

# **Instructor Etiquette**

**By Jenn Johnson and Melissa Samson**

“Treat others like you would like to be treated.”

## **Pre-show**

While it is important to focus your kids and prepare them for the best performance possible, remember that everyone else is trying to do the same. No one likes to warm-up next to the color guard who blasts their music at full volume, has the instructor screaming their head off, or the kids who present themselves in a “less-than classy” manner. A few reminders for instructors during warm-up and pre-show rituals:

- Keep the volume of your music at a level where your guard can hear it and it is not a distraction to everyone else around you.
- When warm-up areas are tight, be considerate of those around you. It might not be the most appropriate time to spread out your guard over the entire space in a situation like this.
- Give all instructions for entering and exiting before you leave your practice site. This will eliminate confusion at the ready door.
- Pre-show rituals should be done at an appropriate time that serves its purpose for your guard but does not interfere with others preparing for their performance. For example, if you have a song and dance, you probably should wait until the next group goes into the gym, before you begin.
- Be considerate of the quiet zone outside of the performance entry door.
- Give all instructions to parents ahead of time. They will do what they need to do, and you can be with the students.

## **Post-show**

- Clear the exit area ASAP. Fold your floor and get your equipment out of the vicinity before the next guard exits. Your performance rundown can be done in another area that is clear of the exit zone.
- Ensure that your students know exactly what to do after their performance. This includes loading equipment, where to change, how to enter back into the gym to watch other groups, and so on.

## **General**

- Be aware of your language, actions, and behavior. You are an educator who represents the organization of your color guard as well as the Winter Guard Association of Southern California.
- Familiarize yourself with the California Standards for Performing Arts. While most color guard instructors are not credentialed teachers of the arts, you should be aware of the education standards our state expects to be addressed.

Read your WGASC rulebook and adhere to these rules. You will save yourself some headaches if you understand what is expected of you and your color guard.