for asking for clarification, so do so!

6. Always stand at “Stand By” when you are not being worked with.

We must do everything possible to help our staff expedite the rehearsal process. Remaining at “Stand By” ensures a silent rehearsal, and minimizes distractions. It also creates uniformity. Remember, there is no talking at Stand By.

7. Don't fidget – Set and Still

Self-explanatory. In order to be the best, we must look the best. When you are set do NOT move your hands down, do not scratch yourself, do not drum a part on the rim. Anything but being still and focused at the set position appears unprofessional. “Set and still.” Enough said.

8. Metronome and drum pads

You should have a metronome and practice pad with you at each camp. You will need this for after hour sectionals, and for anything else that may arise.

9. Place your drum/cymbals down correctly.

Each individual sub-section of the battery will define the way to put down their drums/cymbals, but it is very important that every member in that given sub-section puts their drum/cymbals down the same way. Make sure all the drums/cymbals are in line also. We also line up our coolers the same way, as well as line up any/all rehearsal bags. This is applied for every rehearsal. Uniformity is VERY important, not only to look good as a group, but, in turn keeps you in check with who the section is as a group as opposed to many individuals.

10. Music must be in a BLACK binder in clear plastic sheets and at EVERY rehearsal.

Your music and technique book must be in a black binder with sheet protectors. In addition, bring your music **and a pencil** to each and every rehearsal. You never know when your music will be needed to make a change or to serve as a reference.

11. Music should be printed off from the website PRIOR to arriving at camp.

If you have difficulty printing the music, contact Megh in the office. You must arrive at each camp with the most current music, in your binder.

12. Bathroom and water

You should have a water bottle at every rehearsal. Ample breaks will be provided. Do not leave rehearsal in the middle to go to the bathroom.

13. Clean your drum before every performance.

Just because we use drum covers does NOT mean that the drums don't get dirty. Especially in the south when fields are more dirt than grass, it is very important to clean your drum before every show. There is always a bottle of some type of cleaner and a rag somewhere on the truck. Wiping down the chrome with your wristband is not good enough!

14. Leave the rehearsal site BETTER than we found it.

The Crossmen are a class act both on and off the field. Our rehearsal sites are a privilege not a right. With that in mind, we will ALWAYS leave our rehearsal sites in better condition than we found them. Cafeterias, gyms, hallways should be swept and all garbage should be cleared away. Don't wait for someone else to pickup the trash or straighten up the room. We are all Crossmen and we are all responsible for the mess created by the Corps. Unity in everything we do!