

FAQ about Pledge Parties

What is a Christmas "Caroling" pledge party?

- It is new this year and will be similar to regular pledge parties but they will play Christmas music during December. Ms Bounds has some music books the students can sign out or they can print the music and attach it to their flipbook. The music can be found at:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B6j1XQ51vEwycGVyZ0hHYy1sUVU>

What can I do if my student's instrument is too big to carry around?

- Some instruments have something similar used for marching band. Maybe you can borrow one of those for the pledge party.

- You could have a stationary pledge party in front of a business. We have some ideas, just ask. Get permission from the business, first.

- S/he could be the person who goes to the door and speaks to the neighbors.

My neighborhood is not good for a pledge party, what can I do?

- If you feel your neighborhood is not ideal for walking around or for gathering donations you could meet at a friend's house or in front of a business or school and walk that neighborhood.

- You can perform in front a business. Ask permission first. We have some ideas, just ask.

I live outside of the school boundaries. What can I do?

- You could meet at a friend's house or in front of a business or school and walk that neighborhood.

- You can perform in front of a business. Get permission, first.

Someone else already had a pledge party in my neighborhood. What can I do?

- You could still start at your home and walk a couple blocks before starting. We have a map of the areas already walked and can let you know what has not yet been covered.

- You could meet at a friend's house or in front of a business or school and walk that neighborhood.

- You can perform in front of a business. Get permission, first. We have some ideas, if you need them.

My student is in color guard but doesn't play an instrument. Can we still host a pledge party? How can s/he participate?

- Yes, you can still host a pledge party.

- Your student can participate by either being the person who goes to the door and talks with neighbors or bring a saber or rifle and perform along with the musicians. Very enjoyable to watch.

What kind of food should I provide for the musicians after they perform?

- That is entirely up to you. It can be simple snacks and water, bring pizza or Togo's and soda, make something at home, etc. It can be a snack or a meal, whatever you feel up to. (Pizza is a big one but some students get tired of it after several weeks, if they go to a lot of pledge parties, but is still a good choice.)

Do we have to host from 2-5pm? 5-8pm for Christmas "Caroling"?

- If there is a better time during the day for you we can easily change the time, just let us know.
- "Caroling" parties are set up for 5-8pm. This is so it is darker while they are out and maybe some Christmas lights will be on for a more festive feel. Again, if another time of the day suits you better, it can be changed.

Do the students really do most of the work?

- Yes, they really do. They decide what songs they want to play or can play based on the instruments at the party. The students decide who will go up to the door and talk with neighbors. Sometimes everyone takes turns and sometimes it is a few who take turns.

What do I need to do if I decide to host a pledge party?

- Provide a place for everyone to meet and practice for a few minutes.
- Mark on provided sheet which students showed up and participated. You can mark who came or leave the page out for them to sign or mark.
- Have an adult walk with the students and collect the donations given to the students
- Provide a snack for the students. They are asked to bring \$5 for the food. (Not everyone remembers every time.)
- You will be provided a map and asked to mark where you walked. This helps us keep track of where everyone has gone.
- Count the donations.

How do I sign up to host a pledge party?

- go to stmaa.ivolunteer.com and choose 2016 MM Pledge Parties at the top. You will see a list of dates in blue. Ones that have a name next to them already have a host. Click on a date that works for you. Pledge Party Host will already be highlighted in brown and below that it says "volunteer" in a green box. Click volunteer. You will be asked for your name, email, and phone number as well as your student's name. After filling in the information click "volunteer" again. You will receive a confirmation email soon.

Who will contact me after I sign up to host?

- Julia Shah or Patty Larkin will contact you. We will ask for the address where you want every to meet and if the time, 2-5pm, works for you. One of us will drop off some papers and a clipboard a couple days before your party, and one will come collect the material and donations after the party.

Who can I talk to if I have more questions?

- If you have more questions, please send an email to Julia Shah and Patty Larkin at pledgeparty@600building.com