

Stephen F. Austin State University

Twirl-O-Jack Audition Packet

Saturday March 19, 2022
William R. Johnson Coliseum
Stephen F. Austin State University

All candidates for SFA Twirl-O-Jack for the Lumberjack Marching Band will be taught a dance twirl routine choreographed by the Twirl-O-Jack Coordinator, Candice Curbow. T-O-J Candidates will learn the routine during morning rehearsal and return after lunch for a brief review session. T-O-J auditions will begin at 1:30 p.m. at the William R. Johnson Coliseum, located on the SFA campus.

Candidates interested in auditioning for SFA Feature Twirler for the Lumberjack Marching Band should refer to the SFA Feature Twirler Audition Packet for audition dates and criteria.

Audition Schedule:

Saturday, March 19, 2022

8:00 a.m.	Candidates report to the William R. Johnson Coliseum Stretch & Warm-Up
8:30 a.m.	Instruction of audition routine begins
12:00 p.m.	Lunch on your own
1:00 p.m.	Floor open to all candidates for practice
1:30 p.m.	Feature Twirler Auditions, followed by T-O-J Group Auditions & Purple Team auditions

Grace... Poise... Style!

These are words that have become synonymous with the Twirl-O-Jacks of Stephen F. Austin State University since their founding in 1956 under the band directorship of Jimmie Hudgins. While Mr. Hudgins coined the name "Twirl-O-Jacks," the group's unique style was created by then Head TOJ, Pat (Griffin) Bridges. This group is known and respected throughout the United States for its tradition of unique Choreography, high quality performances, and impressive appearance. The graceful, flashy and entertaining TOJ style reflects careful attention to skill. This is coordinated with a combination of beautiful ballet-based body form and various other contemporary dance forms and steps.

Twirl-O-Jack Coordinator and Choreographer, Candice Curbow, brings many years of twirling experience, including 5 years of Twirl-O-Jack line experience from 1998 – 2003, being the former Asst. Head TOJ (1999-2000) and former Head TOJ (2000-2003). She began as Twirl-O-Jack Coordinator in January 2007.

The Twirl-O-Jacks are well-known throughout the state for their flashy and precise execution of the dance-twirl routines at football and basketball games, pep-rallies, and other functions of SFASU. The group also has to its credit championships at the USTA National Open and the AAU Southwest and National Open.

Stephen F. Austin State University

Twirl-O-Jack Audition Criteria

Twirl-O-Jack Auditions are generally held on a Saturday during the spring semester at the William R. Johnson Coliseum on the SFASU campus. The SFA Twirl-O-Jacks are comprised of a Head T-O-J, an Assistant Head T-O-J and 6 to 20 Twirl-O-Jacks, depending on the quality of candidates. The Twirl-O-Jack line consists of a purple team and a white team, selected by varying ability levels. Auditions are open to the public.

Judges

Judges for T-O-J Auditions will consist of the Lumberjack Marching Band Director, the Twirl-O-Jack Coordinator, and two to three former SFA Twirl-O-Jacks and/or Feature Twirlers. The actual number of candidates selected for the Twirl-O-Jack line will be at the sole discretion of the judging panel based on their professional evaluation of the candidates. The decision of the judges at the auditions is final.

Head Twirl-O-Jack

Candidates for Head Twirl-O-Jack are required to complete one year as a Twirl-O-Jack before being eligible to audition. During audition rehearsal, candidates for Head T-O-J will polish and critique a specified section of the audition routine. Candidates for Head T-O-J should demonstrate excellent leadership and organizational skills, polishing techniques, careful attention to detail and maintain a positive attitude as well as exhibit outstanding T-O-J performance, style and fundamentals. Head T-O-J duties are as follows:

- Organizes and runs practices
- Selects practice attire
- Attends to University and LMB details and paper work
- Keeps in contact with T-O-J Coordinator on a regular basis
- Polishes & critiques routines
- Keeps inventory of all props, uniforms and equipment
- Keeps attendance records of practices and events
- Responsible for all music recordings and music equipment

Assistant Head Twirl-O-Jack

All Twirl-O-Jack Candidates are eligible to audition for Assistant Head Twirl-O-Jack. During the audition rehearsal, candidates for Asst. Head T-O-J will polish and critique a specified section of the audition routine. Asst. Head T-O-J candidates should demonstrate excellent leadership skills, polishing techniques, ability to assist the Head T-O-J and maintain a positive attitude as well as exhibit outstanding T-O-J performance, style and fundamentals. Asst. Head duties are as follows:

- Conducts stretch-outs at practice
- Runs practices in the absence of the Head T-O-J
- Assists the Head T-O-J with organization, polishing, music and conducting practices
- Keeps Websites up to date on upcoming events and current pictures
- Assists with inventory of props, uniforms and equipment

Twirl-O-Jack Line

Candidates for SFA Twirl-O-Jack, including Head & Asst. Head T-O-J candidates, will be taught a dance twirl routine to be performed in groups. Twirl-O-Jack candidates will learn the audition routine in the prep classes offered by the T-O-J Coordinator. On the morning of audition day, there will be a choreography review session and mock run through of the audition process. Auditions will take place after lunch and will consist of groups of 3-5 candidates at a time.

Twirl-O-Jack Requirements:

1. Complete the T-O-J group audition process
2. Demonstrate mastery of the following skills
 - a. 1-turn/2-turn
 - b. Jazz pull up/splits
 - c. Back hand catches
 - d. Big Trick (taught in prep class)
 - e. Rolls (double elbow, paddles, layout)
 - f. Toss Bow/Bow Aerial

In addition to the T-O-J line, candidates have the option of auditioning for Purple Team.

