



LNYDP
LONDON'S NEW
YEAR'S DAY PARADE
★ AND FESTIVAL ★

London - 2023

Tour Information Booklet

Red & Silver Brigade

Overland Park, Kansas

London -2023

Tour Information Booklet

Members of the Blue Valley West Band Program frequently have opportunities to travel and perform in festivals, competitions, and special events throughout their high school band experience. At least once every four years, our program seeks to offer a significant travel and performance opportunity to our students. We are pleased to share that during the 2022-2023 school year, Blue Valley West Band members can choose to travel to **London, England** to perform in the **London New Year's Day Parade (LNYDP.)**

The decision to offer this performance tour resulted from input obtained from band parents and students through a survey conducted in the Fall of 2021. Subsequently the BVW Band staff sought out invitations for appropriate performance opportunities, and we were beyond thrilled when this very special invitation was presented.

This booklet provides an overview of the planned performance tour to London for the LNYDP to help students and their families make an informed decision as to their participation in this spectacular event and to keep updated with tour information. If you have additional questions, please email our official tour address: red.and.silver.london23@gmail.com.

GENERAL TOUR INFORMATION.....	3
What is the LNYDP?.....	3
How were we selected?	3
When is the tour?.....	3
Is participation required?.....	3
Who sponsors the tour?.....	3
Who can go on the Tour?.....	3
What about family members / chaperones / alumni?	3
TOUR ITINERARY	4
Itinerary.....	4
Trip Inclusions	4
When will we rehearse for this performance?	4
Will we miss any school?.....	4
TOUR COSTS AND REGISTRATION	5
Registration Link and Deposit	5
Tour Cost	5
Payment Schedule:.....	5
Refund Policy.....	5
Credit / Debit Cards.....	5
Fundraising	5
Scrip.....	5
Discounts.....	5
Insurance Policy	5
TOUR POLICIES.....	6
Trip Rules and Regulations.....	6
Passports & Visas	6
COVID and Travel to the United Kingdom	6

General Tour Information

What is the LNYDP? Dubbed “**The Greatest Event in the Greatest City in the World,**” the **London New Year’s Day Parade** features over 10,000 performers for a live audience of a half-million spectators and a broadcast audience of 600 million people. Performing in the LNYDP and travelling to England provides our students with a once-in-a-lifetime musical, cultural, educational, and social experience.

How were we selected? American high school, college, and university marching bands are unique performing ensembles and are quite popular participants in various international events. The LNYDP constantly seeks outstanding marching bands from the United States. Recommended groups are put before a review committee who then issue invitations. Based on the reputation and record of performance of the Blue Valley West Band Program, we were presented with an invitation. This marks the second time the West Bands have been invited to participate in the London New Year’s Day Parade – the first was 2010.

When is the tour? December 27, 2022, through January 3, 2023. See itinerary section for additional details.

Is participation required? **No.** Performance tours are designed to supplement and enhance a student’s overall experience in band, but participation is not required to be a member of the band program. That said, the more students that choose to participate, the greater the experience is for all involved! We pledge to help every student interested in participating make that goal a reality!

Who sponsors the tour? Blue Valley Unified School District #229 does not sanction international travel. This is a private performance tour, and we will officially be traveling as the **Red & Silver Brigade from Overland Park, Kansas.**

- **Mr. Justin Love**, who serves as the Director of Bands at Blue Valley West High School, is the tour sponsor.
- **The Blue Valley West Band Boosters** will be coordinating fundraising activities.
- **Youth Music of the World**, is our travel partner and logistical coordinator.
- **Destination Events** is the United Kingdom based organization which operates the LNYDP.

Who can go on the Tour? **Any student** who is a **member** of the **Blue Valley West High School Band** program and **Color Guard** during the **2022 – 2023** school year is invited to attend. Students currently in band in grades 8-11 may begin registering for the trip in late December 2022. Band students will be considered **Performing Members** of the tour.

