

## September 2015

Hello All Stars!

This will be the Mid American Pompon All Star Team's 28<sup>th</sup> consecutive year in America's Thanksgiving Day parade, which will take place in downtown Detroit on Thursday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015! We hope that many of our All Stars will be able to participate in what is one of our favorite days of the entire year at Mid American Pompon!

**Thanksgiving Parade reservations will be due on October 26<sup>th</sup> by 8:00 pm.** Due to the various arrangements that need to be made for this event, **late registrations are not accepted.** Please keep this in mind and register early as zero exceptions will be made. Note that if you are participating in the parade, **you will have to miss school on Wednesday, November 25th** (for the parade rehearsal).

Attached to the email are two Thanksgiving permission slips that must be signed by your parents and returned to Mid American Pompon on or before October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Please be sure that the All Star member and a parent both sign the liability release and the Parade Permission Slip. If these forms are not filled out properly, they will not be accepted. Please mail all forms to:

*Mid American Pompon – All Star Team  
24425 Indoplex Circle  
Farmington Hills, MI 48335*

**YOUR RESERVATION IS NOT COMPLETE UNTIL YOU HAVE REGISTERED ONLINE AND RETURNED BOTH PERMISSION FORMS.** *If you do not fully complete the registration process, you will not be registered to perform. Thank you for your attention to this.*

There are two separate performance packages that you may purchase for this event. **The first package is open to 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> year members.** This package will allow you to participate in both the 90-second television broadcasted opening number on WDIV prior to the parade, as well as the actual parade performance. Due to the size of the performance area for the opening show routine, we cannot have the entire team perform this routine. This year, the Opening Show Performance must be limited to 85 performers, based on eligibility and taken on a first come, first serve basis. ***The cost for this package, "OPENING SHOW/PARADE" is \$227 per person.***

**The second package is open to ANY All Star member** and does not include the opening number performance. The difference in price is that if an All Star is not participating in the opening number, they will arrive later at the hotel on Wednesday, November 26, will have less rehearsal time, and will not be served lunch. ***The cost for this package, "PARADE", is \$200 per person.***

**The cost of both Thanksgiving Packages includes:**

- Hotel accommodations at the Novi Sheraton Hotel (4 All Stars/ room –Wed. Nov 25)
  - \* Rental of rehearsal space
  - \* Dinner (Nov. 25) and breakfast to go (Nov. 26)
  - \* Deluxe Coach Bus transportation to the parade and back to the hotel
  - \* Professionally recorded and produced memory DVD of the Thanksgiving rehearsal, opening show, and parade performance

For those purchasing the "OPENING SHOW/PARADE" package, your fees also include rental space for rehearsal for the opening number, and lunch at the Novi Sheraton, and separate Deluxe Coach bus transportation down to the parade and back.

## GENERAL SCHEDULE FOR THE EVENT

(Tentative; final schedule will be emailed at least one week prior)

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25<sup>th</sup>

#### \*OPENING SHOW PARTICIPANTS

- 8:15-9:00a.m. **Opening Show participants only** - Check in with Mid American Staff at the Novi Sheraton; receive room keys, report to the ballroom to pick up merchandise, etc.  
9:15-12:00p.m. Opening show rehearsal  
12:00-1:30p.m. Lunch, relaxation (Lunch served 12:00-1:00)

#### \*PARADE PARTICIPANTS NOT PERFORMING IN THE OPENING SHOW -

- 12:45-1:30p.m. Check in with Mid American Staff at the Novi Sheraton; receive room keys, report to the ballroom to pick up merchandise, etc. Please eat lunch on your own before arriving.  
1:30-4:15p.m. Parade rehearsal for **ALL** participants  
4:15-4:30p.m. Opening Show rehearsal  
4:30-5:00p.m. Get ready for group picture and dress rehearsal  
5:00-6:00p.m. DINNER served  
4:45-6:15p.m. Individual / small group pictures in ballroom hallway  
(See schedule outside Ballroom)  
6:15-6:30p.m. Pose for Group Photo  
6:30-7:00p.m. Group picture  
7:00-8:30p.m. Three Year Member Awards, Dress rehearsal  
(Indoor/Outdoor depending on weather)  
9:00 p.m. Staff Applicant Meeting – anyone who is interested in applying for the 2013 summer camp staff should attend this short meeting (Main ballroom, front platform)  
10:45 p.m. ROOM CHECKS  
11:00 p.m. QUIET – Must be in assigned rooms

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26<sup>th</sup>

- Please note - take a boxed breakfast on your way out to the bus.
- Schedule is subject to change

