



# Aurora American Legion Band

## Summer - 2026

## ***Joining the Aurora American Legion Band in 2026***

### ***The Aurora American Legion Band At-A-Glance***

- The Aurora American Legion Band is a musical organization in the Fox Valley, providing adults and student musicians the opportunity to continue performing band music during the summer months. Rehearsals begin in May and conclude in late July.
- The conductor of the Legion Band is **Patty Sampson**, recently of West Aurora High School, and the assistant conductor of the Band is Greg Hensel, director of bands at West Aurora High School.
- We rehearse Thursday evenings beginning **Thursday, May 7**.
  - All rehearsals are at **Herget Middle School**, 1550 Deerpath Road, Aurora. (Enter behind Herget at door 51.) We start rehearsals promptly at 7 p.m. and conclude at 9. (Plan to arrive around 6:30 to warm up.)
- The Legion Band performs concerts in June and July, and we march in two Aurora parades.
- The only cost to join the band is a fully refundable \$20 deposit for a uniform shirt. (Feel free to try us out before you make the decision to get a shirt.)
- Take a look at the attached materials and let us know if you'd like to join us!

### ***If you plan on joining the Legion Band***

If you plan on joining the Legion Band this summer, please read the attached documents and fill out the Membership Application form and bring it to rehearsal, OR, fill out the Online Application available on the Legion Band web page at [www.auroralegionband.com](http://www.auroralegionband.com). We ask that high school students provide parental approval.

### ***Uniform Shirts***

The only cost associated with being in the band is the rental of a band shirt, which you will get back at the end of the summer. This year we will again be collecting a \$20 deposit. If you write a check, we will cash it. When you return the shirt at the end of the summer you will receive \$20 back in cash if the shirt is in good condition. **If you still have your Legion Band shirt from a previous season and want to return it, please contact Erika Sieh ([erika.sieh@comcast.net](mailto:erika.sieh@comcast.net)).**

Thanks for reading! If you or your parents have any questions or concerns, email [info@auroralegionband.com](mailto:info@auroralegionband.com) and we will get back to you promptly. We hope to see you this summer!



# 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*

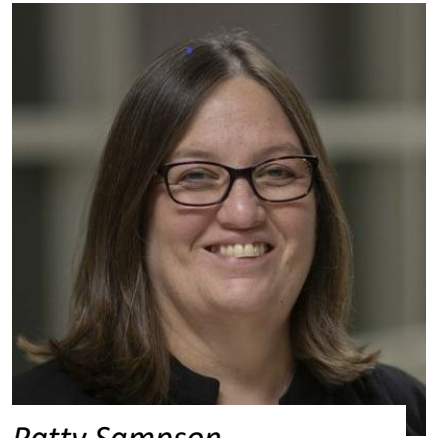


AURORA  
**AMERICAN LEGION**  
BAND

The Aurora American Legion Band enters its 89th year in 2026, the Band's fourth year under the leadership of Director Patty Sampson. Miss Sampson recently retired after her 30th year of teaching and her 19th year at West Aurora High School, where she conducted Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Band.

The Band's assistant Director is Greg Hensel, band Director at West Aurora High School and a third-generation member of the Band.

The Band is a group of dedicated patriotic musicians—veterans and non-veterans alike—who have a common goal: perform good music and have fun doing it. The band performs a varied program and music styles to appeal to each listener: marches, avant garde, contemporary and classic band repertoire. One of the Band's strengths is its diversity, boasting student musicians, former high school players, former college players and music educators among its membership. Today, just as it was at its inception, the Band encourages student musicians to develop a lifelong love affair with music while providing adult musicians the opportunity to continue playing and performing, wherever they are in their musical careers.



*Patty Sampson*

The Aurora American Legion Band is self-supporting; it subsists entirely on donations, sponsorships and earnings from appearances.

### ***Aurora American Legion Band History***

The Band, originally sponsored by Roosevelt-Aurora Post No. 84 in Aurora, Illinois, was formed in 1937 as a Cadet Band when two World War I veterans invited Aurora-area high school bandmen to play. During World War II the Band's activities were temporarily halted, but in 1946 the Band reformed with veterans of both World War I and II. Later, veterans of Korea and Vietnam joined the ranks. The Band continues to be true to its patriotic roots, performing parades, concerts and other observances in and around the community and the Fox Valley.

To inquire about joining the Band, book the Band for an appearance, request a CD, make a donation, learn about sponsorship opportunities or find out more about the Band, contact the Band at [info@auroralegionband.com](mailto:info@auroralegionband.com).



**Band members:** please join the band's Facebook page (Aurora American Legion Band Members): [www.facebook.com/groups/auroraamericanlegionband](https://www.facebook.com/groups/auroraamericanlegionband).



**Friends of the Band:** Like our fan page at [www.facebook.com/auroralegionband](https://www.facebook.com/auroralegionband).



