

# Lake Belton High School

## Silver Spurs Constitution

### Article I: Purpose

The purpose of the drill team shall be (1) to perform and entertain audiences through dance (2) to compete in team dance competitions (3) to be a support group to boost morale and spirit of the school. The purpose shall also be to develop character, leadership and individual responsibility in each member while maintaining high standards. It is the drill team's purpose to represent the school in a manner, which will reflect credit upon the school as well as upon the members of the organization. Each member agrees to abide by the rules and regulations as set forth in this constitution.

### Article II: Membership

- a In order to tryout, students must be passing all classes with a 70 for the prior grading period.
- b Members must be students of LBHS and enrolled in the Silver Spur class all year.
- c There is no set number of members. Membership depends on how many students audition and the natural break of the judges' scores. The judges' decisions are final.
- d Members must participate in all activities in which the organization is involved; this includes Booster Club fundraisers, when applicable.
- e Members must exhibit and maintain a satisfactory attitude toward school policies and regulations. Please be familiar with the school policies. LBHS Student Handbooks are available in the LBHS main office or online. Members must also be prepared to follow stricter rules than set by the LBHS student handbook (including dress code, social media, pda, etc.)
- f Members must submit proof of annual physical before team camp.
- g All members must attend drill team camp. No member may leave camp for any reason other than illness, injury or death in the family. The member may only leave with a parent/legal guardian who must contact the director prior to release. Members are responsible for the cost of camp.
- h Members must try-out every year to earn their place on the team.
- i Candidates must wear the director's specifically selected uniform during tryouts.
- j Candidates must attend the 4-day tryout clinic prior to tryouts.
- k Tryouts are closed to the public.
- l Students transferring in from other schools may become members if the individual meets grade level requirements, grade requirements, present a letter of recommendation from their former director, principal and counselor stating that all financial obligations have been met, and that the candidate was a member of the team in good standing. The candidate must participate in an informal tryout to determine her abilities. The director's decision is final. No candidate will be considered after Team Camp.
- m Candidates who have been dismissed or who have resigned from the drill team will only be eligible to re-audition at the discretion of the director and administration.

- n Each candidate must make a satisfactory grade (70+) on the Constitution Test before being allowed to perform as a Silver Spur.
- o The director reserves the right to re-evaluate each team member for “contest team” levels. This may be done by re-tryouts or simply by director evaluation of practice/performance levels.

### **Article III: Personal Responsibilities**

In keeping with the pride of LBHS, good physical appearance, grooming and dress are vital. The Silver Spurs are feature members of halftime shows and perform frequently in public. The appearance of the Silver Spurs must be one of pride, not only for the Silver Spurs organization, but for the pride of the school and the individual.

- a Members of the Silver Spurs will be asked to keep themselves groomed in a neat and orderly fashion.
- b Any uniform/costume issued to a member is to be treated with pride and respect. The uniform should be worn and stored in this manner as well.
- c Field uniforms are the property of LBHS and will be checked out to members at the beginning of football season, and returned at the end of football season.
- d Each member is responsible for the proper care of the uniform & must keep them clean
- e Uniforms must be returned in the same condition as they were issued.
- f Any damage done to a uniform will be charged to the member to whom it was issued. The member must pay for the repair or the full amount of the damaged uniform.
- g Personal items of the uniform must be kept clean, i.e. boots, hats, and tights.
- h A complete uniform check will be held prior to any activity/performance. This includes hair and make-up.
- i Only drill team members may wear the uniform and attire representing the team (sweat shirts, t-shirts etc.). **Do not lend Silver Spur apparel to friends.**
- j No jewelry shall be worn during practice, performance or while in uniform.
- k No tattoos/piercings will be seen during practices, performances, or while in uniform.
- l All members must label their personal uniform items.
- m Hair color must be a natural tint, and must be maintained – roots must match the hair color.

### **Article IV: Officer Tryouts (Line Officer & Spirit Leaders)**

- a To be eligible for an officer position, a candidate must be a veteran member of the drill team in good standing (no repeat offenses/outstanding financial issues etc.) for at least 1 year prior to tryouts.
- b A candidate must participate in the tryout procedure and make a satisfactory score in order to become an officer.
- c Officers must re-tryout each year.

