

# Samohi Parents

Questions and Answers provided by the Webmaster. Info is available on our website, [www.samohiband.org](http://www.samohiband.org).

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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Question	Answer
What is the SMAPA?	The SMAPA is the Santa Monica Arts Parents Association, the non-profit umbrella organization for all of the Samohi arts groups: Band, Orchestra, Choir, and Theater.
What is the Hotline Number?	<b>(310) 395-3204 Ext. 979</b> Call this number to hear a recording stating the expected arrival time of the band back at school when it is away for a competition. Check this number before you leave to pick up your student.

<p>What is E-SCRIP? Or, how do I get \$\$ for the band when I shop?</p>	<p>E-SCRIP raises \$\$\$ for Samohi music programs as you shop without costing you a penny. Everybody eats so there's no excuse not to participate!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Register your Vons card and we'll get a contribution every time you use it at Vons/Pavilions. Give us the card number and we'll take care of registration.</li> <li>• Ralphs will automatically give Samohi music programs 4-5% of your purchases. You will need to register your card online at <a href="http://Ralphs.com">Ralphs.com</a> and you'll contribute every time you shop. Register your Albertson's Preferred card. They will give us a cut of your purchases too.</li> <li>• Go to <a href="http://www.escrip.com">www.escrip.com</a> and register your credit card(s). We get a contribution every time you use a registered card at Whole Foods, OSH, Big 5, Eddie Bauer, Carl's Jr., Pick-up Stix and other merchants.</li> <li>• Visit <a href="http://www.schoolpop.com">www.schoolpop.com</a> on your way to on-line shopping at Amazon, Land's End and many other on-line merchants and say you support Santa Monica Band Parents Association. Again, we automatically get a percentage of what you purchase.</li> </ul> <p>Questions?? Contact our E-Scrip Coordinator.</p>
<p>What can I do to help?</p>	<p>There are lots of things you as a parent can do to help your student and the others in the band. Try these for starters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help with ice water breaks at band camps and competitions. Marching causes dehydration, and we are very careful to assure that no one becomes dehydrated.</li> <li>• Shop with E-SCRIP!</li> <li>• Assist with uniforms. It requires a lot of organization and labor to put the students into their marching uniforms.</li> <li>• Help the color guard sew up ever fancier, lighter, more maneuverable flags!</li> <li>• Put your literary talents to good use right here! Work as historian, webmaster, newsletter writer, etc.</li> <li>• Come watch your student and mine perform! The kids love to perform for their loved ones.</li> <li>• Remind your student of the dangers of dehydration, and to ask for a water bearer whenever thirsty.</li> </ul>

<p>How safe is my student?</p>	<p>We make every effort to make your student's band experience is a happy, rewarding, and safe one.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each bus has at least one adult chaperone that carries a list of names of the students traveling on the bus. The chaperone keeps order on the bus and, if a medical emergency arises, carries a copy of the medical emergency card you filled out for your student earlier this year. Each chaperone carries a walkie-talkie to coordinate with other buses and vehicles in the caravan, as well as a cell phone.</li> <li>• At the performance location, a first aid station is set up to provide for minor health needs, such as bandages, antiseptic spray, and sun screen lotion. When the band marches, the first aid station is loaded onto a wagon and travels with the band.</li> <li>• As mentioned above, one of the biggest dangers during a performance is dehydration. We bring a lot of water, and, except for brief periods when the band is actually in competition, water bearers are constantly circulating in the band formation to slack the thirst of anyone who requests it.</li> <li>• The adults in attendance constantly circulate to assure the health and well-being of each student.</li> </ul>
<p>When/where should I drop off my student prior to a band competition?</p>	<p>Generally, your student should be outside the Band Room at the instructed time the morning of the competition. Drop off and pick up your student in the senior/north parking lot only.</p>
<p>I'd like to attend a band competition. How do I do this?</p>	<p>Highway directions to the competitions are handed out to band members the day before the competition. In addition, some parents caravan to the competition, and seats may be available for carpooling. The itinerary and maps are posted on the website as soon as they are available.</p>
<p>How do I find out the step-off time of the parade and the field show?</p>	<p>An itinerary will be passed out a day or two before the competition. Ask to see it.</p>

