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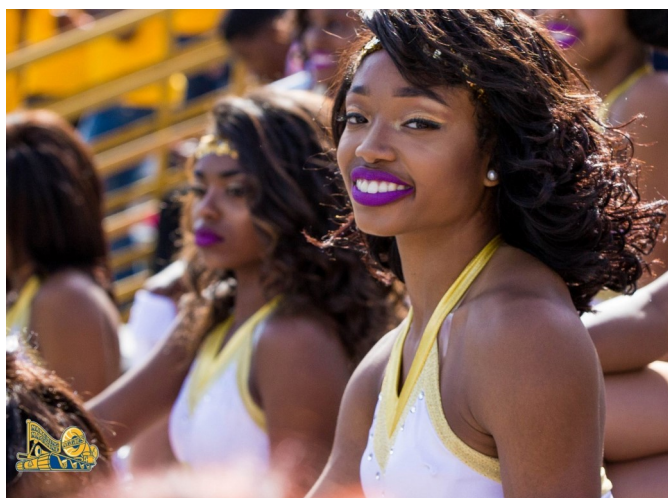
Golden Delight

AUXILIARY



**ENSEMBLE INFORMATION GUIDE
SEASON 2019**

TURNING UP THE HEAT IN 2019



Here at NC A&T State University, we believe it is never too early to prepare for your future as a member of the most dynamic and talented auxiliary in HBCU bands, - the versatile women of Golden Delight! We provide a variety of recruitment and preparation experiences for prospective team members. Participation in a collegiate band auxiliary is hard work. The most qualified candidates are those that put in the effort on the front end.

Our staff has compiled the following information to help you begin your journey. As more details are prepared, we will share that information with you via our website www.goldendelight.net. Email our staff at goldendelightrecruitment@gmail.com if you have questions that are not addressed in these materials.

Good luck on your quest to become a Sweetheart of the MEAC!

UPCOMING EVENTS & DATES

2019 NC A&T Band Musical Blowout

Saturday, April 27, 2019

Open to All

Spring Pre-Audition Clinic

May 18, 2019

Open to High School Juniors & Seniors and Current College Students

Express (Final) Auditions

June 21, 2019

By Invitation Only

For the most up to day events and audition activities, times, locations and registration links, [please visit our website regularly](#).

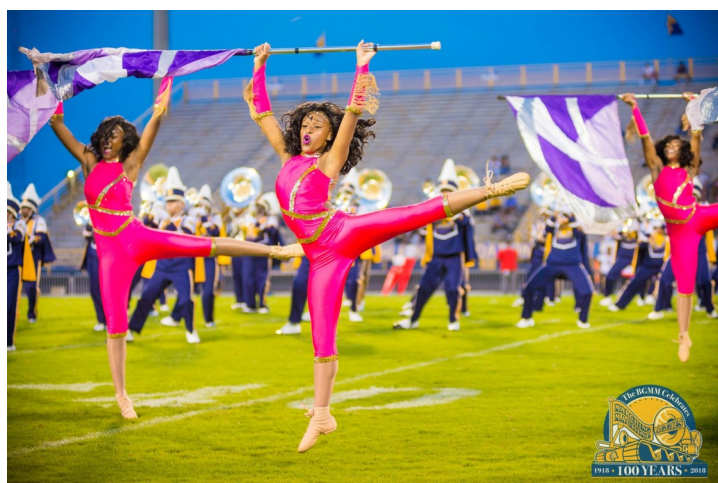


SWEETHEARTS OF THE MEAC

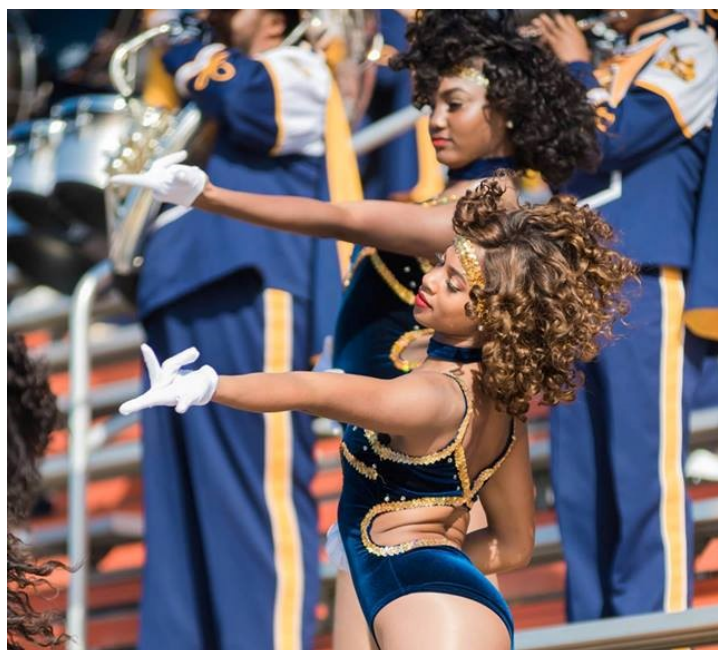
Golden Delight is a performance ensemble that is a component of the NC A&T State University Marching Band. The ladies are selected through an intense audition process. Once the squad is selected, they participate in a rigorous 2 week band camp period to prepare for the season. The performance season begins in late August and ends in early December and includes parades, half time shows, dance competitions, exhibition performances, indoor band battles, outdoor battle of the bands, pep rallies and more.



Not Your Average Squad We are a special squad in the world of HBCU Bands. Our ladies are trained to be both twirlers and dancers. Typically, we have 18-22 squad members but do not conduct our auditions based on numbers. Of that number, 4-6 twirl baton and 16-18 twirl flag. All squad members serve as feature dancers. Candidates who have never twirled before are taught (clinics are the best way!) However, every candidate must already have dance experience.



