

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Feature Twirler Audition Information

Sam Houston State University Feature Twirlers are an integral part of the Bearkat Marching Band, performing at all home football games, pep rallies, basketball games and other school functions. Our twirlers are highly visible, solo performers, carrying the spirit, pride and tradition of Sam Houston State University, while cheering on their BEARKATS! All twirlers receive a twirling package, which includes the Robbie Maloy Riley Feature Twirler Scholarship and/or stipends. Scholarship and stipend amounts are determined each year, during auditions and are awarded in the Fall semester.

Sam Houston State University Feature Twirler required skills:

- Three Spin-gym (vertical)
- Two Spin-gym (horizontal)
- Two spin catch left and right, backhand
- Toss, reverse illusion
- One spin, catch backhand, reverse illusion
- Toss cartwheel or toss walk over
- Variety of rolls
- 2 & 3 baton combinations
- Advanced understanding of bodywork and dance
- Entertainment skills
- Tour Jetes, Left & Right Grand Jetes, Splits, Layback, Front & Back Cabriole

Other attributes:

- Confident posture, good eye contact and cheerful disposition
- Commitment to be present at all Bearkat Marching Band functions made known to you
- Emphasis on the good of the team and band over self-interest

Willingness to:

- Learn new material/skills
- Learn how to count music and read drills
- Lead and follow

FEATURE TWIRLER AUDITIONS 2023-24

Prospective new twirlers audition in a two-step process. Returning twirlers are exempt from step one.

Step 1: Candidate review and video prescreening

- **Due March 1st, 2023**
- **Resume, references, headshot and video**

Resume should include:

- Name
- Address
- Email address
- Mobile cell number
- Statement describing why you would like to be a Sam Houston State University Feature Twirler
- Band and competitive twirling career accomplishments
- List of former and current coaches
- Current acceptance status to Sam Houston State University

References:

- Three references. Preferably, one from your current coach, a school administrator and band director.

Video:

- An Unlisted YouTube video link. The video must have a 2 minute uncut segment, including field, competition and/or practice performances. The video should be no longer than 5 minutes.
- Email all materials to the Director of the Bearkat Marching Bands, Dr. Brian Gibbs at bxg012@shsu.edu and the Twirling Director, Kelley McCormick at shsufeaturetwirlers@gmail.com.
- Once all packets have been received and reviewed, selected applicants will be invited to participate in a live audition.

Step 2: Auditions and Interviews for Invited Finalist

- Audition date and location (TBA) Please note auditions may take place outside, on a turf field or inside, in a gymnasium. Once our date and location is confirmed, we will notify each candidate.
- Twirlers should arrive in full performance attire, ready to perform the following two routines:
 - Solo:** a 2:20-3:00 minute routine, choreographed to music of your choice, showcasing 1, 2 and 3 baton skills.
 - Down the field:** this routine should be performed to the Sam Houston State University Fight Song. The fight song can be found at the following link: <https://youtu.be/d3Ue2bZRiqY> This routine should be no longer than 10 “8” counts, covering the length of a standard gym and demonstrating choreography of your choice.
- After all candidates have auditioned, a private interview to discuss your collegiate goals and aspirations for becoming a Sam Houston State University Feature Twirler, will take place.
- For returning twirlers, the interview will review your past band participation, accomplishments and degree status.
- Final results will be announced within a week of auditions. Each candidate will be privately contacted via email.

For further information or questions, please email the Twirling Director, Kelley McCormick at shsufeaturetwirlers@gmail.com.