



Puerto Rico

Marching Band Tour 2025

San Juan, El Yunque, Icacos Cay, Ponce

April 14 - 19



The members of the Council Rock South Marching Band will have the opportunity to visit Puerto Rico, the “Shining Star of the Caribbean.” We will explore the rich history and culture, exceptional food, pristine beaches, and majestic mountains, all in a sun-drenched Caribbean paradise. Puerto Rico is full of welcoming people and “buena gente” (which in Boricua slang means kind and friendly). Here you will feel like you are part of the family instead of just a visitor. Around every corner you will find a celebration of life, a vibrant cultural experience, tasty food and a captivating rhythm.

Our students will be immersed in the sights and sounds of San Juan, famous for its tropical beaches, historic sites, art museums, salsa music, and the picturesque Museums. The band will embark on a walking tour of the city including stops at La Muralla, La Fortaleza and Museo de Casa Blanca. We will visit El Morro Castle and the San Juan Botanical Gardens. The band members and their families will visit El Yunque, the only tropical forest within the U.S. National Forest Service. We’ll Enjoy snorkeling, swimming, and sunbathing on the beautiful island of Icacos Cay. Our Band Family will also enjoy a trip to Ponce where we will see the Castillo Serrallés and la Plaza Las Delicias.

Our five nights will be spent in picturesque Buyamon, a suburb of San Juan located in the northern coastal valley.

The Marching Band, Concert Band and Color Guard will have performance opportunities at the [Puerto Rico Conservatory of Music](#), and an exchange performance opportunity with the [Banda Escolar de Guayanilla](#). All repertoire and venues will be released at a later date.

Chaperone duties will be provided by the Council Rock South marching band staff, and administrators. The tour package is being provided by Music Festivals and Tours.

Cost

Approximately \$2,800 per student

The price could fluctuate up or down based on the following factors:
The number of students and family members attending (the higher the number, the lower the cost),
transport of equipment (airline surcharge), and airport taxes and fuel surcharges – these are not under our control. We have done our best to anticipate all surcharges 12 months away from the trip.

The trip includes:

- Round Trip Airfare
- 5 Nights Hotel Accommodations with quad occupancy in Buyamon
- Breakfast and Dinner daily
- Deluxe Private Motor Coach transportation in PA and Puerto Rico
- Sightseeing, Local Tour Guides, and Attractions Fees
- Public Performance Arrangements and all advertising in Puerto Rico
- All Group Tips
- Full Travel Insurance





Parents and Siblings of Marching Band members are invited to travel with us. The student cost will be approximately **\$2,800** for Quad occupancy. The Rate for Adults in double occupancy is approximately **\$2,900** or **\$3,750** for single occupancy.

Benchmark Payment Dates

Checks payable to “CRBPAS”

May 1, 2024	\$365
June 4, 2024	\$365
July 9, 2024	\$365
August 13, 2024	Optional
September 9, 2024	\$365
October 8, 2024	\$365
November 10, 2024	\$365
December 1, 2024	\$365
January 7, 2025	Remaining Balance



A May Commitment is important to our planning for airline tickets and other necessary reservations. The **first payment** of \$365 will be collected on **May 1st** between 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm by our Treasurer and/or Trip Treasurer. Subsequent payments will be collected at Band Parent Association meetings from 7:30pm to 8:30pm. Checks made payable to “CRBPAS” may also be dropped off in advance. Fund raising activities will be provided during each benchmark period.



COUNCIL ROCK SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL BAND

Puerto Rico Performance Tour

ITINERARY April 14 - 19, 2025

6 Days/5 Nights

MONDAY, APRIL 14

Depart for Puerto Rico

Morning: Depart Council Rock South High School for Philadelphia or Newark International Airport for your flight to San Juan. Upon arrival in Puerto Rico, we will meet your English Speaking Guides and enjoy an introduction to San Juan. Depending on our time of arrival, we might make our first stop at one of San Juan's popular pedestrian/shopping areas where everyone can purchase lunch on their own. Then our guides will show us some of San Juan's popular attractions including **La Muralla, La Fortaleza and Museo de Casa Blanca**. We'll then transfer to our hotel with an included dinner this evening (D).



