

SHS Band - Washington D.C. Trip FAQ

Update #2 - 12/16/2022

NOTE: The next trip payment and room upgrade fee are due by JANUARY 11, 2023.
These payments can be made beginning NOW!

1. What information do we need from all travelers at this time?

1. Name, as it appears on a student or government issued ID, per the following guidelines:

- Students UNDER the age of 18 as of 5/27/23 - Name exactly as it appears on your Saugus HS Student ID
- Students 18 YEARS OF AGE and OVER as of 5/27/23 - Name (including middle name) exactly as it appears on your Government Issued ID
- Adult family members/staff/chaperones - Name (including middle name) exactly as it appears on your Government Issued ID

2. Birthday

3. Gender (if it's on your ID used above, exactly as it appears)

4. Shirt Size

We need this info by JANUARY 11, 2023. Please begin submitting this information NOW to SHStoDC@gmail.com

***Please note that these four items above are being requested by MCI (the tour company), not the Band/Guard program (including its booster club members and executive board), Saugus High School, or The William S. Hart Union High School District (including the district board).

2. What is our flight information?

LA (LAX) → DC (IAD)	DC (IAD) → LA (LAX)
Saturday, May 27, 2023	Tuesday, May 30, 2023
Alaska Airlines Flight #1383	Alaska Airlines Flight #1382
Depart LAX: 7:00am	Depart IAD: 7:00am
Arrive IAD: 3:04pm	Arrive LAX: 9:45am

3. What will the seating arrangements be on the flight?

Seat assignments are made by the airline, and are generally done alphabetically. Per MCI, seating requests cannot be made. However, per MCI, once on board the plane, we can change seats within our group, as allowable by the airline and its crew.

4. Where will we be staying?

We will be staying at the Hilton - McLean Tysons Corner in Virginia. The address is:

Hilton McLean Tysons Corner
7920 Jones Branch Drive
McLean, VA 22102

5. When are the payments for the trip due?

It is vitally important that trip payments are made to the band on time. We have a deadline to pay each invoice due to the tour company. We received numerous payments for the last invoice up to 3-4 weeks late. The band program cannot support the cost of paying our invoice to the tour company without your payments. As such, please note the updated payment due dates for the two remaining payments due in January and March.

Pay to Band/Guard By:	Amount Per Person:	Cost Breakdown
1/11/23*	\$300**	25% of remaining balance
3/8/23*	\$600**	50% of remaining balance

**Dates are subject to change*

*** Amounts are approximate, and are subject to change*

6. Can I still request a room upgrade?

Yes, you can! Room upgrade requests can be made up until 1/11/23.

7. When is the payment for my room upgrade due?

Payments for room upgrades are due with the 1/11/23 payment. Please note in your Venmo/Paypal comment, or on your Check, your room upgrade request, ie. "Single Occupancy," "Double Occupancy," or "Triple Occupancy." The room upgrade fee and January trip payment can be made together, but they don't have to be. Please just make sure to note what your payment is for.

Room Occupancy Upgrade:	Cost Per Person Staying in Room:
Triple	\$44
Double	\$132
Single	\$395

8. What is our itinerary?

We are still waiting for our itinerary from the tour company. It will be shared as soon as we have it.

9. Will the Band be attending a clinic in DC? Will the Guard participate? Can family members come and watch?

The goal for all three is yes! While we aren't confirmed just yet, MCI is working on arranging a clinic for both the band and guard together! This clinic would be led by either a military or collegiate marching instructor! Again, the goal of the tour company is to make arrangements for this clinic to be open for family members to come and watch. More info on this will be shared once the clinic is confirmed.

10. What about purchasing the optional premium trip insurance?

You will be able to purchase this coverage up until March 25, 2023. You will need to print out and complete a form, and mail it, along with a check, directly to the trip insurance company. Any questions about this coverage, or completing the form, will need to be directed to the insurance company. The form, cost, and insurance company contact info and mailing address will be sent out during the first week of winter break.

Update #1 from 11/2/2022

1. When are the payments for the trip due?

Pay to Band/Guard By:	Amount Per Person:	Cost Breakdown
1/11/23*	\$300**	25% of remaining balance
3/8/23*	\$600**	50% of remaining balance

**Dates are subject to change*

*** Amounts are approximate, and are subject to change*

2. How can payments be made?

Payments can be submitted via Venmo, Paypal, or by check (dropped in the safe in Mr.G's office). It is very important that payments are made on, or before, the due dates!

- Venmo: Saugus Band and Flag Team Booster Club (@bandtreasurer_2021)
- PayPal: Saugus Band and Flag Team Booster Club
- Checks payable to: Saugus Band and Flag Team Booster Club

3. What are our flight arrangements and itinerary?

The only information we have yet is that we are flying to DC on Alaska Airlines. We are waiting to confirm everything else. Information will be shared as it's received.

