

Tennessee Tech University - Drum Major Academy
Student Handbook

Friday, June 25th - Saturday, June 27th, 2026



Address

Bryan Fine Arts Building
TTU Campus
1150 N. Dixie Ave
Cookeville, TN 38501

Email

tntechdma@gmail.com

Welcome to the 2026 TN Tech Drum Major Academy!

The Tennessee Tech Drum Major Academy is a three-day immersive music event for students ages 14 – 18 that participate in their school's marching band program. The Tech Drum Major Academy will focus on teaching fundamental conducting and developing leadership skills to help each drum major lead with confidence and a servant first mentality.

Administration

Dr. Colin Hill

Director of the School of Music at TTU
TDMA Director
cjhill@tntech.edu
(931) 372-3161

Rebecca Rosales

Drum Major Instructor at TTU
TDMA Director of Operations
tntechdma@gmail.com
(931)-783-1520

TDMA Registration

Registration will take place on Thursday, June 25th from 11:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. Central Daylight Time in the lobby of the assigned dorm. Once your student is registered, you will receive an email with the name and address of the campus dorm we will be staying in during the camp.

All students under the age of 18, before June 25, 2026, must be accompanied by a parent or guardian for TDMA registration and departure check-out. Minor participants will NOT be released to anyone other than individuals listed on the Participant Information and Release Form. **Government issued photo ID must be presented by the individual(s) picking up the Minor(s).*

Registration Forms Checklist

All parents or guardians (or students over the age of 18) must fill out the following forms **prior** to arrival on campus. Forms can be found in the confirmation email upon registration on the tntech.edu website. All forms must be submitted, via email to tntechdma@gmail.com or brought with you to registration day.

Participant Information & Release Form [**must be notarized**]

General Student Information Form – [**already completed electronically upon submission of registration**]

Check Out

Check out will be on Saturday, June 27, **from 4:45 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. CDT** in the lobby of the assigned dorm following the final performance. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend our student performance on **Saturday, June 27, at 4:00 p.m.** Location to be announced in a future email.

Student luggage can be picked up from the lobby of the assigned dorm immediately following check out.

All students under the age of 18, before June 25, 2025, must be signed out by a legal parent or guardian (listed on the Participant Info and Releases Form) before leaving the TTU campus.

Participant and Guardian Communication

All participants will have their personal cell phones (if applicable) with their belongings and close at hand at all times. Should a parent need to contact their child at any time during the TDMA event, they can do so via text or phone call. However, we do request that participants keep their cell phones on vibrate, and only answer messages and calls that convey urgency while instruction is taking place. Should a legal guardian need to contact their child for an urgent situation and the child does not have a personal cell phone, the legal guardian should contact Rebecca Rosales at (931)-783-1520.

In Case of Emergency or Dismissal

Should an emergency arise or a participant acts in a manner that would warrant dismissal from the TDMA event, an event staff member will immediately contact the phone number(s) provided on the Participant Info and Releases Form in the order the emergency contacts were listed. Should no response be obtained from the first emergency contact, a second attempt to obtain a response will be made. If the staff member still receives no response, he/she will continue to the next emergency contact until a response has been obtained.

By sending a participant to the TDMA event, legal guardian(s) of each participant agree to pick up their child before the end of the event should an emergency occur or their child acts in a manner that warrants dismissal from the TDMA event according to the guidelines and procedures outlined below.

Driving on Campus

It is *strongly recommended* that all student participants stay overnight with the rest of the group for maximum benefit from the event. However, commuter students over the age of 18 before June 25, 2025 may drive themselves to the TTU campus daily for their participation in the event. Commuter students under the age of 18 *must be signed in and out by a parent, legal guardian, or a parent/guardian **daily***. Each parent of a commuter must also fill out a permission-to-drive form for the attending student. More information on the check in and out process for commuter students will be provided at registration.

Overnight student participants (non-commuters) are **not** permitted to bring a vehicle to campus unless they are over the age of 18 on or before June 25, 2025. Overnight student participants over the age of 18 *must not drive their car* for the duration of the Tech Drum Major Academy.

Tennessee Tech University Campus Rules and Guidelines

1. The possession or use of alcohol or other drugs, fireworks, and weapons is strictly prohibited.
2. The operation of a motor vehicle by minors during the program is prohibited unless required by the nature of the program (see above).
3. The parking of participant vehicles must be in accordance with Tennessee Tech parking regulations (more on this at registration).
4. No violence, including but not limited to sexual violence, will be tolerated on the Tennessee Tech campus.
5. No discrimination or harassment will be tolerated.
6. Hazing of any kind is prohibited. Bullying including verbal, physical, and cyberbullying is prohibited.
7. No theft of property will be tolerated.
8. No use of tobacco products or electronic nicotine delivery systems (vaping) will be tolerated.
9. Misuse or damage of Tennessee Tech property is prohibited. Charges will be assessed against those participants who are responsible for damage or misuse of Tennessee Tech property.
10. Inappropriate use of cameras, imaging, and digital devices is prohibited, including use of such devices in areas where privacy is expected by participants.
11. In-dorm-room visitation is restricted to participants of the same gender.

