

# The Chippewa Marching Band



2026: Our 104<sup>th</sup> Season

as the

"Spirit of the Stadium"



SCHOOL OF  
**MUSIC**

CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Greetings!

I'm excited to know of your interest in the 104<sup>th</sup> Chippewa Marching Band! The attached materials will help you to prepare for your Audition. Our staff and our returning students look forward to working with you to give you your best chance at becoming part of the long and proud tradition of the Marching Chips.

I'm looking forward to seeing YOU at CMU,  
Dr. James Batcheller, Director

Hello!

Thank you for your interest in the Central Marching Band Color Guard! After a fantastic 2025 season, we are looking forward to an incredible year in 2026 celebrating the 104<sup>th</sup> year of the marching band, and of course welcoming new friends to the team. We welcome anyone, regardless of guard experience, or with any disability, such as hearing loss, blindness, learning disabilities, wheelchair users, etc. to audition for our color guard. Our leadership team is eager to work with you to ensure you have a successful and fun season with us. The color guard has worked extremely hard to grow over these past years and we will continue to maintain our level of excellence into this year.

Contained in this packet are the materials and information needed to prepare for the audition. While auditioning, you may learn new skills and face new challenges. This is okay! Do your best, reach out if you need support, and most importantly, have fun!

You will do amazing, but you will never know if you don't try!

Kind regards,  
Sydney Smith  
2026 Color Guard Section Leader

# Auditioning for the Central Color Guard

Many people lack the initiative to audition for a spot on this color guard. Auditioning can be a scary process for even the most experienced performers. Here at the Central Color Guard we promote several values which will help you succeed in our audition process.

## **WORK ETHIC**

Many individuals who have auditioned for this color guard had never spun a flag before their first audition. What carried them through the audition process was their work ethic. Regardless of the challenges you face, how you approach them throughout the audition process will be critical for your success.

## **ADAPTABILITY**

Throughout the season the color guard is often faced with challenges which require the team to adapt. One of the things we will be looking at throughout the audition process is how you, as a performer, react to challenges and sudden changes.

## **TEACHABILITY**

Ultimately, what matters to the Central Marching Band is not the skill you bring to the audition, but rather, your willingness to learn throughout the process. No matter what happens during your audition, what we value most is your willingness to learn and accept feedback. Being teachable will be your biggest asset throughout this process.

## Audition Information

Candidates may audition in person or submit an unlisted YouTube video playlist with each of the skills listed below. **In person** audition information is contained in the general audition materials on our web site: [music.cmich.edu/cmb](http://music.cmich.edu/cmb) Videos will be evaluated as they're submitted. We hope to have the guard set before June 15. If you are unable to complete your video before June 10, let us know and we'll work with you as best we can.

### Audition Requirements

1. It is important for ALL members to have a strong base in **movement AND flag** technique. You will NOT need to have any experience spinning a weapon to receive a spot.
2. It is a good idea to take some basic dance classes (maybe check out a video or two online). Having a strong foundation in dance will greatly help you succeed in our audition process.
3. **ATTITUDE** is key. We are evaluating your skill level, but more importantly, we are evaluating your work ethic and willingness to try new things. Performers who have the values of teachability, adaptability, and work ethic will be most successful.

# Preparing for the Audition

If you choose the video option, when you submit your link to the video audition please include a single photograph of your face in your audition attire. The photograph does not have to be of professional quality, it just serves to help us connect your face and name.

Whether you choose the live or video option, we also ask that you fill out the online information form at <https://forms.gle/MnWMyC58bvRQ5zSu5> so we can have a clear understanding of your background and experience.

Demonstration videos featuring basic elements of technique and all required skills will be available soon!

Your video will need to demonstrate the following skills:

## FLAG

- The flag audition routine
- Two sets of 16 and 16 (right side and left side)
- Three 45° tosses

## MOVEMENT

- The movement audition routine
- Movement Exercise

## FREESTYLE

- Any additional skills you would like to demonstrate on Flag (flag tosses, advanced skills, etc.) or Dance (advanced skills, acrobatics, etc..)
- Weapon Skills (Optional)

Your video does not have a time limit. Please make sure you are performing full out and demonstrating your skills to the best of your ability. If you make the choice to include any additional skills please do so within reason. Preference will not be given based on the difficulty of the skills you demonstrate.

You may use whatever equipment is available for your audition. We spin 54" by 36" silks on six-foot poles weighted with a 3 inch bolt on top and a 1.5 inch bolt on bottom. In the event that you do not have a flag and cannot get one at this time, please let us know and we'll guide you as how you can demonstrate the required flag skills without equipment.

Dress comfortably for your in-person audition. You can wear shorts, leggings, tank-tops, etc. when making your video. Dark, preferably black, form fitting attire will allow us to evaluate proper body alignment. Additionally, your hair will need to be pulled back and secured out of your face. We would also prefer to see you spin in gloves, if you have them. Again, our goal is to see you audition with whatever materials are available to you at this time.

# Skills

The following is a list of skills which we frequently use in the Central Color Guard. It is not expected that you know how to do all of these when you audition, but we encourage you to include any you're familiar with in your audition video.

## FLAG

- Drop Spins
- Double Fasts
- Pull hits
- Pop tosses
- Cones
- Flourishes
- Back Hands
- Thumb Flips
- 45° tosses
- J - tosses
- Parallels
- Silk Doubles Tosses

## BODY

- 1st through 5th position
- Plié
- Tendú
- Sauté
- Chaines
- Jazz Walks
- Coupé
- Passé

## Questions

Auditioning can seem complicated and, perhaps, a bit intimidating. We'll do everything we can to help! Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns as you work through this process. Communication is the key to success. We are more than willing to make accommodations however we are able.

Our number one goal is to give YOU every chance to join us in the Chippewa Marching Band!

Direct all questions to:

Dr. James Batcheller, CMB Director

Email - [batch1jc@cmich.edu](mailto:batch1jc@cmich.edu)

Sydney Smith, Section Leader

Email – [smith99s@cmich.edu](mailto:smith99s@cmich.edu)

Again, we are EXCITED to see your audition. This is going to be an incredible season and we cannot wait to let you be a part of it!