## Aurora American Legion Band

### Band Member Responsibilities/Policies - 2026

1. Band members shall complete the Membership Application every year. Members will adhere to the schedule that is submitted at the beginning of the summer concert season. Band member shall communicate with section leader regarding participation at concerts (or director in absence of section leader). If an emergency arises, members must notify director and/or section leader of absence.
2. Band member shall make reasonable efforts to participate in special impromptu concerts that occur outside the schedule. We are a service organization, and may be asked to perform at special events in and around the community. Please remain flexible.
3. All music is available for download for members to print their own parts for home practice. Band music folders are for rehearsals and concerts and **NOT to be taken home.**
4. A \$20 deposit is required from each Band member for the band shirt, due upon receipt of the shirt. At the end of the season the band will return the \$20 if the shirt is returned. **(Note: if a check is provided for the deposit, it will be cashed.)**
5. Band member shall join the American Legion if eligible for membership.



# Aurora American Legion Band

## 2026 Schedule

**Note:** Rehearsals are at Herget Middle School, 1550 Deerpath Rd, Aurora, 60506. Enter Herget at door #51 in the back (bandroom door). Downbeat is at 7 p.m. sharp for all rehearsals. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Plan on arriving early to warm up and be ready to begin by 7. Note marching rehearsals on May 21 and July 2 from 6:30-6:50 p.m. prior to rehearsal.

				Formation Time/ Performance Time
<b>May</b>				
7	Thursday	First Rehearsal	Herget	7-9 p.m.
14	Thursday	<b>NO REHEARSAL!</b>		
21	Thursday	Rehearsal + <b>Marching from 6:30-6:50</b>	Herget	6:30-9 p.m.
<b>25</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Parade – Memorial Day</b>	<b>Aurora</b>	<b>9/10 a.m.</b>
28	Thursday	Rehearsal	Herget	7-9 p.m.
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<b>June</b>				
4	Thursday	Rehearsal	Herget	7-9 p.m.
11	Thursday	Rehearsal	Herget	7-9 p.m.
18	Thursday	Rehearsal	Herget	7-9 p.m.
25	Thursday	Rehearsal	Herget	7-9 p.m.
27	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Concert – Pleasant Hill Cemetery</b>	<b>Winfield</b>	<b>9:45/10:45 a.m.</b>
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<b>July</b>				
2	Thursday	Rehearsal + <b>Marching from 6:30-6:50</b>	Herget	6:30-9 p.m.
4	Saturday	<b>Parade – Independence Day</b>	<b>Aurora</b>	<b>9/10 a.m.</b>
4	Thursday	<b>Mini Concert – Historical Society</b>	<b>Aurora</b>	<b>Noon/1:05 p.m.</b>
4	Saturday	<b>Concert – Prior to fireworks</b>	<b>Oswego</b>	<b>4/5</b>
9	Thursday	Rehearsal	Herget	7-9 p.m.
16	Thursday	<b>Concert – Oswego Park District</b>	Hudson Crossing	6/7 p.m.
19	Sunday	<b>Concert – St. Paul Lutheran Church</b>	<b>Aurora</b>	<b>TBA</b>
23	Thursday	<b>Band Banquet</b>	<b>Bliss Creek</b>	<b>TBA</b>

***Patty Sampson, Conductor, [director@auroralegionband.com](mailto:director@auroralegionband.com)***

For general questions, e-mail: [info@auroralegionband.com](mailto:info@auroralegionband.com)

Member page URL: <http://www.auroralegionband.com/members.php>



## **Aurora American Legion Band**

### **Section Leaders - 2026**

**Flutes** – Cindy Owen (cindyowen30@gmail.com)

**Clarinets** – Jani Marti (jan.marti81@gmail.com)

**Double Reeds** – Laura Schachtschneider (laura.schachtschneider@gmail.com)

**Saxophones** – Mario Leyva (leyvamar75@gmail.com)

**Trumpets** – Greg Hensel (gregwhensel@gmail.com)

**French Horns** – Erika Sieh (erika.sieh@comcast.net)

**Trombones** – Matt Carder (mattc211@comcast.net)

**Tubas, Euphoniums and String Bases** – open

**Percussion** – Jacob Danca (danca9@icloud.com)

**Color Guard** – Kyle Saltijeral (ksaltijeral@dscontainers.com)



# Aurora American Legion Band

## Membership Application - 2026

### Instructions

1. Please Print!
2. Fill out form completely (even if you did so last year)
3. Turn in to your section leader or any Band Board member at rehearsal
4. Would you prefer to fill out an Online Form?  
Go to [www.auroralegionband.com/members.php](http://www.auroralegionband.com/members.php)

(Please Print)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (best way for section leader to reach you) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a Veteran? (Yes or No); If yes, include American Legion Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

### Student Information

Birth Date (MM/DD/YY) \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Consent (Signature) \_\_\_\_\_