

the Crossmen

2007 HORNLINE 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 be 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 lineup in twos to travel to certain blocks, but for all sectionals, the arc will be set FIVE minutes prior to downbeat.

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 hornline 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. 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. Wait until the end of an exercise to empty the spit out of your horn.

When the horns are up, they remain up until the drum major or staff members bring them down.

8. Don't fidget.

Self-explanatory. In order to be the best, we must look the best. When the horns are up, do NOT drop your hands down, do not scratch, do not move the valves up and down before or after an exercise. Enough said.

9. Brass rehearsal begins with dress center.

When dressing the arc, two hands are on the horns at all times. Horns will be brought up through ripple or command. Keep your head towards the center of the arc, don't talk, and make sure all of your rehearsal gear (with the exception of your stand, music, and water jug) is neatly arranged behind you. Your **red horn towel** should be on your **right** shoulder until we have set the arc.

10. Place your horn on your RED TOWEL with the bell facing toward the center of the arc.

The towel will prevent damage to the horn. It must be red for uniformity. We will be ordering uniform red-towels with Maltese Crosses printed on them once the line has been set. NEVER stand your horn up on its bell. **Never put your horn down on the bare ground.**

11. Right Hand Rule.

When members hold their horns in opposite hands, they tend to bang together which causes damage to the instrument. Always hold your horn in your **right hand** while standing at trail or moving around.

12. Always wear BLACK gloves when touching a brass instrument.

You must always have on black gloves when touching a brass instrument. The sweat from your hands will destroy the horn. New gloves can be purchased for 2\$ at registration.

13. Music must be in a RED binder in clear plastic sheets and at EVERY rehearsal.

Your music and brass technique book must be in a red 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 chance or to serve as a reference. In addition, we may from time to time add new exercises that you will need your brass book to reference.

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. Polish and clean your horn before every performance.

Day-to-day rehearsal dulls our horns and makes them appear dirty. Make sure to take your horn into the shower or hose it down, and polish it with the prescribed silver polish before EVERY performance.

17. Line-up the horns in sections at the end of each rehearsal.

Horns MUST be lined up – also known as “stacked” - in sections at the end of each rehearsal. Horns should be lined-up on your towels with bells edge to edge. You should cover your mouthpiece with one glove, and the other should be placed on the valve casing. Uniformity is a must!

18. 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!