

THS Band Boosters
Merit Policy 2008-2009

WHAT is the merit policy?

This merit system is designed to **increase parent and student involvement** in the THS band program and to help band parents/students offset the cost of the main band trip. **Each student needs 10 merits to go on the main band trip.** Hopefully, participation in the band's activities will help students foster ownership in their trip by earning money towards the cost of their trip/spending money. Merits can be earned through active involvement and food item donations. Please support your band member by joining the THS band booster "family" and help provide our youth outstanding experiences as proud members of the award-winning Thomson Bulldog Brigade!

Merits will expire yearly. The accounting period begins immediately after the Main Band Trip to just prior to the Main Band Trip the following school year.

HOW can merits be earned?

- All Concessions/Fundraisers/Meals
 - ½ merit per hour per each family member working
 - 1 merit per hour per student working

NOTE: sign in/sign out sheet must be completed to indicate accurate time, if not ONLY ½ merit credit will be given.

- Donating food items for Pinetop, Festivals, Dinners, etc.-1 merit for each approximate \$5 food item(s). Always label food items so credit can be given.
- Student Concerts/Festivals- 2 merits for the first family member attending; 1 merit for each additional family member attending.
- Sponsored Concerts (i.e. Augusta Symphony, etc.)- 2 merits for THS band student attending; 1 merit for each additional family member attending.
- Student Fundraisers (excluding meals)-4 merits for THS band student participation (at least one item must be sold). This does not count for trip fundraisers designated as such. This is for general band fundraisers.
- Ticketed Fundraisers (dinners) - 1 merit for every 4 tickets sold.
- Attendance at Booster meetings- 1 merit for each THS band student attending; 2 merits for each adult family member attending.
- Practice Logs-2 merits per 9 week period if a band student has their weekly practices up to date at both midterm and at the end of the 9 week period. Practice sheets **must be turned in weekly and also count towards his/her grade!**
- Booster Leadership Positions - merits will be earned by adult family members serving in leadership positions as follows:
 - Band booster officers - 2 merits for actively serving on the executive committee per year.
 - Committee Chairpersons (fundraising, Chaperone, Calling, or any other committee designated by the executive committee) - 2 merits
 - Activity/Event Leaders (Concessions, Pinetop, Festival, etc.) - 2 merits
 - Committee Membership- 1 merit per active participation on committee

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WHO can earn merits for band students?

For attendance at concerts, "family member" is considered to be parents/guardians, grandparents, and siblings. Under special circumstances, "surrogate" family members may be approved by the band director.

For working events and merit earning activities, "family member" is considered to be any adult or high school student willing to support the band and approved by the executive committee or the band director prior to the event/activity if possible.

Although chaperoning band trips does not earn merits for band students, parents who are actively involved in helping work band activities/events will get first choice to chaperone the away games and the band trip. It is helpful for the chaperones to be familiar with the students and working with the band boosters is the best way to get to know the students! Chaperones have duties that must be performed to remain eligible to chaperone and at times may be required to pay for his/her own ticket (i.e., play-off games).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

MAIN TRIP PRIZES:

30 merits = \$10	90 merits = \$30	210 merits = \$70
45 merits = \$15	120 merits = \$40	240 merits = \$80
60 merits = \$20	150 merits = \$50	270 merits = \$90
75 merits = \$25	180 merits = \$60	300 merits = \$100 *

*The maximum amount a student can earn through merits is \$100.00. Students are also encouraged to participate in the band's fundraising activities designed for trips.

- This money can be used to offset the cost of the trip, meals, spending money, etc. as agreed upon between the band student and his/her parents.
- The student must go on the trip to receive the monetary prizes. **Merits are non-transferable among students.**
- A family/student's involvement in earning their trip will be taken into consideration if requesting financial assistance for the main trip from band booster funds. The Booster Club Executive Committee will determine the work commitments necessary to fulfill the requirements needed. Students having all or part of their trip costs paid for out of booster funds are not eligible for merit prizes.
- If there is a surplus of band booster funds available at the end of the merit accounting period (just prior to the main band trip), the Band Boosters Executive Committee in conjunction with the Merit Committee Chairperson may approve an increase in the above listed merit prize values. Any approved increase will be proportional with the above scale of merits earned. In the case of a shortage of funds, then merit money will not be paid.