



Aurora American Legion Band

2026 Conductor Letter

Hello Aurora American Legion Band,

I am really looking forward to seeing all of you again and welcoming new members to the upcoming 2026 season. Conducting the Aurora American Legion Band is such an honor and privilege for me. Our amazing Board has been working hard to line up some great gigs, and I am putting together literature that should be a bit challenging and fun to learn and play.

In addition to our annual parades, Memorial Day in Aurora and the Aurora Fourth of July parade, and two of our annual performances at Pleasant Hill and the Aurora Historical Society concert, we have added a concert in Oswego on July 4. Please note we will not be marching in the Warrenville parade on July 3. We are still working out other dates for performances, which we will get to you as soon as they are confirmed.

After the reception we received for "The King and I" last summer, I am searching for another crowd-pleasing medley, as well as some of the suggestions you all gave me last summer. I am positive you are going to enjoy the literature I have chosen this summer. I also believe our audiences will enjoy our selections.

We are returning to Herget Middle School for our rehearsals this year and our first rehearsal is Thursday, May 7, at 7 p.m. We will skip May 14 and will be at Herget again on May 21 and every Thursday after that.

I anticipate having fun but productive rehearsals. The Board and I understand and appreciate that many of you have summer plans and obligations. Please communicate conflicts with your section leader well in advance of any performance so we can prepare accordingly.

I also hope we can count on your continued participation and contributions as marching members of our ensemble. As a member of our band, please know that parade marching is important and must be treated as any other performance of our ensemble. We strongly desire to have every member who is physically able participate in parades to properly represent the band. We will have marching rehearsals on both May 21 and July 2 in preparation for our parade commitments on May 25 and July 4. We understand that some members, especially high school students, may have previous performance commitments on Memorial Day weekend.

I am very much looking forward to seeing all the returning members, meeting our new members and having fun making great music together!

Here's to another great summer!

Sincerely,

Miss Patty Sampson