What about family members / chaperones / alumni? Family members may also travel as non-performers on the trip. Band staff and parents will also have an opportunity to serve as trip chaperones. Students who graduated from the Blue Valley West Band Program in the class of 2022 may also participate in this performance tour. Family and chaperones will be considered **Non-Performing Members** of the tour.

For the remainder of this document, both **Performing Members** and **Non-Performing Members** will generally be referred to as **Tour Participants**.

Tour Itinerary

Itinerary: Our detailed itinerary will be developed over the coming months. Below is a glimpse of the activities and performances planned for our trip.

- December 27, 2022 – depart Kansas City International Airport for London, England
- December 31, 2022 – New Year’s Eve Celebration in our London hotel
- January 1, 2023 – Perform in the 37th annual London New Year’s Day Parade
- TBA – Perform in a Gala Concert as part of the London New Year’s Day Parade and Festival in Cadogan Hall, home of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra
- Sight-seeing tours of London including:
 - Tour of London’s West End and City by motor coach with a professional guide
 - Tour of the Tower of London and the Crown Jewels
 - Boat trip on the River Thames
 - Tour of Windsor and Windsor Castle
 - Tour of Oxford and Oxford University
 - Walking tours of the LNYDP Route, Southbank, and “The Rock and Roll Capital of the World”
 - Possible rehearsal visit with the Royal Air Force Band
- January 3, 2023 – Return flight to Kansas City International Airport
- All sight-seeing events include a professional tour guide and / or specially curated mp3 players with historical information about the tour

Trip Inclusions: Tour packages for all tour participants includes:

- Round-trip airfare from Kansas City to London, England
- 6 nights accommodations in a central London hotel (3-4 star rated hotel)
- Transport of all instruments and equipment to and from London
- 1 checked bag
- Daily buffet breakfast in our hotel
- 3 dinners in our hotel plus a meal card useable in a wide range of restaurants and pubs in London
- Pizza party on New Year’s Eve
- Sack lunch on parade day for performers
- Coach transportation to and from all tours and performances
- Priority booking for the grandstand for non-performers at the parade and tickets to our gala concert
- Special souvenirs from the trip for parade and tour participants
- Tour assistant for the duration of our tour
- Comprehensive [trip insurance policy](#) – click the link to view the policy

When will we rehearse for this performance? The music and parade choreography performed in London will be part of our marching and concert performances during the Fall of 2022. There will be some tour participant only rehearsals during late November and December for final preparations. Prior to departure there will be an instrument and equipment drop-off day.

Will we miss any school? Our return flight is scheduled to arrive on January 3, 2023. We will miss the first day of classes of the Spring Semester of 2023.

We would like to extend our trip. How do we do this? Our tour host provides an option to pay for a “Land Only” package. Flights to and from the United Kingdom would be your responsibility. At this time we are not 100% certain if we can offer the Land Only package due to the unique situation with COVID and travel constraints. During registration you may indicate an interest in this plan. If there is sufficient interest in a Land Only Package that will not significantly impact the costs for our tour then the difference will be taken off of your final payments.

Tour Costs and Registration

Registration Link and Deposit: Registration sign-up and payment options will become available on **January 5, 2022**. A **deposit of \$200 per participant** is required to register for the tour. Registration is due **January 15, 2022**.

Performing members and non-performing members may continue to register after January 15, however the total deposit owed will be adjusted upwards to the current minimum total payments owed at time of registration.

Tour Cost: As of **12/1/2021** the estimated cost of participation in the tour will be between **\$3600 and \$3800** per participant. Tour costs will be locked within that range. Final tour package costs are dependent on the following:

- Cost of airfare at time of booking
- Valuation of the US Dollar relative to the Pound Sterling at time of initial deposit

Payment Schedule: Participants are encouraged to make regular payments to spread costs out over time. The **Minimum Total Payments** is the minimum amount that **MUST** be in each tour participant's account by the specified date. Accounts that are not current by the payment date will be dropped from the tour minus applicable fees under the refund policy.