- d Tryouts are closed to the public.
- e The position of Officer is a full year commitment. Any candidate who can not commit to a full year of service due to early graduation, transferring schools, etc will not be considered. Candidates must provide a copy of their schedule for the year of service.
- f The number of officers and their ranks shall be chosen depending on the specific needs of the team. This decision will be solely at the discretion of the Director.

## **Article V: Dismissal of Line Officer or Spirit Leader**

- a The Director has the authority to remove an officer from their position if that officer does not uphold the position and responsibilities of their position.
- b Any officer will be dismissed from the officer line for failing one or more classes during the grading period.
- c Any officer will be dismissed from their position if placed on disciplinary probation.

## **Article VI: Managers**

- a Managers are required to enroll in the Silver Spurs class and are considered non-dancing members of the team.
- b Managers have the same grade and conduct requirements as line members.
- c Managers must purchase and wear all non-performance Silver Spur attire.
- d Managers must attend all practices and performances.
- e Managers' duties include: assisting the director with any job as requested, such as filing, copying papers, data entry etc. They are also responsible for all music, stereos, video cameras, accessories, costumes, props and first aid kits.
- f Returning Managers are required to re-tryout. A Manager will not be eligible for their position if they have any outstanding financial balances with LBHS or the team.
- j Managers must attend after school practices with the team unless a written note is given in advance and approved by the Director.

## **Article VII: Parent/Guardian Responsibilities**

- a Parents/Guardians must give their permission for their child to tryout before they may tryout, and fulfill all of the responsibilities of being a drill team member before official acceptance.
- b Parents must be willing to meet all financial obligations involved in having their child as a member of the drill team.
- c Parents are responsible for arranging transportation to all activities, except when transportation is provided by the school and director.
- d Parents act as a support group by promoting the drill team through membership in the drill team booster club.
- e Parents should be willing to participate in various booster club activities. The purpose of these activities is to defray costs for the drill team member.

## **Article VIII: Practice/Performance Responsibilities**

- a Silver Spurs is a full year course. Members must participate in each term and will receive PE/Fine Arts credit for the year.
- b Practice will be required each day during a specified class period. Students in this class must fulfill specific requirements for performance that will be evaluated by the director as for any academic class.
- c Every member must be present for all practices, which includes during class, before school, after school and summer camp practices. Every member must be present for all performances including games, pep rallies, parades, competitions etc. Only excuses approved by the Director will be accepted and each will be evaluated individually. Prior notice must be given to excuse doctor's appointments, etc. A note, from the doctor, must be provided upon return to be considered excused.
- d It is the responsibility of the member to notify the director AND their Line Officer of her absence BEFORE drill team class time. Excused absences are those approved by the director.
- e Written excuses must be given to the director no later than the second day a member returns following an absence.
- f Members must attend school all day in order to be eligible to perform.
- g Work can not interfere with scheduled practices or performances. Work is not an excused absence from practice or performance. Work is not an excuse for being late or leaving early from practice.
- h Any tutorials or make-up work should be done before school, at lunch and in extreme cases after school. Practice is not the time to take care of tutoring needs.
- i Silver Spurs will attend all games, practices and performances in uniform whether performing or not.
- j All practices are closed to the public.
- k Members must sit/stand with the team during all contests, games and pep rallies.
- l If a member has a health condition that the Director determines may be adversely affected by participation in dance team activities, the Director may require the member to provide a doctor's note authorizing participation in practices and performances. The Director may prohibit a member from participation in dance team activities until such a doctor's note is received. Thus, releasing any liability from Lake Belton High School, Belton ISD, or the Director for any injury or illness resulting from such participation.

## **Article IX: Performance Evaluation**

- a There will be a performance evaluation for EVERY routine judged by the director with the input of the officers. A member unable to meet the standards set for that routine will not be allowed to perform in that routine, but must attend the performance in uniform and assume her responsibilities as usual. Aspects of the dance to be evaluated are (1) knowledge, (2) showmanship, (3) technique, (4) memory, and (5) precision. If a member fails to meet the criteria they will be omitted from the routine.

