



WELCOME to the **University of Pittsburgh Golden Girls!**

At the University of Pittsburgh, the Varsity Marching Band Program is an excellent way demonstrate your school spirit and support the Department of Athletics. The Golden Girls have been an esteemed portion of the University of Pittsburgh Marching Band for **43** years, and continue to uphold the tradition as the University's "Glitz and Glamour".

The Pitt Band is the largest student organization on campus and the Golden Girls are featured as the baton twirling and dance auxiliary unit of the Pitt Band. To be a "Golden Girl", you should be versatile and proficient in *both* dance and twirling. The Golden Girls perform at all the Panther home football games, selected away football games, and a handful of men's and women's basketball games. Additionally, the Golden Girls perform at various university and community events.



Throughout the years, the Golden Girls have featured many nationally ranked solo twirlers. During our Pregame Show, the Pitt Band marches to “Hail to Pitt” which highlights a featured solo student by one of our Golden Girls. Each year, auditions are held for this position. The Golden Girl who is selected for this solo has the potential to be awarded additional scholarship money.



In the spring, the Golden Girls perform exhibition routines on their recruiting tour. The Golden Girls have also competed in TU (Twirling Unlimited) and NBTA (National Baton Twirling Association) competitions and have proudly captured the NBTA “Grand National/World College Halftime” title 4 times.



Information for our 2018-2019 Season Auditions:

SUNDAY, February 18, 2018 – 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Petersen Events Center

Auxiliary Gym

(Meet in Grand Concourse Lobby)

9:00 AM: Registration and Warm-up.

9:15 AM – 10:45 AM: Group twirling – Learn new combinations and tricks!

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM: Compulsory Routines and Individual Solo, followed by brief Interview.

(You will be dismissed after you have performed these routines in audition format.)

For the “Individual Solo”, we require that all candidates perform a 1:00–2:00 minute routine, to a music selection of your choice. The routine should best demonstrate your talents in both dance and twirling. Props may be used, but we emphasize that we are a baton twirling group and no fire batons and/or knives may be used in the audition facilities. Immediately after performing your individual routine, our candidates will perform the group twirling routines that have been taught throughout the day, followed by a brief interview which is a great opportunity of showcase your personality, leadership experience, and passion for twirling.

In total, the candidates will be evaluated on skills, style, performance proficiency, appearance, and interview. The auditions are closed to family and friends and returning Golden Girls are required to audition each year.

The University of Pittsburgh Varsity Marching Band is always looking for fresh faces and new talent to join the elite ranks of the University of Pittsburgh Golden Girls. Included below is a listing of frequently asked questions and corresponding answers.

For any additional questions, please contact via e-mail: pittband@pitt.edu

Thank you for your interest, we look forward to meeting you, and **HAIL TO PITT!**



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

1. What to wear to audition? A dance leotard or dance outfit, including tights and twirling and/or jazz shoes. No bulky tennis shoes will be permitted on gym floor.
2. How many girls do you pick? There is no set number of squad members each year; Selection is based on ability and talent of each individual candidate performing at our auditions.
3. What trick do I need to know?
 - 2 & 3 Turns (horizontal/vertical)
 - High Toss Illusions (front/back)
 - Multiple Batons (2 and/or 3)
 - Grand-Jete
 - Turns
 - Leaps
 - Split
 - Kicks (left and right) & Leg Hold (right)
 - Dance-twirl Combinations
4. What is the cost involved if I am selected as a Golden Girl? The University of Pittsburgh, Department of Athletics will provide you with a warm-up and tennis shoes, along with a few additional items of "Pitt Band Swag" including a draw string bag and practice shorts and t-shirt. The Department of Athletics will provide "Game Day" meals and transportation to and from Heinz Field, and also cover associated costs for away trips. If awarded, a trip to a Bowl Game will also be covered by the Athletic Department. Each member is responsible for purchasing practice attire, game bags, and any other items specified by the Auxiliary Directors and Captains. A good estimate is **\$350** for your first year as a member of the squad. After staple items are purchased your first year, the consecutive years are much less.

5. Do I have to audition each year? YES, every member must audition each year. Being a former member does not automatically guarantee your spot on the next season's squad. We encourage all members to keep up their skill level and strive for continual improvement and development.

6. Are individual routines mandatory? Yes, the individual routine is judged to evaluate an individual's skill set that may not be demonstrated during the audition routine. This is to your advantage, as some people have trouble learning the "Golden Girl" style. Any props can be used, but remember we are a baton twirling team. Suggestions for the individual routine include dance, two baton, three, and/or four baton.