Purple Team: This team is the competition team and will attend and compete at various twirling competitions throughout the year. Candidates wishing to audition for purple team will need a prepared solo.

Requirements:

1. Complete the T-O-J group audition process
2. Audition with a prepared 2-3 minute solo
3. Be prepared to demonstrate any of the tricks listed below
4. Expectations of Purple Team solo content
 - a. Vertical 3-turn
 - b. 3 baton box
 - c. 3 baton juggles w/loops
 - d. Toss illusion (front, back or both)
 - e. Strong fundamentals of multi-baton tricks
 - f. Advanced Rolls
 - g. Advanced bodywork (leaps, illusions, splits)

Audition Attire

Attire for SFA Twirl-O-Jack audition rehearsals should be fitted athletic clothing such as tank tops, dance shorts, skirts, leggings or jazz pants and dance or twirling shoes such as jazz shoes. No loose or baggy clothing, no athletic tennis shoes. Hair secured away from face.

Attire for SFA Twirl-O-Jack auditions should be a solid black sports bra, solid black tank top, black shorts/spanx, tan tights and tan jazz shoes. Hair secured away from face in a bun, performance make-up and red lipstick.

Audition Qualifications

Candidates must be enrolled as a full-time (12 hours) student at Stephen F. Austin State University or be eligible for enrollment for the following fall semester.

Returning line members and current SFA students: Candidates are not required to be in good standing with the university at the time of auditions. Candidates selected for Twirl-O-Jack are required to be in good standing (2.0 GPA) with the university by the following fall semester to remain on the line.

High School Seniors: Candidates are not required to be accepted by Stephen F. Austin State University at the time of auditions. Candidates selected for Twirl-O-Jack are required to be enrolled as a full-time student by the following fall semester to remain on the line. GPA qualifications begin after the fall semester.

Lumberjack Marching Band Membership

SFA Twirl-O-Jacks are required to enroll in the fall Lumberjack Marching Band class but are not required to play an instrument in the Lumberjack Marching Band. Twirl-O-Jacks will receive college credit for the course and a grade for the class at the end of the fall semester.

Scholarships

All SFA Twirl-O-Jacks and Feature Twirler will receive a \$500.00 scholarship (\$250 in Fall, \$250 in Spring) pending GPA. Twirl-O-Jack Alternates, if selected, will not receive a scholarship. In addition, there are two alumni scholarships available for Twirl-O-Jacks. The amount of each scholarship varies from year to year depending on the economy.

Bridges/McKinney Scholarship – Founded by Joan (Griffin) Bridges, former Head T-O-J and T-O-J Coordinator and Linda (Bridges) McKinney, former Feature Twirler. All Twirl-O-Jacks (including T-O-J Alternates) and Feature Twirler are eligible for this scholarship.

Jimmie Hudgins Scholarship – Founded by Twirl-O-Jack Alumni by various fundraisers and donations. Jimmie Hudgins was the former band director that coined the Twirl-O-Jacks name in 1956. This scholarship is generally awarded to a returning T-O-J that demonstrates a positive attitude, good work ethic, outstanding twirling abilities and is in good standing with SFA.

Rehearsals

SFA Twirl-O-Jacks will have several Saturday practices during summer break. New Twirl-O-Jacks will be required to attend all summer practices in order to learn the T-O-J traditional routines. All Twirl-O-Jacks will attend the last summer practice for polish and review of all traditional T-O-J routines. The Lumberjack Marching Band begins summer rehearsal one week prior to the first day of classes at SFA. During this week, the T-O-J's will attend band orientation and learn all routines for the first halftime show. Once classes begin, the Lumberjack Marching Band will begin regular rehearsals Monday through Thursday from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday morning of home game days. The SFA Twirl-O-Jacks meet 30 minutes prior to band practice to allow time to stretch properly. Additionally, the Twirl-O-Jacks have late practice one to two days a week from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. T-O-J's are required to attend all rehearsals unless illness or a family emergency occurs. Work conflicts are not considered excusable for missing

practice or being late to practice. Absences and arriving late will be considered when grades are given at the end of the fall semester.

Rehearsal Attire

SFA Twirl-O-Jacks will wear matching practice outfits on late practice days and on Saturday morning rehearsals. On non-matching days, T-O-J's will wear their choice of sports bra, tank top, athletic style shorts, leggings or jazz pants with white high top classic style Reeboks or jazz shoes. No loose or baggy clothing allowed. Hair secured out of face.

Expenses

Twirl-O-Jacks are responsible for purchasing certain mandatory items for performances and practices. The price range for a new Twirl-O-Jack is approximately \$200 - \$400, depending on the items ordered. All items must be ordered and paid for by mid-June to insure delivery by August.

Twirl-O-Jacks are responsible for purchasing the following items:

- 2 practice outfits that consist of a matching tank top and shorts
- Travel suit
- White Reeboks, high top classic style
- Hoodie/Pull over
- Black jazz pants
- Polo shirt
- 1 to 2 matching t-shirts
- 2 to 3 ABC style batons (3 recommended)

SFA purchases the following items for Twirl-O-Jacks:

- Baton Bag
- Black and tan tights
- Black and tan jazz shoes
- Field Uniform
- Jazz top
- All performance props

Each candidate selected as a Twirl-O-Jack, will sign a contract to be turned in to the Twirl-O-Jack Coordinator immediately following auditions. The Feature Twirler and members of the Twirl-O-Jack line will be expected to conduct themselves in a respectable manner at all times.