

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers about Twirling at Kilgore College

Q - What do I have to do to tryout?

A - Candidates for tryouts come to Masters Gym on the day of tryouts (usually the first Saturday in May) and learn a basic fundamental routine and also a field routine in about 3 hours. Results are announced that afternoon. *** Tryouts for 2010 will be held on Saturday, May 1st!

Q - What is a fundamental routine?

A - The fundamental routine is a basic warm up of fundamentals performed in a prepared sequence. This fundamental routine starts with basic fundamentals (two-hand-spin and four finger twirls) and progresses to more advanced fundamentals. It also emphasizes body work (toe points, lunges and laybacks) and allows candidates to demonstrate their understanding of twirling fundamentals for the judges to review and critique. This fundamental routine can be performed with a song or by counts. Candidates will learn this routine during the morning session of tryouts. This same fundamental routine will also be taught at the All Star Clinic in February and will be used from year to year. This fundamental routine is the first of two required routines performed at tryouts.

Q - What should I expect from the field routine that is taught at tryouts?

A - The field routine is choreographed to a band arrangement that will be used during the following football season. This routine will demonstrate each candidate's ability to perform and blend with others who are demonstrating the style of KC twirling line. Smoothness, projection, smile, eye contact, precision, accuracy and over all audience appeal are all factors for the judges to consider while critiquing each candidate.

Q - What do I need to wear to try out for a position on the twirling line?

A - Candidates may wear comfortable clothing of their choice during the morning session. All candidates are required to wear solid black shorts, skirt, tights or skort and a SOLID color (of their choice) top to the actual tryouts that afternoon. Clothing should be snug and fitted so judges may see body movements during performances. Solid color tops, shirts or leotards of different colors help the judges distinguish girls from each other. Please remember to wear solid tops and bottoms. You may wear any color or style of tennis shoe or jazz shoe that feels comfortable to you. You might bring tennis shoes and jazz shoes and see which feels better on the gym floor.

Q - What do I need to wear if I am trying out for drum major?

A - Typically those trying out for the line and also drum major will first wear the solid color top and bottoms and then change to an outfit of their choosing after the twirling line portion of tryouts is completed. An announcement will be made that the twirling line part of tryouts has been completed and those trying out for drum major can change clothes at this time.

Q - What if I am trying out for feature twirler and also a position on the twirling line?

A - Those trying out for feature twirler and also a position on the line will need to be dressed in a costume or outfit appropriate for a feature twirler. Please do not go to the expense of purchasing something new for these tryouts, but those who already have a suit may wear it at this time. The ability of the candidate is being judged and not the costume. Those trying out for feature twirler do not have guidelines to follow concerning what is worn at tryouts. If a candidate is also trying out for the line, she can change to the required solid color shirt and black bottoms after tryouts for feature twirler. Tryouts for feature twirler are generally held first, then line auditions followed by drum major tryouts.

Q - How many twirlers are selected to be on the line?

A - The number of candidates selected is up to the judges to decide. There is no set number of twirlers on the KCT line. The judges usually see a "cut off" line and make decisions accordingly.

Q - How many feature twirlers are selected?

A - Ideally one feature twirler will be selected for the year, but there have been times when several did tryout for feature twirler and the judges decided not to have a feature twirler. A feature twirler must have a great variety of tricks, use multiple batons, have speed, be accurate and have audience appeal to be considered for this position. On rare occasions, two feature twirlers have been selected, but this is only because of the talent both possessed and also their ability to work well together.

Q - What time should I be there if I am trying out for drum major or feature twirler and not for the line?

A - You need to be at Masters Gym around 1:00.

Q - Who can try out for drum major?

A - Drum majors can be twirling drum majors or non-twirling drum majors. This position may be held by a freshman or a sophomore.

Q - What do I have to do to try out for drum major?

A - Those wishing to be considered for drum major need to come to tryouts that afternoon and perform a drum major drill of your choice. Your drill will need to be performed in Masters Gym. You may use a song of your choice.

Q - How often do we practice during the school year?

A - Twirling practices are held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 12:00 - 1:00 and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:30 - 2:00 during the fall and spring semester.

Q - What twirling responsibilities will I have during the summer?