- 5:30 a.m.** Load Bus with **Opening Show participants**  
5:45 a.m. Depart for downtown Detroit  
6:30 a.m. Opening show spacing rehearsal on Woodward Ave.  
**6:55 a.m.** Load Bus #3 and #4 (**Remainder of All Star Team**)  
7:00 a.m. Depart for parade staging area  
TBD Opening show performance for WDIV (Channel 4)  
10:15 a.m. All Stars begin Parade Route  
TBD Parade performance to air on WDIV  
12:00 noon Return to Novi Sheraton and check out

#### Hotel Accommodations

Hotel arrangements have been made with the Novi Sheraton Hotel for the **mandatory** parade practice on Wednesday, November 26<sup>th</sup> by having every All Star at the hotel; it assures us that all members will be at the hotel in the morning, eliminating the possibility of all stars being late because of oversleeping, traffic, etc. All

Stars will **not** be allowed to room with family or friends on the night of November 25<sup>th</sup>, only other All Star Team members. Room assignments are based on four to a room by school. If there are less than four from your school we will pair you up with other All Stars from other schools. Room requests are not accepted due to the size of the team, and All Stars must stay in their assigned rooms.

You must provide your own transportation to and from the hotel. Parents are welcome to stay at the hotel the night prior to the parade performance. However, they must make their own reservations by calling 248-349-4000, and mention that you are with the Mid American Pompon All Star Team for our group rate. You will be required to give a credit card number for your room. Parents are welcome to come and watch the dress rehearsal at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, as well as to attend the actual performances in downtown Detroit on Thanksgiving morning. However, family and friends are not permitted on our chartered busses on Thanksgiving Day.

### **Opening Show Rehearsal**

In addition to the parade, we may have the opportunity to perform the opening number for the television viewing audience. WDIV, Channel 4 in Detroit, is in charge of this pre-parade show and they always let us know if we will be involved at the last minute. We have already choreographed a performance in the event we are invited. As in years past, at this time, we do not know if we will be invited to perform in the opening show, but we plan for it in the event we are. The All Star Team has been titled a 'favorite' by both WDIV and The Parade Company, and we do not doubt that we will open the parade again this year. Our routine has kicked off the parade in the nationally televised portion of the parade for the past several years.

Due to the size of the performance area for the opening show routine, we cannot have the entire team perform this routine. This year, the **Opening Show Performance must be limited to 85 performers, based on eligibility and taken on a first come, first serve basis.** This is the ONLY performance that we should have to limit performers. Those who are eligible to perform in this routine are:

- 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, or 4<sup>th</sup> Year All Stars

You will be wearing the same outfit for both performances. Rehearsal for the opening number will be held from 9:15a.m.-12:00 noon on Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> at the Novi Sheraton Hotel. ***Payment and rehearsal attendance does NOT guarantee that you will perform in this routine. Upon arrival, team members must have perfect knowledge of the routine, as well as flawless form and kicks in order to perform. Due to the short rehearsal time for this event, those who do not meet our expectations upon arrival will be pulled from the routine, and will be asked to come back for parade rehearsal later in the afternoon.***

### **Annual Roster Tee and Sweatshirt**

You have the opportunity to purchase the 2015-2016 All Star sweatshirt and t-shirt. Pictures of the apparel will be posted online. The 2015-2016 All Star Team Member roster will be printed on the back of the sweatshirt ONLY. If you are interested in either of the shirts, you must purchase them online with your Thanksgiving reservation. The sweatshirts and t-shirts are unisex sizes. The t-shirts/sweatshirts will be issued at the parade rehearsal along with any other All Star items ordered (All Star tops, pants, poms, etc.).

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE: This is the only time of the year that the T-shirts and sweatshirts are offered for sale and due to the expense of printing, additional orders cannot be accepted after the deadline so plan ahead! Even if you are not participating in the parade, you must order your tee shirt or sweatshirt by this deadline in addition to arranging for its pick up. We will not have extras to sell.**

## **All Star Team Photos**

The All Star Team photo will be taken on Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> at the hotel. All Star members in the parade will have the option of purchasing a team photo – this is NOT included in your package. Once again this year, our photographer will be Jeff Garland. All Stars who are interested may have individual or small group pictures taken in your All Star uniform. Individual photo packages are payable to Jeff Garland Photography on November 26<sup>th</sup> by cash or check. Payment envelopes will be available at check-in at the hotel. An order form is also available to be printed off in advance from the All Star section of our website. Prices are listed below so that you can have the payment ready when you arrive.