Hyatt Hotel Bayamon

Ave Ramon Luis Rivera

Bayamon, Puerto Rico, United States 00961

TUESDAY, APRIL 15

San Juan Guided Tour/Performance

Morning: Breakfast at the hotel. Load our chartered motor coaches and transfer to **Old San Juan** where we'll enjoy a guided walking tour of this historic city. A local guide introduces you to San Juan and its 400 years of Spanish Colonial history. See the Capitol building, plazas, and museums. Enter **El Morro Castle**, a striking military fortification. We'll visit Plaza Las Americas where there will be time to purchase lunch on your own. Later we'll visit the **San Juan Botanical Gardens**. Get an exciting look at the environment of Puerto Rico while you explore 289 acres of gardens, including a bamboo canopy, countless tropical plants, an orchid exhibit, and 125 species of palm trees. Frequented by over 60 species of birds, this visit is a real education in ecological diversity.



Afternoon: Return to the hotel where we'll have a group dinner prior to departing for the **Puerto Rico Conservatory of Music**. This is a public learning institution that offers undergraduate and graduate programs dedicated to developing musicians. The Conservatory has been providing the local community, especially the island's youth, with the opportunity to learn and perfect their musical skills. The Conservatory serves as one of the most important academic and cultural institutions in the Caribbean and all of Latin America.

Evening: The *Council Rock South High School Band* will present a performance here at the Conservatory this evening. (B,D)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

El Yunque National Forest/Catamaran Tour

Morning: Breakfast at the hotel. This morning we'll visit **El Yunque Caribbean National Forest**. Surrounded by millennium-old trees, catching the barest glimpse of the bright feathers of the Puerto Rican parrot and listening to the distinctive chanting of the coquí frogs (said to stop singing if ever taken away from the island), you'll understand why native Puerto Ricans considered this forest the home of the god of happiness. El Yunque is the only tropical forest within the U.S. National Forest Service and is a fantastic place to experience all the animal and plant riches that a rainforest has to offer. Time will be available to purchase lunch on your own.



Afternoon: Return to the hotel and prepare to depart for our performance exchange with the **Banda Escolar de Guayanilla**. This band has performed extensively throughout the United States over the years, most recently as a participant in the Tournament of Roses Parade a few years ago. We'll enjoy the time to meet with the members, perform and share a dinner together. (B,D)

THURSDAY, APRIL 17

Excursion to Icacos Cay

Morning: Breakfast at the hotel. This morning we'll load our motorcoaches and transfer to the town of Fajardo, about a 45-minute drive from San Juan. Here we'll board our private snorkeling boat for a full day excursion to **Cayo Icacos (Icacos Cay)**. Enjoy snorkeling, swimming and sunbathing on this beautiful island.

3:00 pm: We'll return and head back to the hotel where we'll enjoy a group dinner. (B,D)



FRIDAY, APRIL 18

Ponce

Morning: Breakfast at the hotel. Today we'll enjoy a trip to **Ponce**. Our first visit will be to **Castillo Serrallés or Serralles Castle** which is one of the top attractions in Ponce. Dating back to 1930, this is a mansion that occupies a well-maintained estate of 2.5 acres, overlooking the city of Ponce. The mansion today serves as a museum and is listed in the US National Register of Historic Places. The mansion has been refurbished to make it look as it appeared in the 1930s. Touring the museum will give you insight into the sugar cane and rum industries, and their impact on the economy of Puerto Rico. There are four floors in the museum, and every floor showcases a different aspect.

Afternoon: We'll visit the popular pedestrian area in Ponce, **Plaza Las Delicias**, where you'll have time to purchase lunch on your own and do some shopping. This afternoon we'll visit the **Parque De Bombas (Old Fire Station)**, which is a former Firehouse that houses a museum honoring Ponce's firefighters' bravery and legacy. Spanish Army Lieutenant Colonel Maxino Mena designed the wooden structure for the 1882 Exhibition Trade Fair. In 1885 the city made the building Ponce's Official Firehouse. The place served as a Fire Station for over a hundred years. After closing Parque de Bombas in 1990, the city turned the building into a museum. Parque de Bombas is one of the most emblematic structures in Ponce, if not in all of Puerto Rico. They painted the building with bright red and jet-black lines, the official colors of the town of Ponce.



