



# SHERRI PETERSON

My involvement in color guard began when a friend asked me to come to auditions for the flag team at Kickapoo as a freshman. I didn't know anything about it, but it sounded like fun. I made the team, found a love for performing, and realized some of the best days of high school were the memories I made with friends on the team. I hoped to create memories like this for my students. As a young director, I took every opportunity I could find to learn more - MCCGA workshops, WGI educational videos, attending WGI Spinfest, watching shows at WGI Championships, and seeking out guidance from other instructors/designers that I admired. I strongly believe that surrounding myself with awesome mentors, focusing on a growth mindset, and an unequivocal desire to never stop learning really had an impact shaping me into a more confident designer and teacher.

At the heart of everything I've done, I've tried to focus on creating a positive learning experience for students. Serving as a teacher, coach and mentor has been one of the greatest privileges of my life. Seeing students grow, gain confidence, and thrive has been a source of immense pride. Each season seeing their curiosity to explore new skills, pursuit of individual excellence, and determination inspired me to be better every day. It's funny - I don't remember very many scores, but I have some core memories that involve incredible moments, full of pure joy - watching students perform and seeing their sense of pride and love in what they achieved.

I've also been very fortunate to have my family by my side as partners in every step of my journey. My husband, Troy - the best support system you could ask for - band director, equipment truck driver, pushed floor cover carts, showed up and cheered on the kids every chance he could, offered humor and smiles in the moments when you needed them the most. My two daughters, Haley and Allie, literally grew up around color guard. Wearing team "mascot" costumes, helping on the equipment crew, spending countless hours helping me prep and organize for rehearsals, to eventually being in the color guard as performers

themselves. I can't think of a more rewarding experience for me than getting to watch them grow into strong, confident women as their mom and guard director. It was also an honor to have them work alongside me as choreographers and instructors after they graduated. Their love and constant support has always been incredible, and I will always cherish our time collaborating, creating, and color guarding together.

It's easy to get caught up in the chase for success, but true fulfillment comes when we lead with kindness, honesty, and humility. Over the years while teaching, I have always strived to live by these principles. Thank you to all of the guard students, guard parents, guard staff/friends and music educator/friends who have been a part of my journey, you've filled it with so many phenomenal experiences and memories.

Recently, I have stayed involved as a visual consultant, clinician, judge, drill writer, and program designer for marching band and winter guard programs. My daughter Allie and I have also focused on sharing our love for color guard and performers in a new, creative way - positive minded, color guard merchandise - Go Guardie! I'm also looking forward to exploring more opportunities to mentor and work with directors, and share my love for designing and color guard education!

Sherri Peterson has been involved in color guard and the marching arts as a performer, designer, clinician, and instructor. Sherri has also served as a member on the Winter Guard International Advisory Board and the MCCGA Executive board. Sherri most recently retired from teaching twenty-five years in the Springfield Public School district, and a total of over 30 years as the Color Guard Director at Kickapoo High School. As the director, the color guard program received top honors locally, regionally, and nationally both in the indoor and outdoor competitive arenas. During her tenure the winter guard programs were WGI Regional Champions in the Scholastic A class; and in 2018, 2019, and 2020 in the Scholastic Open class. The Kickapoo Emulation Winter Guard was a WGI Scholastic A national finalist in 2016, the WGI Scholastic A Bronze medalist in 2017, and a WGI Scholastic Open national finalist in 2021.

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