Stephen F. Austin State University
Twirl-O-Jack & Feature Twirler Audition Packet

Audition Dates
Saturday, March 26, 2011 & Saturday, April 2, 2011
William R. Johnson Coliseum, SFASU campus

All candidates for SFA Twirl-O-Jack for the 2011 Lumberjack Marching Band will be taught a
dance twirl routine by the Twirl-O-Jack Coordinator on Saturday March 26, 2011 from 8:30
a.m. to 5:00 p.m. T-O-J candidates will have one week to practice and perfect the routine.
On Saturday April 2, 2011, T-O-J candidates will return for a brief review session from 8:30
a.m. to noon. T-O-J auditions will immediately follow Feature Twirler auditions, beginning
promptly at 2:00 p.m. at the William R. Johnson Coliseum, located on the SFA campus.

All candidates for SFA Feature Twirler for the 2011 Lumberjack Marching Band are expected
to prepare a solo routine of their choice and provide a CD of audition routine music.
Candidates for SFA Feature Twirler are not required to attend rehearsal on Saturday March
26, 2011. Feature Twirler candidates are to report to the William R. Johnson Coliseum by
1:00 p.m. on Saturday April 2, 2011 for check-in and sound check. Feature Twirler
candidates will audition first, beginning promptly at 2:00 p.m. at the William R. Johnson
Coliseum, located on the SFA campus.

Audition Schedule:

**Saturday March 26, 2011**
8:30 a.m.  Meet at William R. Johnson Coliseum
9:00 a.m.  Begin learning audition routine
12:00 p.m. Lunch on your own
1:00 p.m.  Meet at William R. Johnson Coliseum
5:00 p.m.  Dinner on your own
6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Optional review session

**Saturday April 2, 2011**
8:30 a.m.  Meet at William R. Johnson Coliseum
9:00 a.m.  Review routine
12:00 p.m. Lunch on your own; change into audition attire
1:00 p.m.  Feature Twirler Candidates meet at William R. Johnson Coliseum
2:00 p.m.  Auditions begin
Please complete the following information sheet and fax, email or mail to the address given by Monday, March 21, 2011:

Stephen F. Austin State University Lumberjack Marching Band
Twirl-O-Jack Auditions
Attn: Dr. David Campo/Candice Curbow
Box 13043, SFA Station
Nacogdoches, Texas 75962
Fax: 936-468-1318
Email: lumberjackband@sfasu.edu

Name: ______________________________________________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________________________________

City: __________________________ State: __________ Zip: __________

Home Phone: __________________________________________________________________

Cell Phone: ______________________

Email: ______________________________________________________________________

Date of Birth: __________________________________________________________________

School Attended: ______________________________________________________________

Band Director: __________________________________________________________________

Number of years of twirling experience: ___________________________________________

Type of Experience:
  Twirling Line: ________________ years
  Feature Twirler: ________________ years

Candidate is interested in auditioning for: (please check all that apply)
  Twirl-O-Jack _____  Head Twirl-O-Jack _____  Assistant Head Twirl-O-Jack _____
  Feature Twirler _____

College Classification for Fall 2010:
  Freshman ______  Sophomore_______  Junior_______  Senior_______

*Optional: You may attach a list of twirling honors received and/or as many as two letters of recommendation.
For more information contact the Stephen F. Austin State University band office at lumberjackband@sfasu.edu, 936-468-4702; or Candice Curbow, SFA Twirl-O-Jack Coordinator at candicecurbow@hotmail.com, 936-556-5036.

**Grace… Poise… Style!**

These are words that have become synonymous with the Twirl-O-Jacks of Stephen F. Austin State University since their founding in 1956 under the band directorship of Jimmie Hudgins. While Mr. Hudgins coined the name “Twirl-O-Jacks,” the group’s unique style was created by then Head TOJ, Pat (Griffin) Bridges. This group is known and respected throughout the United States for its tradition of unique Choreography, high quality performances, and impressive appearance. The graceful, flashy and entertaining TOJ style reflects careful attention to skill. This is coordinated with a combination of beautiful ballet-based body form and various other contemporary dance forms and steps.


The Twirl-O-Jacks are well-known throughout the state for their flashy and precise execution of the dance-twirl routines at football and basketball games, pep-rallies, and other functions of SFASU. The group also has to its credit championships at the USTA National Open and the AAU Southwest and National Open.
Stephen F. Austin State University Twirl-O-Jack 
& Feature Twirler Audition Criteria

Twirl-O-Jack and Feature Twirler Auditions are generally held on the last two Saturdays in March at the William R. Johnson Coliseum on the SFASU campus. The SFA Twirl-O-Jacks are comprised of a Head T-O-J, an Assistant Head T-O-J and 6 to 20 Twirl-O-Jacks, depending on the quality of candidates. Auditions are open to the public.

