



MACY'S FAQs (10/16/12, answers subject to change)

When will the Marching Band deposit be due for the 2013-2014 school year?

Some time in January 2013.

Why will the deposit be due so early?

Because each member will be measured for his/her own new, personally fitted uniform which will be purchased at considerable expense. The deposit is necessary as a commitment to the season. The deposit will be applied to the \$550 participation fee. This deposit will be **NON REFUNDABLE**.

When is the Macy's trip planned?

The plan is to depart early Monday morning November 25, 2013 and return Saturday November 30, 2013.

Will students miss school?

Yes, Monday and Tuesday 11/25 and 11/26.

What is the cost of the trip?

The cost has not been finalized, however, the hope is to keep it under \$900.

Where is the band staying?

The hotel has not been determined, but it is likely we'll be staying in NJ due to cost, not NY.

What will be on the itinerary?

The itinerary has not be finalized, however, the plan is to see the Rockettes, Ground Zero, the Statue of Liberty, a Broadway show, march in the Macy's parade, and have Thanksgiving dinner together.

Who will chaperone?

You must have a student in the band and on the trip to be a chaperone. Chaperones will be selected based on interest, previous chaperone/volunteer experience, director input, special qualifications (e.g., medical), passing a background check, etc. You do not have to be your student's chaperone, however, that is your choice. Women can act as chaperones for boys, but men can only chaperone for boys, not girls. We typically keep a ~12-1 ratio. Depending on band size and the split between M/F we anticipate needing 21-24 chaperones.

What is the cost for a chaperone?

Basically the same as the student cost. The only variable is the number of people per room.

When do chaperones need to commit?

Potential chaperones will be contacted as soon as possible, likely after January and before any trip payments are due. A background check must be passed before you are added to the chaperone list.

When will payments be due?

The cost must be finalized and the membership of the band must be determined. The official payment schedule will likely start in February or March 2013.

Can I start making small payments now?

Yes, individual trip accounts have been set up in Charms for this purpose for current juniors, sophomores, and freshmen that have registered in Charms. The trip accounts have been set up with an estimated cost of \$900. The final cost may change. If you intend to make the trip to Macy's you may begin to make payments of any size of your choosing now by logging in to Charms. If you have forgotten your login you can contact Monica Siegert at membership@lakotawestbands.org You can also follow this process for Branson. Once in Charms:

Click **FINANCES** (you should see your trip balance, if you are in Winds, the Branson amount will also be there)

Click the blue box **MAKE TRIP PAYMENT**

In the drop down box, click the arrow to select trip to pay, select **MACY'S ESTIMATE**,

put the amount you want to pay in the box, Click green **START PAYMENT** box

This will connect you with the Paypal login page to complete your payment.

What if I am a freshman and I am not in Charms and I want to start making payments?

Any freshmen that have not yet registered in Charms that would like to make payments need to register. Please follow this link to register and set up an account in Charms: <http://lakotawestbands.org/finances/freshman-band-registration/> Complete steps 2 & 3. Once your account is activated complete step 4.

Will there be a “followers package” available?

There has been enough interest that we will plan for one.

What is a followers package?

This is a package that provides transportation (buses separate from the band), hotel (separate from the band, but nearby), and some shared activities with the band. The buses and hotel are separate to keep the band focused on their tasks and taking undistracted direction from band staff while traveling.

What will the followers package cost?

It is usually similar to the student cost per person based on quad occupancy and is variable dependent upon the number of people per room. It will depend upon the itinerary of the followers package.

If we don't want to book the followers package and want to travel on our own, will there be a block of rooms at the followers' hotel available for Lakota parents to book?

You are welcome to make your own arrangements. We don't know which hotels will be involved yet. We will ask if Gateway can block a group of rooms at the followers' hotel for parents traveling on their own. We'll also see if parade seating is available with the group for parents traveling on their own.

If we have family or other plans and want to leave early with our student for NY and meet the band OR stay longer in NY and not have them ride the bus home can we do that?

Yes, we had families do that for our Disney trip. You will need to inform Mr. Snyder and your student's chaperone of your plans as the time gets near to make arrangements. The most likely exchange points will be at the band's hotel at check-in and check-out times. This is unlikely to change the cost of the trip as the bus costs the same whether there are 49 or 50 people on it and it is generally Upbeat policy not to prorate trip costs or offer “ala carte” pricing.

Does Macy's take/offer an official parade picture of the band for purchase?

We don't know, we'll need to check.