	Suggested Payment	Minimum Total Payments
January 15, 2022 – Registration Due	\$200	\$200
February 15, 2022	\$350	
March 15, 2022	\$350	\$600
April 15, 2022	\$350	
May 15, 2022	\$350	
June 1, 2022 – Fundraising Applied	\$350	\$1000
July 1, 2022	\$350	
August 1, 2022	\$350	
September 1, 2022	\$350	\$1800
October 1, 2022	\$350	
November 1, 2022 – Fundraising Applied	\$350	Remaining balance
Total Payments	\$3700	\$3700

Refund Policy: Refunds for cancellation are provided on the following schedule:

- On or before **February 22, 2022**: All payments less \$100.
- On or before **May 1, 2022**: All payments less \$100.
- After May 1, 2022: No refund except for reimbursement under cancellation terms of the insurance policy.

Credit / Debit Cards: You may pay deposits using a credit / debit card through Venmo.

Fundraising: An aggressive fundraising campaign will be held throughout the spring and summer open to current band students in grades 8-11. Fundraising earnings for both individual and full group cost reductions will be applied on June 1 and November 1 (prior to the final payment.) Fundraising activities may include, but are not limited to:

Sponsorship Letter Drive
Grocery Sacking

Mattress Sale
Rent a Band Member

Program Ad Drive
Practice-o-thon

Scrip: Trip participants can utilize the BVW Band Booster Scrip Program to earn funds as well. Tour participants can request excess scrip earnings from their accounts to be applied to any tour participant payments.

Discounts: It is not possible to offer discounts or reduced package costs for families with multiple tour participants. Non-performing packages are the same cost as performing tour packages.

Insurance Policy: Included in the tour package cost is a comprehensive trip insurance policy. Most importantly it provides full refunds in case of cancellation due to quarantine prior to or during the trip. Copies of the Insurance Policy can be provided upon request.

Tour Policies

Trip Rules and Regulations: While the Blue Valley School District and Blue Valley West High School have no liability, responsibility, or supervision of this tour, understand that we are still representatives of our country and school community. Expectations for behavior and general decorum for **ALL** tour participants will be the same as for any other school associated trip.

Passports & Visas: All tour participants must have a valid passport to enter the United Kingdom. *Passports must have an expiration date of no earlier than June 4, 2023 in order to travel.* Tour participants without a valid passport will be provided with information on how to obtain or renew their passport. Tour participants will be required to show their passport by September 1, 2022 to book airline tickets.

- Please note the additional following conditions for tour participants:
- United States citizens only need a passport to travel to and from the United Kingdom.
- Non-US Passport holders may also need to obtain a visa. The United Kingdom Government Foreign Office website provides a list of required entry documents for citizens of various countries. Our tour host will assist with the visa process for any performance tour members in this category.
- Tour participants who are Green Card Holders in the United States should also check with the US Department of Homeland Security to clarify any additional steps that may need to be taken to ensure re-entry to the United States.
- ***Tour participants without a valid passport should begin that process immediately after trip registration. Failure to have required documents by the date of travel is not covered for compensation under the trip insurance policy.***

COVID and Travel to the United Kingdom: While COVID testing, vaccination, and quarantine requirements differ from country to country and could change between now and December of 2022, tour participants are advised of the following information:
(UPDATED 4/5/22)

- The United Kingdom no longer requires COVID vaccinations, testing, or quarantine for international visitors. There are no mask mandates in force in the United Kingdom.
- Individuals will **NOT** be required to show proof of COVID vaccination to participate in this tour.
- Currently the United States requires a negative rapid antigen test taken 24 hours prior to departure to return to the United States. This requirement may or may not still be in place when we travel, and information will be updated as policies change. In the event a rapid test is required, our Travel Partner will provide the tests free of charge.
- The [travel insurance policy](#) provided by our tour partner does provide some protections in the event a tour participant is unable to travel due to illness or quarantine. Please reference the travel insurance policy for additional information.
- There always remains the possibility that mitigation protocols such as mask wearing, distancing, and occupancy limits may be imposed by airlines, hotels, and tourist venues. Compliance with these protocols is required of all trip participants.