Evening: We'll return to our hotel with a group dinner provided. (B,D)

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

Departure

Morning Breakfast at the hotel followed by check-out and transfer to the San Juan International Airport for our flight home. (B)

Package Plan Includes:

TRANSPORTATION

- Round-trip airfare from Philadelphia or Newark International Airport to San Juan International Airport
- Motorcoach Transportation while in Puerto Rico
- Roundtrip Motorcoach transfers from Council Rock South High School to Philadelphia or Newark Airport

ACCOMMODATION – 5 NIGHTS

- Five (5) Nights Hotel Accommodations at the Hyatt Hotel Bayamon (or similar)

ADMISSIONS/ VISITS/ TOURS

- Guided Tour of San Juan- El Morro Castle, La Muralla, La Fortaleza, Museo de Casa Blanca
- Admission to the San Juan Botanical Gardens
- Visit to El Yunque Caribbean National Forest
- Visit to Ponce with visits to Castillo Serralles and Parque De Bombas
- Private snorkeling boat for a full day excursion to Icacos Cay

BREAKFAST

- Five (5) Breakfasts at hotel each morning.
- Five (5) Dinners

PERFORMANCES

- Joint Performance at the Puerto Rico Conservatory of Music
- Joint Performance with the Banda Escolar de Guayanilla

OTHER

- Full-Time Local Tour Manager with 24/7 Local Emergency Support
- Tips to Drivers, Servers and Activity Guides that are Included in the Package
- Full-time Music Festivals & Tours Representative with the group for duration of the visit
- All Taxes & Gratuities
- Baggage tags
- Director's thank-you gift and custom engraved photo plaque for the Director

Things to consider for a trip to Puerto Rico:

- Sunscreen and insect repellent
- Shirts: cotton or light synthetic, long- and short-sleeved.
- Dry fit clothing: cotton or light synthetic pants and shorts. Bring at least 2 sets of clothes that dry quickly (jeans not recommended and too slow to dry).
- Footwear: waterproof, light-weight hiking boots, river sandals (Teva-type sandals), tennis shoes/running shoes. If you do not bring hiking boots, make sure you bring TWO pairs of tennis shoes.
- Socks: Bring extra pairs in case feet get wet
- Rain Gear: Rain poncho and/or umbrella
- Hat(s) with visor for rain and sun protection
- Charger and Plenty of memory on your phone to take pictures
- Small day pack or fanny pack for hikes
- Sweater or light jacket
- Sunglasses
- Swimwear

A more detailed packing list will be provided a few months prior to our departure



Puerto Rico Trip Payment Options

PLEASE SELECT A ROOM TYPE

PAYMENT DATES	<input type="checkbox"/> QUAD ROOM (High School Performer or (4) Non-Performing Travelers) \$2,800.00 Per Person (Includes jacket/accessories)	<input type="checkbox"/> DOUBLE ROOM (Non-Performing Traveler) \$2,995.00 Per Person (No apparel or accessories)	<input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE ROOM (Non-Performing Traveler) \$3,750.00 Per Person (No apparel or accessories)
MAY 1, 2024	\$365.00	\$380.00	\$490.00
JUNE 4, 2024	\$365.00	\$380.00	\$490.00
JULY 9, 2024	\$365.00	\$380.00	\$490.00
AUGUST 13, 2024	PARTIAL / OPTIONAL	PARTIAL / OPTIONAL	PARTIAL / OPTIONAL
SEPTEMBER 9, 2024	\$365.00	\$380.00	\$490.00
OCTOBER 8, 2024	\$365.00	\$380.00	\$490.00
NOVEMBER 10, 2024	\$365.00	\$380.00	\$490.00
DECEMBER 1, 2024	\$365.00	\$380.00	\$490.00
JANUARY 7, 2025	REMAINING BALANCE	REMAINING BALANCE	REMAINING BALANCE

LISTED ABOVE ARE THE REQUIRED MINIMUM MONTHLY PAYMENTS

*CRBPAS understands that the month of August might present a financial challenge for some families as membership fees are also due. Therefore we are presenting the following options for travelers:

- Partial Payment (ex: Based on \$2,800.00 trip total = partial payment of \$100.00 = \$265.00 balance will be added to the final payment due January 7, 2025)
- Skip August Payment: August payment will be added to the final payment due January 7, 2025
- Full Monthly Payment: No changes to the above proposed payment schedule