12. Guests of participants (other than parent or legal guardian and other program participants of the same gender) are limited to visitation in public building lobbies and only during approved hours specified by the program.
13. Participants must comply with all security measures and procedures specified by Tennessee Tech Office of Residential Life.
14. Minor participants may not be released to anyone other than individuals listed on their signed and notarized Participant and Information Release form.
15. At no time during the Tech Drum Major Academy are students permitted to be in any building on campus other than: the assigned dorm hall, the Bryan Fine Arts Building, and the Roaden University Center (for meals), unless accompanied by an approved staff member of the Tech Drum Major Academy.

Drum Major Track Information

Team Track

Any participant that is a part of a drum major team at their school, even if the other drum major(s) are not attending this event, will participate in some sessions unique to his/her responsibilities as a member of that team. These sessions will include instruction on matching, communication, and tempo management. During the individual work sessions, participants that follow this track will work alongside their teams (if applicable) and be instructed by staff members with a team conductor approach.

Solo Track

Any participant that is a solo drum major at their school will participate in some sessions unique to his/her responsibilities as a single student leader. These sessions will include instruction on delegation, communication, and tempo management. During the individual work sessions, participants that follow this track will work on their own and be instructed by staff members with a solo conductor approach.

Aspiring Drum Majors

Any participant that is an aspiring drum major will participate in the sessions that correspond with their school's leadership format (either team or solo). During the individual work sessions, these participants will work on a provided piece of literature and be instructed by staff members delegated to helping them prepare for a future drum major position.

Dormitory Information & Rules

- Students will be housed with a roommate of the same gender and similar age assigned at random. Students from the same school *will not* be placed together in the effort of encouraging new friendships.
- At no time during a participant's stay on TTU's campus, are students of the opposite gender to be off of their designated dormitory floor unless it is in the dormitory lobby supervised by TDMA counselors or staff.
- Students are never permitted to be on a dormitory floor assigned to the opposite gender.
- The assigned dorm may only have two community bathrooms on each floor. Only students of the same gender will be permitted to use the bathrooms on their floor. **At no time** should a student enter a bathroom designated for the opposite gender.
- All students must be in their designated dorm rooms by 10:00 p.m. for room checks. Students should not leave their designated dormitory floor between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:30 a.m. Any student who does not adhere to this rule will be immediately dismissed from the Tech Drum Major Academy.
- Two TDMA counselors of the same gender, and who have adhered to the TTU Protection of Minors overnight supervision policies, will be on each dormitory floor. Should students have any needs, they may reach them at any time. Students will have access to counselor cell numbers on their floor and in their information folders in case of emergency.
- A residential life director will be located on the dormitory main floor. They may be reached at any time during the TDMA in case of student or parent emergency. Their name and information will be provided to parents and students at registration.
- All Tennessee Tech University Campus Rules & Guidelines listed above apply to the dormitory information and rules section and are expected to be adhered to at all times.

Students are expected to attend all TDMA scheduled events. Students are not permitted to be in any building on campus other than the Bryan Fine Arts Building, the University Center, and the assigned dorm unless accompanied by TDMA staff. Student attendance will be taken periodically throughout each day. Should students have a medical emergency, or need to miss a session, they should notify a counselor or member of TDMA staff immediately.

Commuter students must be signed in for the TDMA every morning no later than 8:30 a.m. and may be picked up following the last scheduled event at 8:15 p.m. Commuter students must be signed out and picked up no later than 9:30 p.m. All sign-ins and check-outs for commuter students will occur in the dormitory lobby.

*Only a designated parent or guardian or person indicated on the Participant Info & Releases Form may sign a student in or out of the TDMA event.

Meals and Campus Life

All participants will have all meals provided at the Roaden University Center cafeteria on TTU's campus starting with lunch on Thursday, June 25 and ending with lunch on Saturday, June 27, 2025.

What to Wear for the Tech Drum Major Academy

Casual summer dress will be appropriate for most occasions. Please be aware that attire makes an immediate and important impression to your peers, teachers, and community members at the University. Also keep in mind that physical activity will be required for this event, so all clothes should be comfortable and modest while doing any physical activities. The Tech Drum Major Academy asks that students dress appropriately for all class sessions and lounge time within the dormitory. *Offensive, inappropriate, or distracting attire will not be allowed.*

Event Attire

For Saturday's performance please plan to wear your TDMA tee shirt you were given at registration and a nice pair of shorts. Please no holes in the shorts and nothing shorter than a dollar's length from the back of the knee. Shoes should be close-toed.

TDMA Dorm & Meal Access

All TDMA students should wear TDMA lanyards at all times while on campus. Each lanyard will have meal tickets and, if applicable, a dorm key attached.

Replacement fee for a lost dorm key is \$60.00.

Students should present meal tickets to the front desk of the cafeteria in the University Center when entering (if needed).

What To Bring

For Class Sessions:

- Any show specific music scores that you have already received
- Pencils and highlighters of various colors
- A personal music playing device (such as a MP3 player or phone)
- Headphones and a device charger
- Extra paper for note taking
- Refillable water bottle

For Dorm Residence:

- Extra long twin sheets, pillows, blankets, and other bed comfort items
- Toiletries and bath towels
- Prescription medications (**Needs to be registered with the assigned TDMA counselor upon arrival**)
- Glasses/contact lenses and needed supplies
- Phone and chargers
- Umbrella and/or rain coat (make sure to check Cookeville weather conditions before you pack!)
- Clothes for daily activities (see above)
- Clothes for sleeping
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Spending money if desired