



Handbook for Members

Welcome!

North County Winds (NCW) prides itself in being a community-centric concert band with the focus on furthering the joy of music. You are now part of something bigger than yourself — your knowledge, your experience, and your talent will also embed itself into young musicians. Expect your musical talents to be challenged but with purpose of helping you grow as a musician. We hope you remain happy with your decision to join NCW; and just remember we are all here for one simple reason, the love of music!

Jeri Webb started the band in 2000 with a class through Poway Adult Continuing Education when she was band director at Black Mountain Middle School (BMMS). The class was created for BMMS parents to learn their children's instrument(s) as a way of helping to provide continued learning at home. Vince Hernandez took over the class in 2002 and created NCW from it. He then founded the San Diego Music Consortium, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, as the umbrella for NCW and subsequent musical groups. NCW has now grown into a complete concert band composed of more than 65 experienced musicians who live and work throughout San Diego County. NCW promotes music education in our public schools and maintains a mentorship program for exceptional students who perform alongside the adult musicians and provides financial support to partners of charitable organizations.

Below you'll see a QR code to complete the **Member Information Sheet**. Please fill it out so your section leader has your best contact information. By signing you also acknowledge receipt of the member guidelines and privacy policy. Keep in mind that whatever you list as your name and occupation is how it will be printed in the program for performances. If you have a nickname, you'd rather go by, feel free to list that. One final note, please keep this handbook with you as you may have to refer to it from time to time. Again, welcome to North County Winds!

Scan me and fill out
your information:



Member Guidelines and Privacy Policy

North County Winds (NCW) is a component of the San Diego Music Consortium, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. NCW is a collection of professional and amateur musicians of all ages dedicated to:

- performing challenging music at the highest quality level.
- supporting music education in local schools.
- encouraging individuals to play music throughout all stages of their lives.
- fostering friendship, camaraderie, and community.
- having fun!

Our Culture and Mission

As in all community bands, NCW seeks to maintain an all-inclusive and relaxed culture while fostering the strong commitment necessary to perform at a high level. The North County Winds strive to be the highest performing community band in the county with a serious approach to making music. As such, members are asked to follow the following guidelines and policies:

Audition Process

- Attend a minimum of three (3) consecutive rehearsals sitting next to the section leader.
- Section leader discussion with conductor regarding skill level and personality “fit” within the section.
- Conductor approval/denial

Rehearsal and Attendance Policy

- We rehearse every Thursday night from 7:00 pm to 9:15 pm in the Oak Valley Middle School band room located at 16055 Winecreek Rd, San Diego 92127.
- The band room opens at 6:30 pm. You are expected to warm-up, tune and secure any music needed for rehearsal, and be ready to rehearse at 7:00 pm.
- We have approximately 40 rehearsals per year and members are expected to attend 90%.
- If a member misses 3 or more rehearsals leading up to a concert, the member may not be able to perform in the concert without the director's approval.
- Dress Rehearsals are limited to only members performing in the concert.
- It is your responsibility to inform your section leader well in advance of extenuating circumstances.

Rehearsal Etiquette

Collegiate rehearsal etiquette is the standard.

- Talking during pauses in the music should be kept to a minimum and at a whisper level if necessary.
- All music must be brought to every rehearsal – set lineups are e-mailed prior to each rehearsal so members will know which pieces to prepare ahead of time.
- Please bring a pencil to rehearsal for marking music.
- All brass and woodwind players must bring a tuner to every rehearsal.
- All members are expected to return from the mid-rehearsal break and be seated ready to play at the agreed upon time.

Commitment to Practice

Members are expected to come to rehearsal with music well practiced & prepared. Rehearsals are for ensemble work, not individual practice time. Our organization plays musical selections ranging from Grade 3 to Grade 5.* New members are expected to be able to sight read at a Grade 3 level and be as good as or better than the average skill level of the section as determined by the section leader. All members are expected to be able to perform Grade 4 and 5 selections with the required amount of practice. Members who cannot maintain this level of expertise will be encouraged to seek other musical groups that better fit their talents.

*See <https://www.bandworld.org/pdfs/gradingchart.pdf> or <https://www.halleonard.com> for guidance on grade levels.

Commitment to Playing Smarter

- Music goes beyond playing the correct notes and rhythms.
- Use a tuner during warm-ups.
- Be aware, check and make tuning adjustments during rehearsal.
- Listen and blend within your section and the ensemble.
- Play dynamics to support the composition and venue.

Commitment to Perform

- Performances are the culminating product of our rehearsal.
- Most of our concerts are on the weekends.
- Notify your section leader as soon as you know of any conflicts.

Concert Etiquette and Dress

Collegiate concert etiquette is the standard. We typically play 5–6 concerts per year ranging from large community band events to informal street performances. Members should make every attempt to attend these concerts which will occur on weekends and evenings. Call times are typically one hour before downbeat.

(Concert Etiquette and Dress continued)

- Cases, purses and excess equipment must be stored off-stage
- Members must bring a black music stand (non-wire) if the venue does not provide stands.
- Talking between pieces in the music should be kept to a minimum and at a whisper level if necessary
- When standing for audience acknowledgement, please face the audience and smile.
- Formal for men: black pants and jacket (no tuxedos), black socks and shoes, black shirts
- Formal for women: black pants or skirts, black shirt or blouse, black shoes
- Casual for men and women: Khaki pants, Hawaiian or colorful shirt, no flip flops
- Holiday for men and women: black pants/skirts, festive shirt or blouse, black shoes

Concert Conflicts

For members with unavoidable conflicts with an upcoming concert, there are two options:

1. Communicate with your section leader about taking time off and returning to rehearsals after the performance.
2. Communicate with your section leader about doubling on a part up to the dress rehearsal(s).

Dues

The band is supported through membership dues of \$50 paid four times per year for all members (Jan, Apr, July, Oct). Failure to pay dues on a timely basis may be a cause for dismissal. Please contact a board member if you have a financial hardship and wish to be considered for a waiver of dues. We do not wish to turn musicians away from our group due to financial concerns.

Volunteering

Many hands make light work. Strongly consider volunteering as part of your overall commitment:

- Librarians
- Administrative and logistics support
- Board Member
- Loading and unloading the truck before and after performances
- Social Media and Marketing
- Rent/drive the equipment truck

Privacy Policy

By becoming a member, you are granting the San Diego Music Consortium, DBA North County Winds to collect, store and use your personal contact information for the purposes of conducting the normal and customary business functions associated with communicating with its members via telephone, email, mail, and text message. These functions include but are not limited to sending out member notifications, invoicing and collecting dues, and communicating other relevant band business. North County Winds will not distribute or sell any personal information outside the organization.



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San Diego Music Consortium, Inc is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.
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