4. Will families need to pay baggage fees?

Families will be responsible for their baggage fees (for their student and family members). Alaska baggage fees are \$30 for the first checked bag, \$40 for the second checked bag, and \$100 for the third and any additional checked bags. Weight and dimension limitations and overage fees apply. Passengers are also allowed one carry-on bag AND one personal item (purse, laptop bag, instrument, etc.)

5. How will we get our uniforms and instruments to DC?

We are still working through the logistics. Uniforms may be packed in personal luggage. We are also looking into packing uniforms together in large shipping boxes and checking them with the airline. Shipping instruments is extremely expensive. It is looking like the most cost effective method will be to travel with our instruments on our flight. Smaller instruments would be carried on the flight, and larger instruments would be checked. We are still communicating with the tour company and the airline about our options and best practices.

6. What hotel are we staying at?

We do not have that information yet. Information will be shared as it is received.

7. What is the cost for family members to upgrade their hotel room to triple-, double-, or single-occupancy? When is this payment due?

The cost of upgrading your room can be found in the table below. Please note that these fees are per person, not per room. The amounts listed in the table are for the entire trip, not per night. These fees will be due with the next payment on 1/11/23.

Room Occupancy Upgrade:	Cost Per Person Staying in Room:
Triple	\$44
Double	\$132
Single	\$395

8. When is the deadline to make room upgrades?

Please send an email to SHStoDC@gmail.com with your room upgrade request by 1/25/23. If you are requesting an upgrade to a double or triple occupancy room, please include the name(s) of the person/people you will be sharing the room with, and cc them on the email, as well. If you do not request a room upgrade, you will be placed in a room with up to a total of four travelers. Please note, rooms will have two beds. Also keep in mind, that students will be staying together, four per room, and will not be staying in the same room as any adults/family members.

9. How and when do we pay for the optional premium trip insurance?

We have received this info, however, it will be sent out separately. We are going through the info so we are prepared to assist you as much as possible. We still have quite a few months to get the paperwork and payments made. Please keep an eye out for this info soon.

Original List of FAQ Below

1. What am I reading here?

This will be a running list of questions that we receive from everyone, along with new information we receive, in regards to our trip to DC. As we receive more questions, or receive new information, we will update this list. Please check back periodically. This will NOT be your only source of information. All important information and updates will be emailed out, as always. This is only intended as a resource where we can compile information for you to refer back to. Need an answer to a question that you don't find here? Send an email to SHStoDC@gmail.com. Please direct trip related questions to this email address.

2. Are we going to DC?

*We need at least **70 Band** students to participate in order to make this trip viable. There is no minimum number of Guard students needed. As of 9/1/22, we have approximately 15 students signed up. We quickly need your student's commitment, as the first deposit is due mid-September.*

3. When do we need to commit to going?

We will need your commitment by FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9! If we don't get the headcount we need (70 Band students), we won't be able to go.

4. Who is coordinating the DC experience for us?

Music Celebrations International (MCI) is coordinating our arrangements and itinerary for us.

5. Can parents and siblings go on the trip?

Yes! Parents and siblings are able to go on the trip.

6. Do parents need to be registered district volunteers in order to go on the trip?

YES! AND parents NEED to be certified BEFORE the final trip payment is due! Please email Katie Hubbard at katiebandvolunteers@gmail.com if you need info on becoming a registered district volunteer.

7. What is the cost of the trip?

Ultimately, the per person cost of the trip will depend on how many chartered buses we will need in DC. How many buses we need will depend on how many students and family members go. Based on the cost breakdown provided by MCI, we anticipate the cost will be around \$1400 to \$1500 per person.

8. Aren't we fundraising to help cover the cost of the trip?

Yes, we are! The more money we bring in through fundraisers, sponsorships, and donations, the less money we all have to pay out of pocket! (See #30-31)

9. How much is the non-refundable, initial deposit, and when is it due?

The non-refundable, initial deposit is \$200 per person, and is due Monday 9/12/22. This payment will need to be made for all participants - students, parents, and siblings. Payment can be made via check, PayPal, or Venmo. Checks will not be cashed until we confirm we have the headcount required to go on the trip (see #2). If we do not have the headcount we need by 9/9/22, and are unable to go on the trip, your undeposited check or PayPal/Venmo payment will be returned to you.

10. Who do we make our payments to?

Families will submit all payments for the trip to the Band and Guard. The Band and Guard will then make one, single payment, on behalf of all participants, to MCI for the amount due at each payment deadline. Payments can be made via check, PayPal, or Venmo. We cannot take credit card payments.

- *Checks payable to: Saugus Band and Flag Team Booster Club*
- *PayPal: Saugus Band and Flag Team Booster Club*
- *Venmo: Saugus Band and Flag Team Booster Club (@bandtreasurer_2021)*

11. When are the payment deadlines and what amounts are due?

Pay to Band/Guard By:	Amount per Person	Cost Breakdown
9/12/22	\$200	Deposit
10/15/22	\$325	25% of Balance After Deposit
1/15/23	\$325	25% of Balance After Deposit
3/15/23	\$650	50% of Balance After Deposit

12. On the price breakdown from the travel company, it states that "Transportation (airfare and chartered bus) is priced as of January 24, 2022 and is subject to change." Is it possible that our costs could increase before our trip?