<p>What should the student bring to the competition?</p>	<p>Here's a list typical of what your student will need to bring.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Instrument.</li> <li>2. Extra reeds, valve oil, etc.</li> <li>3. DRILL CHARTS AND MUSIC</li> <li>4. Black Socks.</li> <li>5. Black shoes. Clean them with Fantastic or 409 BEFORE YOU GET ON THE BUS.</li> <li>6. Blue Band Shirt (MUST be worn to all competitions)</li> <li>7. White SLEEVED T-shirt</li> <li>8. Food - You must bring your own lunch. Bring lots of munchies! If you didn't purchase the meal plan you also need to bring dinner.</li> <li>9. Water and other fluids.</li> <li>10. Extra Black Socks for those flakes that didn't bring their own.</li> <li>11. skcos kcalb</li> <li>12. Bring \$\$\$\$ for more food. (At least \$10 is recommended)</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Girls generally wear a pair of bicycle shorts under the uniform pants.</li> <li>• Mark your blue band shirt with your student's name!</li> </ul>
<p>What is a typical competition day like?</p>	<p>Parents are encouraged to attend Band Parents Meetings. The Competition Coordinators will describe a typical competition day and answer all your questions. Call time will be 6:30 or 7am. Students will meet in the circle and load onto the buses. (Students will NOT be allowed to board the bus unless they are wearing their blue band shirt.) Buses will depart from school 1/2 hour after call time. Buses arrive at the competition site, equipment is unloaded and camp is set up for the 15-hour day (Some competitions involve only one-stop. Others involve two and three moves during the day.). If there is time after unloading the truck students may eat, but if our parade step-off time is early the band and color guard immediately suit up in partial uniform and begin warm-ups. After warm-ups they finish dressing in full uniform and line up for parade competition. The Viking Band completes the parade, walks back to "camp" and changes out of uniform. Students eat lunch then begin rehearsing for the next few hours. Depending on our field show step-off time, students will eat dinner before the field show (if our time is later in the evening) or after the field show (if our performance time is early in the evening). To get ready for the field show, students change into uniforms once again, pre-show warm-up, perform the show, change out of uniforms, load the truck then return to the stadium to watch remaining bands perform. After all bands have finished, the awards ceremony begins. After awards we load onto the buses and depart for Samohi. Upon arrival we ALL unload the truck and clean out the buses.</p>

<p>When/where should I pick up my student after a band competition?</p>	<p>Call the <u>HOTLINE</u> to find out when the buses are due back. Depending on the timetable actually followed at the competition, this may be earlier or later than the time we all thought it would be when we dropped our children off. When you come to pick up your student, do not park on the bus turnabout circle or its approach road. When you come to pick up your student, park in the upper student (Senior/North) parking lot. The buses need the circle to drop the kids off safely. The gate will be locked. There is no parking inside the gate, down the roadway to the circle, in the circle or back down the roadway towards Olympic. If someone arrives before the gate is locked, they will be stuck (imprisoned) inside until all of the buses have been cleaned, emptied and have left the premises. That's usually not a quick happening. The safety of our kids (sleepy, exhausted and not caring which way they're walking) is the priority. Pick up from the Senior/North lot only. Do not pick up on Pico Blvd.</p>
<p>When/where should I drop off my student prior to a home game?</p>	<p>Samohi home games are played at Corsair Stadium at Santa Monica College. The stadium is on 16th Street between Pico Boulevard and Pearl Street. Drop-off at the main gate on 16<sup>th</sup> St. between Pico and Pearl. The call-time will be announced (usually 5:30-6:00 PM). The games start at about 7:00PM.</p>
<p>I want to attend a home game. Where should I park?</p>	<p>Street parking is available around the stadium. Read the posted street signs before you park. There is also a parking structure on 16th Street for use by visitors to the college.</p>
<p>When/where should I pick up my student after a home game?</p>	<p>Samohi home games are played at Corsair Stadium at Santa Monica College. The stadium is on 16th Street between Pico Boulevard and Pearl Street. The games end by around 10:00PM. You should arrange a pick up point with your student. The main entrance is usually very crowded so somewhere down the street is better.</p>
<p>My student is ill. What should I do?</p>	<p>Inform Mr. Corrigan or Mr. Sakow, or contact a designated Marching Band adult volunteer. You have to make sure we know, so we don't hold the buses. Remember, however, that the band depends on every member being in place.</p>