

**Carnegie Mellon University
Majorettes**

ATTN: FNR Chair, Student Senate

This is a proposal for the formation of a twirling dance group submitted to the Student Senate. Our contact information is listed below that you may inform us of any meeting.

Nicole Cheberenchick
nchebere@andrew.cmu.edu

Teri Mick
tmick@andrew.cmu.edu

Angela Chi
ahchi@andrew.cmu.edu

Article One: Name

The name of the organization will be the Carnegie Mellon University Majorettes (“Majorettes”).

Article Two: Purpose

The purpose of the Majorettes is to gather together young men and women with experience twirling (a form of dance utilizing batons, ribbon, hoops, Samoan knives, etc.) and those who have little or no experience but wish to learn. The intent is to form a group from these members who are interested in performing with the Kiltie Marching Band and other events.

Article Three: Membership

Meetings

All meetings of the Majorettes are open to the general public. Anyone interested in learning may show up for just one meeting, or show up for several to become members. Sign-in on the attendance sheet and acceptance of the Majorettes’ Liability Disclaimer is required to participate in any Majorette meeting or activity.

Membership

Officer elections are the primary use of group voting. The following guidelines dictate the voting of members:

1. All auditioned members are voting members.
2. Voting membership exists by attending 4 consecutive meetings, and cannot be revoked unless membership is forfeited by 3 consecutive absences without notice to the Head Majorette and Secretary. Voting members are allocated one vote on any issue that may come before the Majorettes. All officers (except Choreographers) must be voting members at the time of election.

Auditioning

Members interested in performing (for example: at football games) will also be required to attend regular practices and, if exceedingly sufficient interest exists, audition for a position. Auditioning will be judged by the Head Majorette and selected senior officers or members to fill a chosen number of positions and alternates. Auditioning criteria may include:

1. Dedication to the Majorettes (either through teaching or learning, but definitely through attendance)
2. Versatility (if necessary for the performance, ability to use different medium or a strong interest in learning)
3. Prepared routines

4. Kiltie Band Fight Song
5. On-the-spot routines created by the Head Majorette or other officers
6. Any other criteria determined by the Head Majorette and previously disclosed to those auditioning.

Attendance For Auditioned Positions

When members have auditioned for a position in a dance or series of performances, consistent attendance is required at all practices and performances. Failure to attend 80% of practices for a show (without advance permission of the Head Majorette and informing the Secretary) is grounds for temporary replacement by an alternate. The Head Majorette and Secretary must be informed immediately if a member is unable to attend a performance so that a replacement can be found.

Article Four: Uniform

Members interested in performing will require a uniform. The women's uniform, purchased from Algy, costs approximately \$120 plus shipping. It includes:

1. Red and gold sequined sleeveless one-piece bodice and skirt
2. Red and gold sequined gloves
3. Soft black dance shoes

Also:

1. Black socks
2. Dance tights (which are thicker than pantyhose)

A men's uniform will be decide when necessary, although they will still require the soft black dance shoes and socks.

Changes to the uniform are at the discretion of the 3/5ths group majority.

Uniforms must be purchased in full before being ordered, and will not be replaced or refunded by the Majorettes.

Uniforms purchased are the property of the member paying for it, and do no need to be yielded to any other member or to the group against their will. Upon resigning or graduating, it is the choice of the member whether he/she wants to keep his/her uniform or donate it to the organization for future members.

Article Five: Offices and Descriptions

The Executive Board consists of all the officers of the Majorettes and meets at the minimum once a month to discuss group interests. Choreographers are not considered officers and are not a part of the Executive Board. At the discretion of the Executive Board (by 4/5ths majority), any issue presented to the Executive Board may be turned to the entire membership for decision of action.

Head Majorette

The leader of the Majorettes is the Head Majorette. He/she is the seniormost and/or most active member of the Majorettes, chosen by the prior Head Majorette.

The Head Majorette:

1. Choreographs and teaches routines
2. Teaches/mentors members
3. Conducts auditions as need be
4. Conducts officer elections
5. Approves candidates
6. Holds the overriding vote (1 1/2 votes)
7. Mediates any problems within the group
8. Approves group expenditures voted on by the officers
9. Makes necessary purchases for the group
10. Interacts with the university representatives
11. Is expected to continue working with the Public Relations Director(s) and other members over breaks
12. Delegates any tasks to other members
13. Assumes responsibilities of other vacant offices until a replacement can be found

Public Relations Director(s)

The Public Relations Director is elected by the group after receiving the approval of the Head Majorette. The Public Relations Director(s):