Package A:	4 Wallets, 2 4x6	\$16.00
Package B:	4 Wallets, 1 3x5, 1 5x7, 1 Photo Button	\$24.00
Package C:	8 Wallets, 2 3x5, 2 5x7, 1 Photo Button	\$28.00
Package D:	1 Photo Button	\$6.00
Package E:	(All-Star Template) 1 5x7, 2 4x6	\$ 24.00
8 x 10 All-Star Group Photo (with an above package)		\$12.00
8 x 10 All-Star Group Photo (without ordering another single package)		\$15.00

\*\*\* **PLEASE NOTE ALL DEADLINES!** We would appreciate it if every All Star would register online and return the reservation forms **prior** to the deadlines that are set - we have many arrangements to make with 193 team members! All Stars may hand deliver forms. Our business hours are 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. (M-TH), 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (FRI). There is also a mail slot at the east end lobby of the building if we are not open. Be sure that you inform your parents about this information and be sure they read this letter. As you can see, this letter contains a great deal of important information. Please read it carefully! All correspondence pertaining to the All Star Team will also be posted on our website at [www.pompon.com](http://www.pompon.com), as well as, on our Facebook page.

\*\*\* **REFUND POLICY:** Once you have sent in your money for the Thanksgiving Parade Package, you have until **NOVEMBER 18TH to cancel your trip and receive a partial refund.** A \$50 processing fee will be charged for cancellations. Cancellations on or after November 18 are non-refundable or transferable. Team tee shirts, sweatshirts, body suits, etc. are considered special orders and are non-refundable.

Upon completion of registration, a link will be sent to you via email with the choreography for both the parade and opening show from which you will learn the routines. **Please note this is a different process than what has been used in the past.**

After the reservations are complete, you will receive another letter with specifics **by e-mail.** This letter will also be available on our website. This letter will include a list of what to bring, a map to the Novi Sheraton Hotel, and other details.

**THANK YOU!**

**We are looking forward to a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday!  
And look forward to spending it with you!**

Questions??? [Julie@pompon.com](mailto:Julie@pompon.com) or visit [www.pompon.com/all-stars](http://www.pompon.com/all-stars)

## **2015 Thanksgiving Reservation and Merchandise Order DIRECTIONS**

### General notes:

- This process is similar to the process you followed to register for the team this summer.
- Follow directions as noted below
- Complete the checklist at the bottom to ensure that you have followed the directions completely.
- **Complete ALL purchases by October, 26th at 8:00 pm.**
- **DO NOT SEND IN A CHECK.**

Anyone registering for the parade **OR** purchasing merchandise will begin by:

1. Going to [www.pompon.com](http://www.pompon.com)
2. Click on the ALL STAR tab on the Right hand side, and then click on the link "Congratulations 2015/2016 All Stars click **here**" directly under the words All Star Events on the left hand side.
3. You will be directed to the to the Mind Body Online page where you will login on the top right hand side of the page in a grey shaded area with your username/email and password that you created when you created your profile. If you do not remember this information, you can click on 'Forgot your login?' and you will be asked your security question. **DO NOT create a new profile if you cannot remember your password. Click "forgot your login?" if you cannot figure it out.**
4. Once you log in, click on the ALL STAR tab to the far right side of the screen.

### **TO REGISTER FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE THANKSGIVING PARADE and/or OPENING SHOW**

1. Select "2015 PARADE" **or** "2015 PARADE/OPENING SHOW" and click on 'SIGN UP NOW!'
2. Click on ENROLL.
3. This will take you to your shopping cart, which will show your selection.
4. If you are done shopping, and will not be purchasing anything else go to CHECKOUT directions below, otherwise go back to the ALL STAR tab at the top and continue.

### **TO PURCHASE MERCHANDISE (Team tee, sweatshirt, shoes, pants, or bodysuit)**

1. Select each item that you would like to purchase and click on 'SIGN UP NOW!'
2. Click on ENROLL. This will take you to a Services screen where you will select your size.
3. This will take you to your shopping cart, which will show your selection(s).
4. If you are done shopping, and will not be purchasing anything else go to CHECKOUT directions below, otherwise go back to the ALL STAR tab at the top and continue making selections.

### **CHECKOUT DIRECTIONS**

1. Look at your shopping cart to be sure that everything is there that you would like to purchase.
2. Click on 'CHECK OUT'
3. Enter all credit card information and click on 'Place Order'. This will complete your order.
4. An email will be sent to the address associated with your profile to confirm your order within a few days. If you do not receive an email, please log in and look at the 'PURCHASES' tab of your profile to be sure that you completed all of the steps.