

Tournament Of Roses Parade Letter and Information

Dear Trojan Band, supporters and prospective members,

Congratulations are in order to the Lassiter HS Marching Trojan Band on their invitation to march in the 124th Annual Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade (TofR), January 1, 2013. This appearance will mark the Trojan Band's fourth appearance in "the Granddaddy of Them All," with previous appearances in 1988, 2001 and 2005. This 25-year span of Rose Parade participation demonstrates the breath and consistency of our marching band program and tradition. We expect to march, yet again, a band of at least 250 members. The New Year's Day parade will be broadcast in 217 countries (including China), in over 20 languages to well over 65 million people worldwide. Each year, the TofR website was viewed in 150 countries with approximately 13 million hits during the week parade.

The Trojan Band was selected as one of 22 bands from throughout the world from over 475 band applications received. The Tournament of Roses Association, which also owns the famous Rose Bowl Stadium and Rose Bowl football game, organizes this "once-in-a-lifetime" event. The association has 935 volunteers who work for over a year to present the following year's 5½ mile parade. Previous Grand Marshals include: Gregory Peck, Walt Disney, Mickey Mouse, Tom Brokaw, Composer John Williams, Bob Hope, Bill Cosby, former Presidents Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Herbert Hoover, Dwight D. Eisenhower and George Lucas.

The invitation to participate in the Rose Parade is one of the most prestigious ones a marching band can receive. Rose Parade President Sally Bixby, called Lassiter Band Director Alfred L. Watkins on September 27 to personally invite the Lassiter Band to join the line of march. As Georgia's lone representative, the Trojan Band's 7-day/6-night trip to California will include: 6-night accommodations of at a southern California area hotel, a performance and pass to Disneyland, a day at Universal Studios Hollywood, Group Photo in front of the Rose Bowl Stadium, a tour of Los Angeles which will include visits at Grauman's Chinese Theater and the Hollywood Walk of Fame, the Kodak Theater (home of the Academy Awards), Beverly Hills, Rodeo Drive, Venice Beach, Farmer's Market, NBC Studios in Burbank, dinner at Medieval Times, New Year's Dinner at the hotel and band dance, all meals, parade rehearsal at UCLA and a possible trip to the San Diego Zoo.

Current plans are for the band to depart Atlanta on December 27, 2012 and return home on January 2, 2013. While in Pasadena we will participate in BandFest, a band festival at Pasadena City College sponsored by The Rose Parade. This will allow bands from all over the world to display their field shows. LBBA Roadies have graciously offered to drive the band truck or equipment to California saving a considerable amount of money in shipping. The total cost for the trip is expected to be between \$1,800.00-\$1,900.00 per participant. This fee does include airfare. We will

travel on three airplanes into LAX airport arriving in Los Angeles within hours of each other. We are asking all band members to pay a \$250.00 non-refundable deposit by November 15 to guarantee the student and airline ticket and room deposit. We will be able to accept deposits and payments at a later date but we'll need to have funds in place if the cost of airfare drops in early January. We want to take advantage of the reduced fares as they present themselves. For interested families (and recommended) the Lassiter Band Boosters will put in place a payment plan of \$175 per month in avoiding a large balloon payment at the end. Not all months will be included in this payment plan as camps, school opening and other financially aggressive months pop up from time to time. Students enrolled in our feeder middle schools automatically qualify for the trip and are asked to make their initial deposit by December 1. New members trying out for the fall auxiliary units (colorguard) will audition for the Rose Parade band in the early winter and will begin a similar payment plan at that time. Veteran guard members should play to meet the November deadlines along with this year's band. Lassiter students involved in the Midwest Clinic trip to Chicago may make their deposit by January 15. Please be mindful that a deposit to participate in the Rose Parade does not automatically guarantee a student an opportunity to travel with the band. Student behavior, band rules infractions, violations of the drug and alcohol policy, rehearsal/performance attendance, suspensions and expulsions from the middle school or high school band program students will forfeit an opportunity to participate in this event.

Our Tour Operator is currently planning a "companion trip" for those families and friends interesting in traveling with us or meeting us in LA. Our companions will be involved in similar events as the band, i.e. Disney, Universal, BandFest but not all events with the band. Grandstand seats that are 50-75 rows deep are available for almost the entire route. Our "companions" will be able to purchase those grandstand seats together with the package. Details to follow before the holidays.

We look forward to performing in one of the world's greatest spectacles and look forward to bringing this "once-in-lifetime" event to yet another Lassiter Community.

Musically yours,

Alfred L. Watkins