



October 12, 2023

Dear Students, Parents, and Prospective Members of the Lincoln-Way Marching Band,

It is with an immense amount of joy that we announce our congratulations to the students of the Lincoln-Way Marching Band for their selection and invitation to march in the 136th annual Tournament of Roses Parade, in Pasadena, California on January 1, 2025. The invitation to participate in the Rose Parade is one of the most prestigious honors a marching band program can receive. This appearance will mark the fourth Lincoln-Way appearance in the Tournament of Roses Parade, with previous appearances in 1982, 2000 and 2019. This 40-year span of Rose Parade participation demonstrates the breadth and consistency of our marching band program and the tradition of excellence that has been maintained throughout the decades. We are particularly grateful to our alumni students and families who helped foster this excellence within our organization to afford our current students this tremendous opportunity. The New Year's Day parade will be broadcast in 217 countries, in over 20 languages to well over 65 million people worldwide. Each year, the Tournament of Roses website is viewed in over 150 countries with approximately 13 million unique visitors during the week of the parade. The LWMB was selected by the Rose Parade selection committee as one of 19 marching bands, of which only 9 are high school bands, from throughout the world!

The Tournament of Roses Association, which also owns the Rose Bowl Stadium and Rose Bowl football game, organizes this event, and has nearly 1000 volunteers who work for over an entire year to present the following year's 5.5 mile parade with nearly 1 million spectators on the parade route. As the 2025 Rose Parade ambassadors for the state of Illinois, the LWMB will be offering a weeklong trip to California that will be an all-inclusive experience in which a paid package will include airfare, lodging, all meals as well as several excursions throughout the central and southern California area. Activities may include; tours of Los Angeles, the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and the Warner Brothers Production Studios. We also may take trips to Santa Monica Pier, the Farmer's Market, Universal Studios Citywalk in Hollywood and Griffith Observatory. Special events may include, an exclusive New Year's dinner and dance event, a unique group photo in front of the Rose Bowl Stadium and a day at Disneyland where the LWMB will march down Main Street U.S.A. in Disney's original Disneyland park. The LWMB will also be participating in "BandFest," sponsored by the Rose Parade, which is a band festival at Pasadena City College where the selected Rose Parade bands from all over the world display their field shows.

Our plan is to depart from Chicago on December 27th, 2024 and to return to Chicago on January 2nd, 2025. The details of the trip commitment, along with enrollment deadlines, detailed itinerary, payment schedule, and fundraising opportunities, will be made available in the coming weeks on our website at www.lincolnwaymusic.org/roses. Our travel company will also be planning a "companion trip" for those families and friends interested in traveling with us or meeting us in California. We will be having a *2025 Rose Parade Informational meeting* for all returning students on **Wednesday, November 8th at 7:30pm** in the *Little Theatre at Lincoln-Way Central*.

We are extremely proud of our students and the entire LWMB organization for this landmark achievement. We look forward to our 2025 "March to the Roses" and to bringing this life-changing event to our current Lincoln-Way community.

Musically yours,

Justin Barnish, LWW | Dr. Bert Johnson, LWE | Cary Ruklic, LWW & LWE | Chris Mroczek, LWC