Information for Prospective Members

The Spartan Youth Wind Symphony (SYWS) is an honors wind ensemble for high school students, sponsored by the MSU Bands in conjunction with the Michigan State University College of Music. SYWS is comprised of the most outstanding Michigan high school instrumentalists (woodwind, brass and percussion), providing them with an opportunity to rehearse in a university setting, perform and interact with peers from around the state, and receive instruction from Michigan State University College of Music faculty and students. Members will enhance their skills as musicians and ensemble performers through the exploration of advanced-level repertoire in an inspired rehearsal atmosphere, along with opportunities for chamber music performance. The experience culminates in shared concerts with the MSU Wind Symphony and Symphony Band at the end of the fall and spring semesters.

AUDITIONS
• Students must be in grades 9-12 during the 2015-2016 school year (current eighth graders may audition)
• Students may audition in person on the MSU campus on Saturday or Sunday, May 16th or 17th (between 1 and 5 PM). Live auditions will be recorded to allow all auditions to be heard by the same adjudicator.
• Deadline to register for an on-campus audition is Monday, May 11, 2015.
• Auditions may also be submitted on CD by US mail, or e-mailed as an mp3 file. CD’s must be postmarked NO LATER THAN May 16, 2015, and e-mail submissions must be received before 11:59 PM on May 17, 2015.
• Students will be notified of audition results on or before May 26, 2015
• For detailed explanation of audition requirements, see web site: http://www.music.msu.edu/SYWS

2015-2016 FEES & TUITION (non-refundable)
• Application fee - $45 (must be paid online – see web site for URL - families with multiple students auditioning need only pay one fee)
• Annual tuition for participation in the 2015-2016 SYWS - $225
• Members of the 2015 MSBOA All-State Bands or Orchestra are eligible for a $25 discount off of the tuition fee
• Apply online on the SYWS page of the MSU College of Music website: http://www.music.msu.edu/SYWS

REHEARSALS
• All Rehearsals are in the MSU Music Building, from 3:00-5:30 PM
  9 Fall Sundays, 2015:       Sept 27; Oct 4, 11, 18, 25; Nov 8, 15, 22, 29
  9 Spring Sundays, 2016:     Feb 7, 14, 21, 28; Mar 6, 13, 20; Apr 3, 10
• Rehearsals will consist of both full ensemble rehearsals and small group sectionals. Masterclasses with MSU faculty will also take place during selected rehearsals.

PERFORMANCES
All Performances take place on the Michigan State University campus
  Sunday, December 6, 2015 – 3:00 PM – In conjunction with the MSU Symphony Band
  Sunday, April 17, 2016 – 3:00 PM – In conjunction with the MSU Wind Symphony

HONORS CHAMBER ENSEMBLES
Membership in chamber ensembles, including brass and woodwind quintets, saxophone and tuba-euphonium quartets, chamber winds, flute choir, clarinet choir, brass choir, and percussion ensemble will be by invitation based on initial audition. Honors chamber ensembles rehearse from 2:00-2:50 PM prior to regular Sunday rehearsals.

ATTENDANCE POLICY
Commitment to the Spartan Youth Wind Symphony lasts two semesters (academic year) and attendance at all rehearsals and performances is mandatory. The only exception to this requirement is a conflict with a school music organization - members are expected to support his/her school music program. MANDATORY - ALL SYWS members must be present at the final dress rehearsal before each concert.

QUESTIONS? If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to call us at 517.355.7654, e-mail SYWS@music.msu.edu, or visit the web site, http://www.music.msu.edu/SYWS.