- b After subsequent critiques, any dancer not performing satisfactory at practices or anyone who is absent from practice after the evaluation could be removed from that performance.
- c All members must continue to dress out and participate in practices as well as uphold all responsibilities as an “alternate” for any performance which they did not meet performance requirements.
- d Members must audition for every performance in order to be eligible to perform. Any member who was not present at the time of audition or formation set will not be allowed to participate in the routine, unless permitted by the director in advance (a private audition will be given beforehand). Reasons for not performing may be but are not limited to: missing too many practices, not knowing the routine, not being able to perform adequately, and/or academic probation.
- e Members will not be allowed to perform once placed on grade or disciplinary probation for the term of the probation. (See article XV for more information.)

## **Article X: Probation**

- a A member may not perform or participate in any drill team performance/extra practices beginning the day they are placed on probation, but the member must attend all regular practices, fulfill all duties and responsibilities of a Silver Spur. They may not wear any uniform to school, practice, performances, or pep rallies. The member may not sit or travel with the team.
- b A member may be placed on probation if they do not meet the grade or conduct requirements. They will not be eligible to perform for the grading or disciplinary period. At the end of the period, if the grades and/or conduct continue to fall below the requirements, the members will be subject to dismissal. This is stated in the UIL rules. A member who is on probation due to grades may be assigned to mandatory study periods by the Director.
- c A member will be placed on probation for 2 weeks if they receive 10 or more demerits and fail to work them off.
- d A member will be placed on probation for any conduct that does not reflect a favorable impression of the team (this is at the discretion of the director and the administration). If the conduct continues, the member may be subject to dismissal.
- e A member will be placed on probation for receiving any ISS days.
- f A member will be placed on probation for bad conduct, negative attitude or not following drill team rules or the policies of the school.
- g A member will be placed on probation if they lend any part of a uniform or Silver Spur attire to a non-member.
- h A member will be placed on probation for cutting school classes.
- i A member will be placed on probation for excessive public display of affection.
- j A member will be placed on probation for lack of participation in the Silver Spur program.
- k A member will be placed on probation for violating school rules defined in the Code of Conduct for Lake Belton High School.
- l The Director and administration will determine the length of the probationary period if they feel the 2 weeks is inadequate.

- m Disrespect toward the Director, teacher, parent, student or member of the team is grounds for probation.
- n A member will be placed on probation for excessive use of profanity.
- o A member will be placed on probation if they are caught cheating in school.

## **Article XII: Dismissal**

- a A member may be dismissed if they receive 15 or more demerits and fail to work them off.
- b A member may be dismissed if she fails to correct issues with the grade and conduct requirements after being placed on probation.
- c A member may be dismissed if probation is received more than twice a year.
- d A member may be dismissed if they are seen in person smoking, drinking alcohol, or using controlled substances in any team uniform/attire, at any school or community function, or attending any event after consuming alcohol or controlled substances. (This is stated in the LBHS/BISD Code of Conduct as well as the Extracurricular Code of Conduct as stated in the student hand book.)
- e A member may be dismissed for insubordination toward or not cooperating with the Director.
- f A member may be dismissed for chronic misbehavior in classrooms. (In or outside of Spurs)
- g A member may be dismissed for suspension from school
- h A member may be dismissed after their 10<sup>th</sup> drill team absence, this means class, practice, performance or function.
- i A member may be dismissed for not attending team camp. (See Article II, f. for exceptions)
- j Dismissal decisions are made at the discretion of the Director and Administration.

## **Article XIII: Game and Bus Conduct**

- a All members will remain in a group throughout the entire game.
- b Members are not allowed to leave their designated seats unless given permission by the Director.
- c No other persons will be allowed to sit with the team members. Chaperones sit to the side of the team or in front with the Director and Mangers.
- d Members must pay attention to the event and Officers/Director.
- e No food is allowed in the drill team stands at any time. Water is permitted.
- f Each member must provide transportation to and from home games, and to and from school for away games.
- g Members are required to ride the bus to all out of town games. Arrangements can be made for alternate transportation home. A note indicating that the Spur will not be riding the bus home from the game must be provided the day prior to the game.
- h Members will receive demerits for disorderly bus conduct.
- i Members travel in full uniform unless otherwise advised by the director.

