



Polk County High School  
1681 E. NC 108 HWY.  
Columbus, NC 28722  
(828) 894-2525

May 21, 2025

Regarding: The 2025 PCHS Band Camp Trip to Camp Wabak

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of the overnight trip for which Kimberley Benson, three teachers, six chaperones, and forty-five of band members will travel to Camp Wabak, in Marietta, GA. The trip will be from July 31, 2025 - August 3, 2025. The students will have the opportunity to work on their band performances for next year as well as participate in all the camp activities.

I offer my full support for Kimberley Benson and her students in this application process and would eagerly field any further questions you may have as to their eligibility for this request.

Regards,

Michelle Bean  
mbean@polkschools.org  
Principal

**TRIP PROPOSAL  
For Approval**

**Polk County High School Band Camp  
Trip to  
Camp Wabak  
Marietta, South Carolina  
July 31-August 3, 2025**

**45 band students  
3 teachers  
6 chaperones**

**Submitted to:  
Ms. Michelle Bean, Principal  
&  
Polk County School Board of Education**

**Submitted by:  
Kimberley Benson**

**May 21, 2025**

**TRIP OVERVIEW:**

One of the stipulations of our marching band grant from the Polk County community Foundation is that we must attend an “away” camp. Many of our students have never had the opportunity to attend a summer camp and the foundation members feel like this is a very important experience for our students to have.

Away Camp is held at Camp WaBak, which is a Girl Scout Camp in Marietta, South Carolina. The Cadets have the entire camp to ourselves, and students are always chaperoned by band staff and parents. There is a pool, a large lodge with wi-fi so students can check in with their parents each day, hiking trails, and of course a large field for our marching band activities.

Female students stay in air-conditioned cabins that house up to 10 students for the week. Male students are housed in a large air-conditioned bunkhouse in a separate area of the camp. Male chaperones stay in the bunk house in a separate bedroom area, and female chaperones stay in a cabin in the girls’ cabin area. All chaperones are thoroughly vetted by the county background check system.

We serve breakfast, lunch, and dinner every day of camp, and snacks are available throughout the day. In addition to chaperones, parent volunteers come to the camp daily to assist with meal preparation and cleanup and we also have a nurse or paramedic on staff.

Students will be supervised by Kimberley Benson, PCHS Band Director, Jonathan Greene, assistant marching band director, and the middle school band director.. In addition, we will have one overnight chaperone per 5 students, in accordance with the PCS Board policies.

**STUDENT and CHAPERONE COST:****Expenses:**

All expenses associated with band camp are covered by the unrestricted grant we were awarded by the Polk County Community Foundation. Any additional expenses are covered by the Polk County Friends of the Band.

**FUNDRAISING:**

No fundraising will be required for this trip.

**LODGING:**

Camp Wabak  
36 Camp Wabak Road  
Marietta, SC 29661

**TRANSPORTATION:**

Students will ride on a PCS Activity Bus

**CHAPERONES:**

Kimberley Benson, Band Director, PCHS

Jonathan Greene, Assistant Marching Band Director, PCHS/PCMS

Middle School Band Director

Patricia Poteat

Jonathan Benson

Lori Nichols

Tim Nichols

Devin Williams

Brandy Byrd

**LUGGAGE RESTRICTIONS:**

Each traveler is restricted to one medium piece of luggage to go under the bus and one overnight/book bag to take on the bus.

**STUDENT MEDICAL INFORMATION FORM:**

It is the responsibility of the student and parents to provide any updated information in reference to student health/medical situations. If any changes have occurred since filling out the form in August, please note changes on the attached form (initialed by the parent), and return to Mrs. Benson

## PERMISSION TO TRAVEL

Our child, \_\_\_\_\_, has permission to travel to the Camp Wabak, Marietta, SC from July 31-August 3, 2025

We have received a copy of the trip proposal and the Behavior Guidelines/Expectations.

- We expect our child to adhere to all items mentioned in the Behavior Guidelines/Expectations, as well as any information contained in the Polk County High School Student Handbook.
- We realize that these guidelines, rules and regulations are put in place in order to make traveling a safe experience.
- We will hold our child responsible for any infraction of the rules and regulations that result in any harm to personal self, school or hotel property.

Parent/Guardian Signatures \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this sheet to Mrs. Benson by July 25, 2025