Student/Traveler Name:	Student/Traveler Signature:
Parent Name:	Parent Signature:

**Additional Notes: Fundraising contributions can be used towards payments at any time.
Reach out to Julie Schoettle for fundraising balances.**

CRBPAS can accept all major credit cards. Any type of e-payment (bank cards/debit cards) will incur a 3% transaction fee per transaction. All e-payments will be processed via Square. Checks should be made payable to: "CRBPAS"

*****ALL PERFORMING BAND/COLORGUARD MEMBERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO ROOM TOGETHER IN A QUAD ROOM. BAND/COLORGUARD MEMBERS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO ROOM WITH NON PERFORMING TRAVELERS***



Council Rock South Marching Band Student & Parent Agreement Form

Agreement

This agreement constitutes an official commitment to be part of the Council Rock South Marching Band Performance and Cultural Tour of Puerto Rico, April 14-19, 2025. By entering into this contract, you agree to the following conditions:

- Payments totaling approximately **\$2,800.00** for quad rooming performers will be collected on the dates listed below.

**Note: Earned fundraising credits can be use.*

- May 1, 2024 - Initial Payment and Commitment Form
 - June 4, 2024
 - July 9, 2024
 - August 13, 2024 (Optional)
 - September 10, 2024
 - October 8, 2024
 - November 12, 2024
 - December 10, 2024
 - January 7, 2025 - Remaining Balance
- Students will maintain behavior consistent with Council Rock High School rules and expectations.
- All students must attend a **MANDATORY** pre-trip **meeting with a parent and your photo ID on Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at 7:30pm.**
- Parents accompanying their student should understand that this is a student-centered trip. They should understand in advance that all decisions made prior to and during the trip will reflect the students best interest first. All band and color guard members will be required to room together.

Cancellation Policy

Full Cancellation Insurance is included as part of this package. Examples of cancellations include, emergency illness and/or family emergency, baggage delays/loss, as well as medical coverage/medical evaluation. There is also an additional benefit for non-covered reason (such as economic hardships). You may “Cancel for Any Reason” up to 48 hours prior to the trip with a total refund of 75% of the total payments made. Requests for cancellation MUST be made in writing to the trip insurance company with a copy to Mr. Burns.

By signing below, I acknowledge and understand the agreement and policies listed above. I as well as my parents understand that this trip is a privilege and not mandated by the Council Rock South Marching Band.

Student/Traveler Name:	Student/Traveler Signature:
Parent Name:	Parent Signature:



**Council Rock South Marching Band
Traveler Payment Form
PLEASE COMPLETE ONE FORM PER TRAVELER**

Please Select One:

High School Performing Member

Non-Performing Traveler

Travelers Full Legal Name:	Travelers Signature:
Travelers Address:	Travelers Phone:
	Travelers Email:

Non Band/Colorguard Siblings that wish to travel with a band member MUST be accompanied by a Parent or Legal Guardian 21 years of age or older - NO EXCEPTIONS

Initial Payment:

- I understand that an initial payment of **\$365.00 / \$380.00 / \$490.00 (per traveler) is due in person on May 1, 2024 along with the completed and signed forms.** The trip treasurers will be onsite from 6pm-8pm on May 1st to collect initial payments, *a parent/guardian must be present.* Once initial payment has been collected by CRBPAS, my name as well as any other travelers accompanying me will be placed on the official travel roster. I also understand and acknowledge that all future payments for each traveler are due on the dates listed on the commitment form. A trip treasurer will be onsite on the dates provided to collect payments, please do not place any funds or forms into the band box. If you are unable to be onsite please contact a trip treasurer to arrange a drop off of funds.

Payment Options:

- CHECK (preferred) - **made payable to: "CRBPAS"**
- CREDIT/DEBIT (ALL MAJOR CARDS ACCEPTED) - 3% processing fee will apply to **all transactions** - no exceptions

Payment Contact Information (Person Responsible for Payments):

Full Name:	Phone:	Email:

If you have any questions about payment options please contact our trip treasurers.

Julie Schoettle: crsmarchingband@gmail.com / 267-608-9459

Melissa Witner: melissa.witner@gmail.com