

University of Minnesota Marching Band field trip

September 2019

(Marching band music in the background, then fades...)

Female voice #1: I'd say my favorite part about being in Marching Band is getting to make music with my friends in an environment that's a lot of fun.

Tori: Cool

Female voice #2: Um, I Love the social aspect of band. Um, I get to meet a lot of really cool people, who I wouldn't meet in my regular classes.

Levi: Sup, my name is Levi.

Tori: And I'm Tori.

Levi: A group of us from MSAB traveled to the University of Minnesota to get acquainted with the U of M Marching Band. We went to the TCF Bank Stadium and the first thing we did was meet the Color Guard. We had the opportunity to try out some sick maneuvers using the practice flags.

Background sounds: "Left, right" etc.

(People laughing and clapping)

Female #2 (Color Guard): Um, my favorite flag maneuver is, ah, our single toss. Um, so it's just a three-count toss pretty easy, but it looks really good.

(People counting "Up, two, three four, and down, two three, four"... and clapping)

Female #2 (Color Guard): So marching band uses what we call eight to five steps, so we have eight steps for every five yards. So, we have um, a lot of rehearsals where we practice on our muscle memory for what that feels like and usually, we'll be about five yards apart or eight steps for us.

(People counting and clapping, practicing flag maneuvers)

Pablo: Have you ever dropped a flag or hit it falling down or anything?

Female #2 (Color Guard): Ah, yes, I have hit myself more times than other people have hit me. (Laugh) Um, just, it slips out of your hand sometimes and so, it will smack into you. Um, I've gotten a couple of bruises, but nothing broken. Um, and occasionally we'll run into each other, ah, more often we'll hit our flags together than actually hitting each other.

(Pablo laughs)

Mialeah: Oh no.

Female #2 (Color Guard): So, did you have to audition for, to become a Color Guard?

Female #2 (Color Guard): Yes. Um, so we do an audition camp for about three days in the summer, Um, and we audition on the second day. Um, basically any one can try out. We teach you how we want you to spin, um, and then you audition on the second day and if you've made enough progress, you're on the color guard.

(More talking in the background, practicing flag maneuvers..."Down right...")

Levi: So, we met a member of the marching band, named Claire. She played flute, she worked with all the members of the marching band to make sure all the uniforms were in top shape.

Pablo: On average, do you practice like per week?

Female Voice #1 (Claire): Yeah, so we, practice, let's see if I can do some math here...On a week we don't have a game we practice for about seven hours total and then on weeks we do have a game, it's closer to ten hours a week. (Ok)

Tori and Pablo: Ok

Claire: So, a lot of time!

(Marching band music from a distance)

Pablo: What do you like best about being in marching band?

Claire: Ooh, I like that I get to make music with my friends because sometimes playing music can be kind of strict and the challenge and the stress makes it more hard. But sometimes when you're with a group of people and it's more fun, then that makes the whole experience a lot better. So I'd say my favorite part of being in marching band is getting to make music with my friends in an environment that's a lot of fun.

(Marching band music in background)

Pablo: So, you have to audition right, to get into this?

Claire: Yes, so this band...

Pablo: How does that all work?

Claire: So for your first year in the band you audition just by sending in a recording of your playing, and then the ah, if you're a returning member they also in addition to have you having

you play they also watch to make sure your marching is still in shape...and our acceptance rate into the band depends on the section but it is usually forty to sixty percent.

Voices (Jenny Pelletier): Whoa! Ok.

Pablo: Sweet

Claire: So we're really selective, especially depending on sections; our drumline is very competitive.

Pablo: Yeah, I can tell.

Claire: They sound great don't they?

Pablo, Tori: Yeah.

(Singing in background...)

Tori: We had a great time and the sound was impressive. At the end of every practice the band shares a sense of community and sings "Hale Minnesota!" in four-part Harmony. This was our school's third visit with the U of M Marching Band, and each time it is a great learning experience.

(More singing in background)

Tori: I'm Tori and I'd like to thank Pablo, Josh, Mia and Levi for contributing to the podcast.