Judges
Judges for T-O-J and Feature Twirler Auditions will consist of the Lumberjack Marching Band Director, the Twirl-O-Jack Coordinator, and two to three former Twirl-O-Jacks and/or Feature Twirlers. The actual number of candidates selected for Feature Twirler and Twirl-O-Jacks will be at the sole discretion of the judging panel based on their professional evaluation of the candidates. The decision of the judges at the auditions is final.

Feature Twirler
Candidates for Feature Twirler will report to the William R. Johnson Coliseum at 1:00 p.m. for audition check-in and sound check. Feature Twirler candidates will audition first, at 2:00 p.m. Candidates should have a feature routine prepared for auditions that demonstrates the candidate’s feature twirling abilities. Each candidate is responsible for providing a CD containing the music of choice for the audition routine. Candidates for feature twirler should exhibit an outstanding ability for collegiate level feature twirling. (Samoan Knives are not allowed on the coliseum floor.)

Head Twirl-O-Jack
Candidates for Head Twirl-O-Jack are required to complete one year as a Twirl-O-Jack before being eligible to audition. During audition rehearsal, candidates for Head T-O-J will polish and critique a specified section of the audition routine. Head T-O-J candidates audition first, immediately following feature twirler auditions. Candidates for Head T-O-J should demonstrate excellent leadership and organizational skills, polishing techniques, careful attention to detail and maintain a positive attitude as well as exhibit outstanding T-O-J performance, style and fundamentals. Head T-O-J duties are as follows:

- Organizes and runs practices
- Selects practice attire
- Attends to University and SFA band details and paper work
- Keeps in contact with T-O-J Coordinator on a regular basis
- Polishes & critiques routines
- Keeps inventory of all props, uniforms and equipment
- Keeps attendance records of practices and events
- Responsible for all music recordings and music equipment
**Assistant Head Twirl-O-Jack**

All Twirl-O-Jack Candidates are eligible to audition for Assistant Head Twirl-O-Jack. During the audition rehearsal, candidates for Asst. Head T-O-J will polish and critique a specified section of the audition routine. Asst. Head T-O-J candidates will audition with or immediately following Head T-O-J candidates, depending on the number of Head T-O-J candidates. Asst. Head T-O-J candidates should demonstrate excellent leadership skills, polishing techniques, ability to assist the Head T-O-J and maintain a positive attitude as well as exhibit outstanding T-O-J performance, style and fundamentals. Asst. Head duties are as follows:

- Conducts stretch-outs at practice
- Runs practices in the absence of the Head T-O-J
- Assists the Head T-O-J with organization, polishing, music and conducting practices
- Keeps Websites up to date on upcoming events and current pictures
- Assists with inventory of props, uniforms and equipment

**Twirl-O-Jacks**

Candidates for SFA Twirl-O-Jack, including Head & Asst. Head T-O-J candidates, will be taught a dance twirl routine during the first Saturday audition rehearsal. Candidates will have one week to practice and perfect the routine. Twirl-O-Jack candidates will meet the following Saturday for a brief polish and review session from 8:30 a.m. to noon. The actual Twirl-O-Jack auditions will begin immediately following the Feature Twirler auditions at 2:00 p.m. Twirl-O-Jack candidates should exhibit showmanship and presentation, positive attitude, mastery of the audition routine, ability to adapt to the T-O-J twirling style, control and mastery of basic twirling fundamentals and an outstanding ability to twirl at a collegiate level.

**Twirl-O-Jack Alternate**

Candidates for Twirl-O-Jack that appear to have the potential to be an outstanding Twirl-O-Jack, but are not meeting all criteria by auditions may be selected as Twirl-O-Jack Alternate. T-O-J Alternate is not the same as alternate for high school twirling lines, in which alternates only perform when a line member is unable. A Twirl-O-Jack Alternate is a potential T-O-J line member in training, which will have the opportunity to twirl at all T-O-J performances once T-O-J skills have improved. Alternates are required to audition for the T-O-J Coordinator before each performance and are not allowed to perform until all T-O-J standards have been met. T-O-J Alternates will be expected to work with the Head, Assistant Head and/or T-O-J Coordinator between March and August to improve on Twirl-O-Jack skills.

**Audition Attire**

Attire for SFA Twirl-O-Jack audition rehearsals should be fitted athletic clothing such as tank tops, dance shorts, skirts, leggings or jazz pants and dance or twirling shoes such as jazz shoes. No loose or baggy clothing, no athletic tennis shoes. Hair secured away from face.
Attire for SFA Twirl-O-Jack auditions should be a solid black sports bra, solid black tank top, black jazz pants and black jazz shoes. Hair secured away from face, performance make-up and red lipstick.

