



Welcome and Vision

Speaker Script · "The Standard and The Why"

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SLIDES 20

THE HAMPTON UNIVERSITY MARCHING FORCE · PRE-DRILL CAMP 2026

Presenter notes for every slide, in order. Bracketed cues are stage directions; quoted lines are suggested wording — say them in your own voice.

01 Welcome and Vision

SLIDE 1 — TITLE: Welcome and Vision

THE OPENING SESSION OF THE ENTIRE CAMP. Set the tone for two days here.

SAY: "Before the membership arrives, the twenty-some people in this room decide what kind of band this is going to be."

CUE: Start on time, to the second. You're about to spend two days teaching First In — model it now.

02 Icebreaker

SLIDE 2 — ICEBREAKER: Hampton at the Macy's Parade (1:12)

SET UP: "Before we talk about where we're going, remember what this band can already do."

Play it. Let them react — cheering is fine and good.

AFTER: "That's us. That's the bar."

03 Welcome, Leaders.

SLIDE 3 — WELCOME, LEADERS

"This weekend we align on who we are, where we're going, and how we operate this year."

SET EXPECTATIONS: sessions are short and direct — think, take notes, buy in.

THE LINE THAT MATTERS: "By Monday the members will follow what you MODEL this weekend, not what we say."

04 The Band by the Numbers

SLIDE 4 — THE BAND BY THE NUMBERS

Walk the roster: Winds, Drumline, Auxiliary, Drum Majors, Support.

CUE: let each section find their number. It makes the scale of the program real.

NOTE: if the roster has shifted since this was built, say the current figure rather than reading the slide.

05 Where We're Headed

SLIDE 5 — WHERE WE'RE HEADED

The growth target, section by section.

FRAME IT AS THEIR JOB: "Growth isn't a recruiting-office project. It's retention — and retention is culture, which is you."

06 The Road to Hampton

SLIDE 6 — THE ROAD TO HAMPTON

Your own record. Deliver it plainly, not boastfully — the point is credibility, not applause.

LAND: "What I ask of you, I've lived at every stop."

End on the full circle — leading the band you marched in.

07 The Marching Force Record

SLIDE 7 — THE MARCHING FORCE RECORD

The national stages since 2017.

"That record is already on the books. You're writing the next chapter."

08 A Scholar of His Own Field

SLIDE 8 — A SCHOLAR OF HIS OWN FIELD

Why the vision centers on servant-leadership and anti-hazing.

READ THE CALLOUT: the dissertation, the Gonzaga thesis, and the 2026 publication all study servant-leadership and preventing hazing in HBCU marching bands.

THE POINT: "This isn't borrowed philosophy. It's the research, and it's about programs exactly like this one."

09 A Few Fun Facts

SLIDE 9 — A FEW FUN FACTS

Lighten it deliberately. The last three slides were heavy on credentials.

CUE: this humanizes you before you ask them for buy-in on purpose, mission, and vision. Don't skip it to save time.

10 Our Purpose

SLIDE 10 — OUR PURPOSE (statement slide)

READ IT VERBATIM. Do not paraphrase, do not shorten. This is the official statement.

Takeaway: "Why we exist."

11 Our Mission

SLIDE 11 — OUR MISSION (statement slide)

READ IT VERBATIM.

Takeaway: "What we do."

12 Our Vision

SLIDE 12 — OUR VISION (statement slide)

READ IT VERBATIM.

Takeaway: "Where we are going."

CUE: after all three, pause and ask if anything in them is unclear. These three statements govern every decision this year — it's worth the minute.

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SLIDE 13 — OPTIMIZE (the reveal)

Dark full-bleed word slide. Let it land before you say anything.

SAY: "This year's watchword. One word: OPTIMIZE."

Don't explain it yet — the next slide does.

14 What OPTIMIZE Means

SLIDE 14 — WHAT OPTIMIZE MEANS

Four: Processes, Accountability, Efficiency, A Tighter Ship.

MAKE IT CONCRETE: "Waste nothing — not a rep, not a minute, not a member's talent."

ASK: "Name one thing in your section that is not optimized right now." Take three answers. Write them down — they're your fix list.

15 From the Handbook — The Standard

SLIDE 15 — FROM THE HANDBOOK: THE STANDARD

The Hampton Code of Conduct. Read the five.

READ THE CALLOUT: "Servant-leadership — the leader serves first; authority is earned through care, not title."

FLAG IT: "That's a whole session tomorrow. Hold it."

16 From the Handbook — Our Culture

SLIDE 16 — FROM THE HANDBOOK: OUR CULTURE

Anti-hazing: belonging without cruelty.

The battle-buddy system: we monitor, help, and account for one another — nobody moves alone.

CUE: this connects straight to Last Out on Sunday. Plant it now.

17 The 2026 Season

SLIDE 17 — THE 2026 SEASON

Walk the schedule. Note the Norfolk State gym battle on October 17.

"This is where the standard shows up — every Saturday."

18 The Weekend Ahead — Day 1

SLIDE 18 — THE WEEKEND AHEAD, DAY 1

Preview today's sessions so they can pace themselves.

Name the presenters where they aren't you.

19 The Weekend Ahead — Day 2

SLIDE 19 — THE WEEKEND AHEAD, DAY 2

Preview Sunday, including the breakouts and the guest presenters — Mr. Jae Brown, Coach Megan and Coach Brint, and the student-led sessions.

Give report time and location for tomorrow.

20 Set the Standard. Lead the Week.

SLIDE 20 — CLOSE: Set the Standard. Lead the Week.

"Optimize your section — your processes, your accountability, your efficiency."

End on the sign-off, then go straight into Know Yourself First.