No. Per MCI, all pricing on the price breakdown sheet that we have been provided will not change.

13. Can families make their own arrangements, and still go on the trip?

Yes. Students will be traveling with the arrangements and itinerary provided by MCI. If parents or siblings want to make their own arrangements (instead of traveling with MCI's arrangements/cost), they can. You would be responsible for your flight, transportation, lodging, all meals, tickets/fees for any sites the group visits (if you want to go), etc.

14. Is there trip insurance available?

Yes, there is. A small amount of coverage is automatically included. Each participant can choose to add higher level insurance coverage for an additional cost, which they will be responsible for. The coverage options and corresponding costs are in the info that was provided during our Zoom with MCI a few weeks ago. This page will be updated with that info shortly.

15. Do any of the included or optional insurance plans cover lost or damaged instruments?

No, none of them do.

16. Are parents required to accompany their student on the trip?

No, parents are not required to go on the trip. Dedicated chaperones and plenty of adult supervision will be provided.

17. What will a chaperone do, and how can I become one?

A chaperone will be required to stay with the Band and Guard throughout the trip. There will be one chaperone for every twelve students. Staff and the Booster Club Executive Board will make decisions about chaperones at a later date. Volunteer efforts will be a factor in choosing chaperones.

18. We will be returning home on the first day of finals! Will my student be able to take their finals?

Yes! The school is working with us on making sure our students do not have any issues taking their finals. We anticipate all teachers being informed of this scheduling conflict for our Band and Guard students during the week of 9/5/22. Exact arrangements have not been made yet as to scheduling alternative times for students to take their finals, and will most likely be up to each student and teacher to schedule a time that works best.

19. What will the flight arrangements be?

MCI will be making all flight arrangements. Their goal is for us to depart LAX Saturday (5/27/23) morning, and arrive back at LAX Tuesday (5/30/23) evening. They will try their best to book non-stop flights, but it's not guaranteed.

20. What is included in the trip cost?

All participants who travel with the group via MCI will be provided flights to and from DC, hotel lodging, private charter bus transportation while in DC, most meals, and admission into the venues we will be visiting.

21. How will we travel from the school to LAX, and vice versa?

We are currently looking into this, however, there will be NO additional cost to families for this.

22. How will we travel with our instruments and uniforms?

We are currently looking into this, however, there will be NO additional cost to families for this.

23. What will the lodging arrangements be while in DC?

MCI makes the hotel arrangements for us, however, we do know that we will be staying in a 4-star hotel. Lodging will include 4 people per room. You can stay 2 or 3 people per room for an additional cost per night, for which you will be responsible.

24. What will the Colorguard be doing while the Band is having their clinic with the military conductor?

That is still being discussed with MCI. MCI is working on scheduling an activity for the Colorguard to participate in during this two hour period. Worst case scenario, the Colorguard will visit an additional venue or have a site-seeing opportunity - they will not be sitting in their hotel rooms bored!

25. Will there be a dedicated place for parents/siblings to sit on the parade route?

No, you may sit wherever you'd like.

26. What will the PIT do during the parade?

All band students who go on the trip will be participating in the parade. PIT members may be on a cymbal line, play bells, etc. Mr. G will have a role for all band members in the final arrangement.

27. How many bands from California are participating in the parade?

There are currently 3 bands from CA scheduled to perform in the parade, with us being one of them.

28. Will band members be receiving a patch or a shirt?

Yes, all band members who participate will receive a parade shirt.

29. Will there be a way for those who aren't traveling to watch the parade?

Yes, the parade will be both live-streamed and recorded. Both viewing options will be available on MCI's Facebook page and website, as well as the parade website (Those links will be provided to you).

30. What are we doing to help cover the cost of the trip?

The easy answer: SPONSORSHIPS AND FUNDRAISING! However, we need everyone's help! Please email Julio at saugusbandvp@gmail.com if you know of a business that may be interested in being a sponsor, We are ready to start speaking with potential sponsors! There are also numerous fundraising opportunities already planned, and some still in the works. It is up to all of us to support these opportunities. Tell your relatives, friends, neighbors, and co-workers. Share them on social media.

31. What fundraisers are planned, and will they be going into the General Fund, or dedicated for this trip?

General Fund	DC Trip
Clothes 4 Cash	Podcast Sponsorships
Homecoming Booth	Business Sponsorships
All Dine-out Nights	GoFundMe Page
Bake Sales	Dinner for Football Games*
Fun Pasta!	Bowl-a-thon*
	Pep Band at Haunted House*
	Parents Night Out in October*
	*details coming soon

32. I still have questions!

You aren't alone! We are already working very hard on this. If you have any questions, please email SHStoDC@gmail.com. This email address will be dedicated to receiving your questions. We're positive there will be plenty of things that come up over the coming days, weeks, and months. Please keep an eye on this page for new updates!