## **Article XIV: Extracurricular Code of Conduct**

Students who represent LBHS through extracurricular participation are expected to conform to a more rigid code of behavior than the general student population. Participation in activities which represent the school is considered a privilege and an honor, subject to regulation and not an inherent right. Failure to conform to the rigid code of behavior dishonors the organization to which the student belongs, as well as LBHS and BISD. Members of the Silver Spurs are subject to extracurricular guidelines that appear in the student handbook.

## **Article XV: Constitutional Amendments**

- a The constitution is subject to change at any time due to school Administration rules and/or with the approval of the Director and Administration.
- b The Director may enforce other rules, as they become necessary, for the benefit of the drill team organization. Any decision made by the Director is in the best interest of the team as a whole.
- c This constitution is a living document and is a guide to our discipline system that is not meant to be elusive of every, or exclusive of any, situation. If an incident should arise that is not specifically addressed in the constitution, the Director and an administrator will address the incident on an individual basis. The Director and an Administrator reserve the right to amend this constitution at any time.

## **Article XVI: Success of the Drill Team Organization**

This drill team organization strives to teach its members a sense of responsibility, self-respect, respect for others, self-discipline, grooming, the ability to accept constructive criticism, the art of learning to be flexible and the ability to learn from defeat as well as from success.

This drill team's success stems from the dedicated young individuals and parents/guardian support who believe that the achievement of these qualities will be an important part of the member's future endeavors.

## **Article XVII: Resignation**

Resignation from the Silver Spurs at any time after the selection process will result in the inability to tryout until the next school year. A resignation in writing will be required, addressed to the Director.

## **Article XVIII: Parent/Teacher Communication**

- a Any questions or concerns regarding any dance team matter need to be first addressed with the Director before contacting alternate sources.
- b The Director may be reached by calling the Silver Spur office, and is available for parent-teacher conferencing during her scheduled conference period.

# Silver Spurs Constitution By-Laws

## Grading

Demerits and merits will be considered in determining grades. Merits can be earned to erase demerits. Merits will be recorded and kept by the Director and Line Officers. It is the member's responsibility to keep a regular check of her merits and demerits. Merits must be presented within 1 week of the activity in which they were obtained. Demerits may also be worked off with physical exercises (ribbits, high kicks, burpees, etc.) as determined by the Director. Officers will receive double demerits stated in by-laws. Each team member will be required to keep record of her merits with her officer. The director must approve all merits received. If a merit is not recorded and approved, the member will not receive credit for that particular merit. Each member will begin with an 80-point average. To raise her points, she will need to earn merits for each grade point she desires. It will take 2 merits to erase 1 demerit.

## A. Merit System

- [1] Extra Decorating
- [1] Outstanding dance TEAM awards – 1 merit per team award
- [2] Perfect week (no demerits / no absences)
- [2] Parent/Guardian attends Booster Club Meeting
- [2] Attending a non-required school function in Spur attire (t-shirt, jacket, etc.)
- [2] Any 3-week grade that goes up
- [2] 100 on a major exam (must show officer proof)
- [2] Top fundraiser in a project
- [2] Outstanding individual award / Division 1 on a solo
- [2] 50 high kicks / 30 burpees / 20 toe touches
- [3] Silver Spur of the Week / Most Spirited Spur
- [3] Any individual award earned at camp or contest – solo finalist runner up, etc.
- [3] Attending dance concerts or events
- [3] Cleaning the mirrors in the studio
- [5] Enrolling in a dance studio class (please provide proof – per semester)
- [5] Straight A's on report card or progress report
- [1-6] Any community service in Spur Attire (1 per half hour – max 6)
- [10] Solo finalist winner / Miss High Kick winner
- [1-15] Helping the Director with a project

Each member that earns from merits a grade of 100 per 9-weeks, will be allowed to carry over 1 merit for every 5 merits toward the following 9-weeks.