A - KCTs assist alumni during the week of Tops in Twirling Camp in July. KCTs also attend a few practices in June to prepare for camp in July. KCTs start back to school in August a week earlier than regular students so they can prepare for football season and learn or review routines they learned at tryouts or camp. Exact dates for summer practices will be given on tryout day. 2010 Camp will be held Wednesday, July 7 - Saturday, July 10.

Q - Do I need to play an instrument in band?

A - No, KCTs only twirl and do not play an instrument at any time.

Q - Will I be able to work and still be a twirler?

A - Yes, because our practices are held during the day and everyone knows what to expect concerning our schedule, twirlers have time to work and also study for their classes.

Q - Is it a lot like twirling on a high school line?

A - Not really. Those on the line are really the best, most talented and the easiest to get along with from leading twirling lines in our area. Twirling at the college level is very different from twirling on a high school line. It is hard to describe, you just have to experience it to understand how good it can be!

Q - Who is the instructor for the KCTs?

A - Paige Keitt is the KCT instructor. She lives in Henderson and she enjoys working with twirlers at the college level.

Q - Do twirlers get any scholarships?

A - Yes! This amount may vary from year to year but generally each girl will receive a \$300.00 scholarship from the band each fall. In the past, the Once...Always alumni organization has also given each girl \$250.00 for the spring semester. These amounts can go up or down depending on the amount of money accumulated during fund raisers the previous year. Additional scholarships include the Vickie Bowden Mobbs Scholarship and the Paige Christian Keitt Scholarship. The VBM Scholarship is generally given to the drum major and the PCK Scholarship is generally given to a sophomore. After your first semester at school, you must maintain a GPA of 2.5 or higher and be enrolled in at least 12 semester hours to continue to be eligible for scholarships the next semester.

Q - How do I get more information about tryouts?

1. A - Go to the KCT web page and check out all of the information provided to potential candidates. The address is www.kctwirlers.com.

2. A - Contact Paige Keitt at keittpaige@yahoo.com, kctwirlers@rocketmail.com or write to her at P. O. Box 1507, Henderson, TX 75653 and she can probably answer your question!

Q - What can I do to prepare as much as possible for tryouts?

1. A - Come to the All Star twirling clinic in January. This clinic is designed for 9, 10, 11 and 12 graders who want to get an idea of what it is like to be a KCT. Those attending the All Star Clinic will learn the fundamental routine that will be used on tryout day and also a dance twirl routine that will be performed with the current KCTs at a KC basketball game that evening. Check out the web site for more information on dates and times.
2. A - See if there are any former KCTs in your area and ask them to work with you and help you prepare for tryouts at KC!

Q - What are my financial obligations?

A - Those selected as twirler will need to pay a onetime, nonrefundable fee of \$350.00 on the day of tryouts. This money helps with expenses for field suits, alterations, hats, boots, warm-up suits, shirt and any other expenses during the year. This fee is only collected once a year. Those chosen as drum major or feature twirler will have an adjusted price because they are responsible for providing their own field suit. Those chosen as drum major or feature twirler will need to pay \$300.00 and be responsible for providing their own field suit for football season. KCTs also exchange *small* gifts with big sisters or little sisters during the year and make pages for scrapbooks that will be copied and shared with other twirlers at the end of the spring semester. Every effort will be made to keep expenses for gifts as reasonable as possible.

Q - I have heard that all of the KCTs go to a physical trainer once a week. How does that work?

A - Yes the KCTs are very fortunate to have Jill Nichols as the personal trainer for the line. Jill meets with the girls individually or in small groups once each week. The trainer works with all of the twirlers for the fall and spring semester. Jill evaluates each girl individually and designs a personal fitness plan that will help each twirler perform to her best ability. Being in great shape is a good way to keep girls stay healthy and not pull muscles or become injured while performing the physically demanding body moves required for twirling at the college level. She is also very concerned about their health and encourages the girls to develop wise eating habits that they can use all through their life. The services of the personal trainer are provided to all KCTs at no additional expense. The alumni association assumes financial responsibility for providing a personal trainer for the twirling line. We are very lucky to have such a wonderful opportunity!

I hope that these questions and answers have helped you have a better understanding of how the twirling program at Kilgore College is set up. Please feel free to contact me if you have any more questions and I will be happy to talk with you and give you some answers to your questions! Thank you very much for your interest in the twirling program at Kilgore College.

Once...Always,

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