



How to Book a Marching Band

General Information

Forward! is made up of a diverse group of musicians who have varied schedules (including, in a few cases, elementary school classes) and we are rarely able to book gigs during weekdays before 6 pm. If at all possible, please allow for at least two weeks advance notice (more lead time makes our planning easier) for our group to decide if we have “critical mass” for the gig.

Please include the information in the Booking Questionnaire in a request to book Forward! Marching Band. Lack of any of the following doesn't mean Forward!

can't or won't play an event, but will help us immensely in our decision making. Please fill out as much information in the Questionnaire as possible and email it to: info@forwardband.org

Rules of Engagement (a.k.a. our Rider)

Forward! marching band is a large, brightly costumed, unwieldy conglomeration of folks of all ages who like to have fun and play music. We just need to be safe, have a place to store our gear, eat and use the bathroom and we'll have a great time playing for y'all. The following list of details will help us all have a successful time at your event with a minimum of stress.

- Forward! will appoint one person as the “captain” for the gig. At the event, the “captain” will be your sole contact for changes, alerts, routes, band needs, etc.
- Designate one person on your side to deal with us before and at the gig.
- Our band includes large bulky instruments, sometimes children of various ages and giant puppets. We take up a fair amount of real estate. Our sousaphone alone is nearly 8 feet tall. Please keep this in mind when booking.
- Much-appreciated amenities include:
 - Safe storage
 - Transport for instrument cases during marches
 - Access to toilets
 - Dressing room
 - Booze/water/food
 - Chaperones in marches and crowds
 - Pics & vids of the show
 - Parking for band members vehicles
- At parades, keep in mind the logistics of a band, leaving space before and behind the group, placement of the band in the marching group.
- Forward! expresses our politics on our sleeves...we like to dress to support our causes and passions. If this might be perceived as a problem, let it be made clear to us early.
- The sooner you ask, the likelier we can play your event. Work days before 6:00 PM are unlikely.
- As soon as possible before your event, give us times for load-in and performance.
- We have real expenses, and play many gigs (but can't play all) for free. Money for our band to continue is necessary.
- Bartering is most welcome: instruments and repair, performance venues, travel, recording and... ??

Booking Questionnaire

1. Who is organizing the event/action (w/ contact info) and what is your group about?

2. What are the logistics (time, place, venue, etc.)?

3. By what date do you need a commitment from us?

4. What is the cause being advanced and/or the purpose of the event?

5. Who are the sponsors of the event?

6. Do you anticipate conflict at this event with public or private authorities, police, counter demonstrators etc?

7. Is there (free) parking available for us?

8. Is there money to pay the band? (It takes money for us to fund our rehearsal space and many other expenses)

9. Will there be provisions (water, beer, food) for the band?

10. How did you find out about Forward?

To invite Forward! to your event, please include as much of the above information as possible and email us at info@forwardband.org