## **B. Demerit System**

Demerits will be recorded and kept by the Officers and the Director. It is the responsibility of each member to keep a regular check of her demerits through the officer. Members receiving or accumulating 10 or more demerits will be placed on probation. Members receiving or accumulating 15 or more demerits shall be subject to dismissal from the organization. Demerits must be worked off before the one-week mark of being issued.

### **Uniform Demerits**

- [1] Soiled hat, shoes, torn tights, etc.
- [1] Missing an accessory to the uniform (headband, tights, earrings, etc.)
- [1] Wearing unauthorized items with uniform (jewelry, pins, etc.)
- [2] Wearing any part of the uniform at a time not specified by the director.
- [2] Not wearing the drill team uniform in an appropriate manner.
- [2] Eating while in uniform
- [2] Dirty or unpressed uniforms.
- [2] Having nail polish/ uncurled-uncombed hair.
- [2] Failure to bring any part of a uniform / costume for practice / performance.
- [2] Failure to suit out for practice (Unexcused)
- [3] Failure to apply correct performance make-up or wear hair in designated style.
- [3] Removal of any part of the uniform before reaching the designated area for change or given prior instruction.
- [5] Failure to wear the designated Friday / performance day attire to school.
- [5] Abusing/ misusing the drill team uniform or items belonging to the drill team.

### **Attendance Demerits**

- [1] Late for practice – less than 15 minutes
- [2] Late for practice – more than 15 minutes
- [5] Late for a performance/ required activity
- [0] Absence excused in advance (Dr's note)
- [1] Absence excused after absence – with a Dr's note
- [3] Absence unexcused from practice
- [10] Absence unexcused from performance

### **Conduct Demerits**

- [1] Talking/moving while at attention
- [1] Chewing gum at a performance
- [2] School dress code violation (on 3<sup>rd</sup> offense – disciplinary probation)
- [2] Not in assigned position on the field or in the stands at a practice / performance
- [2] Talking during a performance
- [3] Disruptive behavior at a practice / performance
- [5] Public display of affection at school function in or out of uniform
- [5] Disorderly conduct of behavior
- [5] Insubordination to an officer
- [8] Insubordination to a parent, chaperone, or teacher
- [10] Insubordination to the Director

## **Miscellaneous Demerits**

- [1] Every day late to turn in money/forms unless arrangements have been made with Director
- [1] Wearing anything to practice that hinders performance (jewelry, sweats, hair not pulled up, etc)
- [1] Not paying attention at games or pep-rallies
- [1] Not cheering for other groups at a game, pep-rally, or contest
- [1] Failure to meet responsibilities (ex. Not following through on a volunteer act)
- [1] Officers not assigning earned demerits
- [2] Returning any item late – ex: costumes
- [2] Disorderly conduct on the bus
- [2] Un-sportsman like conduct
- [3] Unladylike conduct
- [3] Excessive complaining
- [3] Leaving trash in studio, dressing room, practice area, stands, bus or office
- [5] Use of profanity
- [1-15] Any other behavior or action that is deemed fit will also receive demerits

## **Discipline Demerits: Severity dictates number of demerits issued**

- [3-10] Any school detention
- [5-15] Violation of rules and regulations of the Silver Spur Constitution
- [10-15] Use of tobacco, alcoholic beverages, controlled substances (without legal prescription), or illegal drugs.
- [10-15] Violation of BISD rules not mentioned, or of public laws not mentioned
- [10-15] Not following instructions depending on the severity of the offense.

This constitution is a living document. If an incident should arise that is not specifically addressed in the constitution, the Director and an administrator will address the incident on an individual basis. The Director and an administrator reserve the right to amend this constitution at any time.

By signing this constitution, you understand the information stated in this document, and agree to follow the rules and regulation here in.

Student Signature\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_

Director Signature\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_

This form needs to be signed by all named parties and returned to the Director. If the form is not returned within the allotted time, the student will be suspended from the team until the Director receives this form back.

(Constitution revised February, 2021)  
Effective June 11, 2021

**Director Copy**

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