Attire for SFA Feature Twirler auditions can be simple dancewear or a special costume of your choice.

**Audition Qualifications**
Candidates must be enrolled as a full-time (12 hours) student at Stephen F. Austin State University or be eligible for enrollment for the following fall semester.

- **Returning line members and current SFA students:** Candidates are not required to be in good standing with the university at the time of auditions. Candidates selected for Twirl-O-Jack or Feature Twirler are required to be in good standing (2.0 GPA) with the university by the following fall semester to remain on the line.

- **High School Seniors:** Candidates are not required to be accepted by Stephen F. Austin State University at the time of auditions. Candidates selected for Twirl-O-Jack or Feature Twirler are required to be enrolled as a full-time student by the following fall semester to remain on the line. GPA qualifications begin after the fall semester.

**Lumberjack Band Membership**
SFA Twirl-O-Jacks and Feature Twirler are not required to play an instrument in the Lumberjack Marching Band.

**Scholarships**
All SFA Twirl-O-Jacks and Feature Twirler will receive a $500.00 scholarship ($250 in Fall, $250 in Spring) pending grades. Twirl-O-Jack Alternates will not receive a scholarship. In addition, there are two alumni scholarships available for Twirl-O-Jacks and Feature Twirler. The amount of each scholarship varies from year to year depending on the economy.

- **Bridges/McKinney Scholarship** – Founded by Joan (Griffin) Bridges, former Head T-O-J and T-O-J Coordinator and Linda (Bridges) McKinney, former Feature Twirler. All Twirl-O-Jacks (including T-O-J Alternates) and Feature Twirler are eligible for this scholarship.

- **Jimmie Hudgins Scholarship** – Founded by Twirl-O-Jack Alumni by various fundraisers and donations. Jimmie Hudgins was the former band director that coined the Twirl-O-Jacks name in 1956. This scholarship is generally awarded to a returning T-O-J that demonstrates a positive attitude, good work ethic, outstanding twirling abilities and is in good standing with SFA.

**Rehearsals**
SFA Twirl-O-Jacks will have four Saturday practices during summer break. New Twirl-O-Jacks will be required to attend all four practices in order to learn the T-O-J’s traditional routines. All Twirl-O-Jacks will attend the last summer practice for polish and review of all traditional T-O-J routines. The Lumberjack Marching Band begins summer rehearsal one week prior to the first day of classes at SFA. During this week, the T-O-J’s will attend band orientation and learn all
routines for the first halftime show. Once classes begin, the Lumberjack Marching Band will begin regular rehearsals Monday through Thursday from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. on home game days. The SFA Twirl-O-Jacks meet 30 minutes prior to band practice to allow time to stretch properly. Additionally, the Twirl-O-Jacks have late practice two days a week from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., usually on Monday and Thursday evenings. Twirl-O-Jacks and Feature Twirler are required to enroll in this music class and will receive college credit and a grade for the class at the end of the fall semester. T-O-J’s are required to attend all rehearsals unless illness or a family emergency occurs. Work conflicts are not considered excusable for missing practice or being late to practice. Absences and arriving late will be considered when grades are given at the end of the fall semester.

**Rehearsal Attire**

SFA Twirl-O-Jacks will wear matching practice outfits on late practice days and on Saturday morning rehearsals. On non-matching days, T-O-J’s will wear their choice of sports bra, tank top, soffee style shorts with slider shorts underneath (sliders are similar to bike shorts but shorter), leggings or jazz pants with white high top classic style Reeboks or jazz shoes. No loose or baggy clothing allowed. Hair secured out of face.

**Expenses**

Twirl-O-Jacks are responsible for purchasing certain mandatory items for performances and practices. The price range for a new Twirl-O-Jack is approximately $400 - $500, depending on the items ordered. All items must be ordered and paid for by mid June to insure delivery by August.

Twirl-O-Jacks and Feature Twirler are responsible for purchasing the following items:
- 2 practice outfits that consist of a matching tank top and shorts
- Wind suit
- White Reeboks, high top classic style
- Hoodie
- Black jazz pants
- Polo shirt
- 1 to 2 matching t-shirts
- 2 to 3 ABC style batons (3 recommended)

SFA purchases the following items for Twirl-O-Jacks and Feature Twirler:
- Baton Bag
- Black and tan tights
- Black and tan jazz shoes
- Field Uniform
- Jazz top (only T-O-J’s)
- All performance props (knives, streamers, maracas, tambourines, glow batons, etc.)

*Each candidate selected as Feature Twirler or Twirl-O-Jack, will sign a contract to be turned in to the Twirl-O-Jack Coordinator immediately following auditions.*
The Feature Twirler and members of the Twirl-O-Jack line will be expected to conduct themselves in a respectable manner at all times.