

The Marion County Sheriff's



Pipes and Drums
Member's Handbook

INTRODUCTION3

MISSION.....4

MEMBERSHIP.....4

CONDUCT OF MEMBERS.....4

BAND ORGANIZATION.....4

EXECUTIVE OFFICER.....4

BAND MANAGER.....5

PIPE MAJOR.....5

DRUM MAJOR.....5

INSTRUCTORS.....5

INSTRUMENTS and BAND EQUIPMENT5

UNIFORMS.....5

REPERTIORE.....5

TARTAN6

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Marion County Sheriff's Pipes and Drums. As a prospective member, this handbook will give you an overview of the band, its organization and operations, and the expectations of you as a member.

The association of bagpipe music and the public safety professions in the United States goes back over one hundred and fifty years. When the Irish and Scottish immigrated to this country, they brought many of their traditions with them. One of these was the bagpipe, often played at Celtic weddings, funerals and ceilidh (dances, pronounced "kaylee"). It wasn't until the great potato famine and massive Irish immigration to the East Coast of the United States that the tradition of the pipes really took hold in police and fire departments.

In the 1800's, Irish immigrants faced massive discrimination. Factories and shops had signs reading "NINA" – No Irish Need Apply. The only jobs they could get were the ones no one else wanted – jobs that were dirty, dangerous, or both – firefighting and enforcing the law, among a few. It was not an uncommon event to have several firefighters killed at working fire, and law enforcement officers were often killed in the line of duty. Irish police officers' and firefighters' funerals were typical of all Irish funerals – the pipes were played. It was somehow okay for these hardened men to cry at the sound of the pipes when his dignity would otherwise not let him weep for a fallen comrade. Those who have been to funerals when the bagpipes play, know how haunting and mournful the sound of the pipes can be. Before too long, families and friends of non-Irish firefighters and law enforcement officers, began asking for the piper to play for these fallen heroes. The pipes add a special air and dignity to these solemn occasions. Today, the tradition is universal and not just for the Irish or Scots. The pipes have come to be a distinguishing feature of the fallen hero's funeral.

In addition to funeral duty, pipe bands over time have come to be associated with the public face of major public safety organizations. Sheriff's offices, police departments, fire departments and EMS agencies across the United States and much of the English-speaking world are frequently represented by pipe bands, including such notables as the Glasgow City Police Pipers, the Metro Toronto Police Pipes and Drums, Pipes and Drums of the New York City Police Department, and countless others. No holiday parade, no recruit graduation, no memorial and no awards ceremony is complete without the playing of the appropriate tunes by the Pipe Band.

MISSION

The mission of the Pipes & Drums is to represent the Marion County Sheriff's Office at ceremonies and public functions; to bring honor, dignity, and pageantry to those functions in a manner consistent with the highest tradition of the public safety professions, at the same time preserving and promoting the traditional arts of Highland piping and drumming.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the MCSO Pipes & Drums shall be open to musicians (pipers and drummers) of good character, who are eligible for service as MCSO volunteers. Members shall serve without expectation of compensation. It is expected that members will generally reside within Marion County or adjoining counties. Seasonal residents are welcome to be members as well. Members will be expected to participate regularly, practice their instruments, attend rehearsals, and participate regularly in public appearances as requested by the Sheriff or his designate.

The Pipes & Drums, like other Sheriff's Office volunteer activities, operates under the supervision, control, and authority of the Sheriff and his designees. The band is a service organization, as opposed to a social or fraternal group. Offices will be appointed rather than elected.

CONDUCT OF MEMBERS

The Marion County Sheriff's Office demands the highest levels of integrity and appropriate conduct from its members. Members of the Pipes & Drums will be expected to subscribe to the MCSO Code of Conduct and Core Values, and to conduct themselves accordingly while engaged in band activities.

BAND ORGANIZATION

The band shall be a non-competitive band, striving for excellence in musical performance and ceremonial drill.

The following shall be the officers of the band:

EXECUTIVE OFFICER – The band shall function under the supervision of a regular full-time officer of the Marion County Sheriff's Office. The Executive Officer serves as the representative of the Sheriff and is responsible for all aspects of band supervision and administration.

BAND MANAGER – The Band Manager is responsible to the Executive Officer for the organization and administration of the business of the band.

PIPE MAJOR – The Pipe Major is responsible for the musical performance of the band. He or she leads the band in practice and in performances. The Pipe Major may designate such sergeants and corporals as he deems necessary to assist in the performance of his duties.

DRUM MAJOR – The Drum Major is the leader of the band on parade. He or she is responsible for the dress, bearing, deportment and marching of the band, in practice and in performances. The Drum Major may designate such sergeants and corporals as he deems necessary to assist in the performance of his duties.

INSTRUCTORS – Notwithstanding the volunteer nature of the Pipes & Drums, the Sheriff may in his discretion retain the services of one or more compensated instructors to assist in the development of the musical abilities of the Pipes & Drums.

INSTRUMENTS and BAND EQUIPMENT

Pipers are expected to provide their own instruments, which shall be good-quality African Blackwood or polypenco instruments. The band may provide pipers with matched chanter. Drums will be provided by the Sheriff's Office. Related band equipment (drum major's mace, drum carriers, pipe banners, etc.) will be provided by the Sheriff's Office.

UNIFORMS

All items of uniform dress except black shoes and black undershirt will be provided by the Sheriff's Office. Prior to the issuing of uniform items, members will be expected to have mastered the minimum performance repertoire prescribed by the Pipe Major or Drum Sergeant. All issued uniform items must be returned upon a member's departure from the band, unless otherwise directed in writing by the Sheriff or the Band Executive Officer.

REPERTIORE

The Pipe Major (and instructors, if assigned) will select appropriate tunes commensurate with the skill level of the musicians in the band. The basic repertoire of the band shall include tunes historically associated with the public safety ceremonial functions.

TARTAN

The band's official tartan is the Clan Gordon Tartan. The band's kilts are manufactured in the military style (pleated to the line).



The base color ("ground") is forest green, which is the uniform color of the Marion County Sheriff's Office and most Florida Sheriff's agencies. The second most predominant color is blue, which symbolizes strength, and is strongly associated with the profession of law enforcement. The gold stripe signifies both authority and honor, which are hallmarks of the Sheriff's Office.

(This page intentionally left blank)