1. Is responsible for researching performance and growth opportunities (not limited to, but including: parades, conferences/symposiums, and competitions).
2. Is responsible for presenting these opportunities to the Majorettes
3. Interacts with the university representatives
4. Promotes the Majorettes on campus to encourage membership through distribution of flyers, posters, websites, advertising, etc.
5. Promotes the Majorettes to incoming freshmen and prospective students
6. Creates/edits organization website, which includes but is not limited to: contact information for organization officers, photos, history, and links to choreography that can be printed by members
7. Is expected to continue working with the Head Majorette and other members over breaks
8. Each hold one vote
9. Teaches/mentors members

Treasurer

The Treasurer is elected by the group after receiving the approval of the Head Majorette. The Treasurer:

1. Is responsible for tracking all intakes and expenditures

2. Is responsible for requesting and filing receipts, invoices, etc.
3. Is responsible for tracking intakes and payments individually—by the person making the payment—especially with regards to fundraising
4. Is responsible for the depositing of funds
5. Is able to present records of the Majorettes to the Head Majorette, group, or university representatives as needed
6. Holds one vote
7. Teaches/mentors members

Secretary

The Secretary is elected by the group after receiving the approval of the Head Majorette. The Secretary:

1. Is responsible for taking attendance
2. Files all documents, letters, etc. between the Majorettes and other organizations, the university, etc.
3. Publishes a list of members containing their name, email address, and phone number to be distributed to the group at the first football game, including member additions as they occur via email to all members
4. Informs all members of meetings and practices, as well as changes to meetings and practices
5. Holds one vote
6. Teaches/mentors members

Fundraising Chair

The Fundraising Chair is elected by the group after receiving the approval of the Head Majorette. The Fundraising Chair:

1. Researches fundraising opportunities
2. Presents findings to the Majorettes
3. Upon Executive Board approval, plans the fundraisers
4. Carries out the fundraisers
5. Keeps track of assistance in fundraisers
6. Reports intakes and expenditures to the Executive Board
7. Holds one vote
8. Delivers funds to Treasurer at the Executive Board meeting

Choreographer(s)

Anyone interested in choreographing write a simple letter to the Head Majorette stating his/her interest in choreographing and some ideas. Choreographers are chosen by the Head Majorette and are not considered officers. Choreographer(s):

1. Chose and acquire music for a dance (as well as performance/usage rights, if necessary)
2. Choreograph the dance
3. Teach it to the Majorettes

4. Provide a copy of the choreography to each officer and the Public Relations Director(s)
5. Do not hold a vote in any matters presented to the Executive Board
6. Do not need to be a member of the Majorettes

If the Head Majorette and Majorettes approve of the dance, it may be used for a performance.

Elections

Elections for the offices of Public Relation(s) Director, Treasurer, and Secretary are conducted by the Head Majorette at the end of the school year for the next year's officers. All members who have exhibited consistent attendance and interest throughout the year are given a vote, with the Head Majorette vote counting as 1.5 and overriding. In the event of a vacancy of position, elections are to be held within two weeks of the vacancy.

Article Six: Miscellaneous

Funding

Funds by the school would be used to purchase batons and bags for general member use. Batons are approximately \$20-25 apiece, and sports bags or baton bags (\$35-50) are necessary to transport a number of them. Funds would also be used for advertising expenses (variable) and for the purchase of uniforms (which cost approximately \$120 apiece). In addition, funding would be used for membership in the United States Twirling Association (variable based on size of dance team) and, if necessary, toward the payment of a local instructor trained in baton/advisor. Transportation costs to events would also be variable.

Fundraising

It is the responsibility of the Fundraising Chair to procure funds whether through fundraisers or donations. With regards to fundraisers that require member participation to carry out, only members who assist in the fundraiser will receive assistance. These funds can be used, if chosen, to alleviate the costs of uniforms or batons.

Meeting Space

Every meeting of the Majorettes would require a large meeting area with a high ceiling. As twirling is a form of dance, a large floor area is necessary, especially as group attendance increases. The form of dance involves the tossing of batons into the air, necessitating a high ceiling with no breakable structures (example hanging light fixtures). The ideal areas are gymnasiums (generally only half of the floor is needed) although the stadium and fields are possible locations in warm, dry weather.

Web Space and Group Email Address

To increase awareness of the group, the Majorettes would like web space on the Carnegie Mellon server and an email address.

Storage Space

A tall locker or small storage space would be advantageous to store batons and supplies in when the Majorettes are not meeting.

Liability

Due to the risk of being bruised, hit, or hurt by a baton, etc., the Majorettes will emphasize safety in twirling. The Majorettes will *not* assume responsibility for any injury. Participation in *any* Majorettes activity constitutes acknowledgement of these risks. This liability must be placed at the top of any attendance sheet; the name of a person on this sheet acknowledges acceptance in writing. Without signing in, this person may not participate in activities.

Article Seven: Amendments

Amendments may be made to these by-laws after being proposed to the Head Majorette. If approved by the Head Majorette, the amendments may be passed with a 4/5th majority.