A Day In The Life Practices are held Monday-Friday in the evenings with games on Saturdays. Participants must be currently enrolled at the university (or an approved consortium program school.) Squad members have a range of performance backgrounds including band auxiliary, competition dance teams, pom squads, cheerleading, color guard squads, gymnastics and more. While our ladies enjoy the performance aspect of being a Golden Delight, they are first and foremost students at the university. The majors of the ladies range from Engineering and Education, to Business and Biology.



SWEETHEARTS OF THE MEAC



The women of Golden Delight have an awesome experience including:

- the most extensive collection of flags, batons, and props in HBCU marching bands
- the first squad to present the "versatile" concept in Black College bands that several programs have now adopted
- over 40+ different uniforms worn in the course of one season (often 3-4 per game) has become a tradition of the squad. Uniforms are provided by the department of bands
- extensive travel opportunities free of charge to destinations such as New York, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, DC, Daytona Beach, and more!
- development opportunities for squad members sisterly relationships and being a part of the band family
- serving as an ambassador for the university and being known on campus as a role model and upstanding peer



BECOMING GOLDEN DELIGHT



This is basic overview of what ideal candidates are able to demonstrate in an audition setting. More details are provided at training clinics and auditions to participants.

Minimum Requirements

- Attend NC A&T State University (or one of the Greater Greensboro Consortium Schools- UNC Greensboro or Bennett College) No GTCC students will be on the ensemble
- Have a strong academic background
- Positive attitude and strong work ethic
- Performance experience and leadership skills

Dance Requirements

- Must have experience in and mastery of dance elements (turns, leaps, kicks, etc) (At least 3-4 years of dance training is recommended in the areas of jazz or ballet)
- Flexibility (splits on both legs, center splits, heel stretches)
- Agility/Gymnastics (toe touch, cartwheels, aerials, etc.)

Twirling Requirements

- Flags must have an understanding of basic spins and tosses. We teach these essentials at our prep clinics if you do not have experience.
- Majorettes (baton twirlers) must have at least 2 years experience on the baton. Majorettes must be comfortable twirling 2 and 3 batons, fire batons, and flags also.

Fitness/Physique Requirements

- Toned legs, arms and back
- Toned abdominal area
- Stamina is critical. Our squad is the entire field show (not just the dance feature) so fitness is very important.
- NOTE: We have strict physical/body requirements due to the uniforms worn and intense performance style. This is a determining factor in the selection process.

Ideal Candidates will have:

- Outstanding showmanship and excitement as a performer
- Have experience in a marching band auxiliary
- 1-2 years of twirling experience
- 5+ years of Formal dance training in the areas of jazz or ballet. (Experience should be within the last 3 years. i.e. Ballet as a child doesn't count if not consecutive years or recent)
- Gymnastic abilities/Very agile



AUDITION INVITATIONS

Auditions are invitation only. To secure an invitation, you must demonstrate you meet the performance eligibility requirements in the following ways:

1. Attend one of our pre-audition prep clinics or
2. Make an audition video and email it to thegoldendelights@hotmail.com via Youtube link

Audition Video Submission Instructions- New Candidates/First Time Auditioning

- Audition videos must demonstrate dance technique (leaps, turns, kicks, etc.) a stands component as well as walks.
- Make sure you show your level of flexibility and agility. These can be shown as individual skills or in a routine.
- The material in your video submission does not have to be original.
- You can share your twirling skills if you have experience but it is not required.
- All videos must be uploaded to YouTube and the link shared via email. Do not attempt to upload videos to email and send. (files are typically too large) Make sure videos are not "private" They should be marked "unlisted" so we are able to view them. This is important.
- Due to the large volume of submissions, if we cannot view your video we do not contact you to follow-up and your submission is marked incomplete.
- Do not send videos of you performing with a group or ensemble. (i.e. during a field show, in the stands, etc.) We are unable to determine which participant you are.
- Be sure to clearly state your name and school you attend on the video. (You can also just have it as text in the video if you like)
- Videos do not have to be professionally done. Just make sure the quality is such that we can clearly see what you are doing. There is no specific length of your submission. Utilize this time to show us your very best.



We will communicate your invitation decision within 2-3 business days of receiving your video.

This will be done via email to the address you provide. If you have any questions, please reach out via email at

goldendelightrecruitment@gmail.com

Do not call the University Band Center. Our staff does not maintain regular office hours on site during the spring and summer months. Office staff cannot answer your questions.

Deadline for 2019 Summer Auditions video submissions is Saturday, May 31, 2019 by 9:00 pm.



EVALUATION CATEGORIES

Our audition process is designed to evaluate a candidates ability in the categories below. Our preparation clinics are a great way to gain more insight as to what the judges/staff are looking for.

Photogenic Quality and Womanly Demeanor

- How a candidate shows up in print photos and video images.
- How a candidate demonstrates a collegiate look and feel in performance

Fitness, Physique and Stamina

- Ability to complete combos with consistent high energy without visible signs of fatigue
- Fitness is visibly evident through toned abdominals, arms and legs
- Pleasing appearance in two-piece performance wear

Dance Technique and Execution

- Candidates ability to execute technical dance elements in the areas of jazz and ballet
- Confidence with dance terminology
- Comfort with execution of dance combinations (series of dance elements in one segment)

Showmanship and Engagement

- Candidates ability to engage the audience
- Knowing what facial expressions to make and when (mood)
- Consistent with showmanship without prompting

Agility and Flexibility

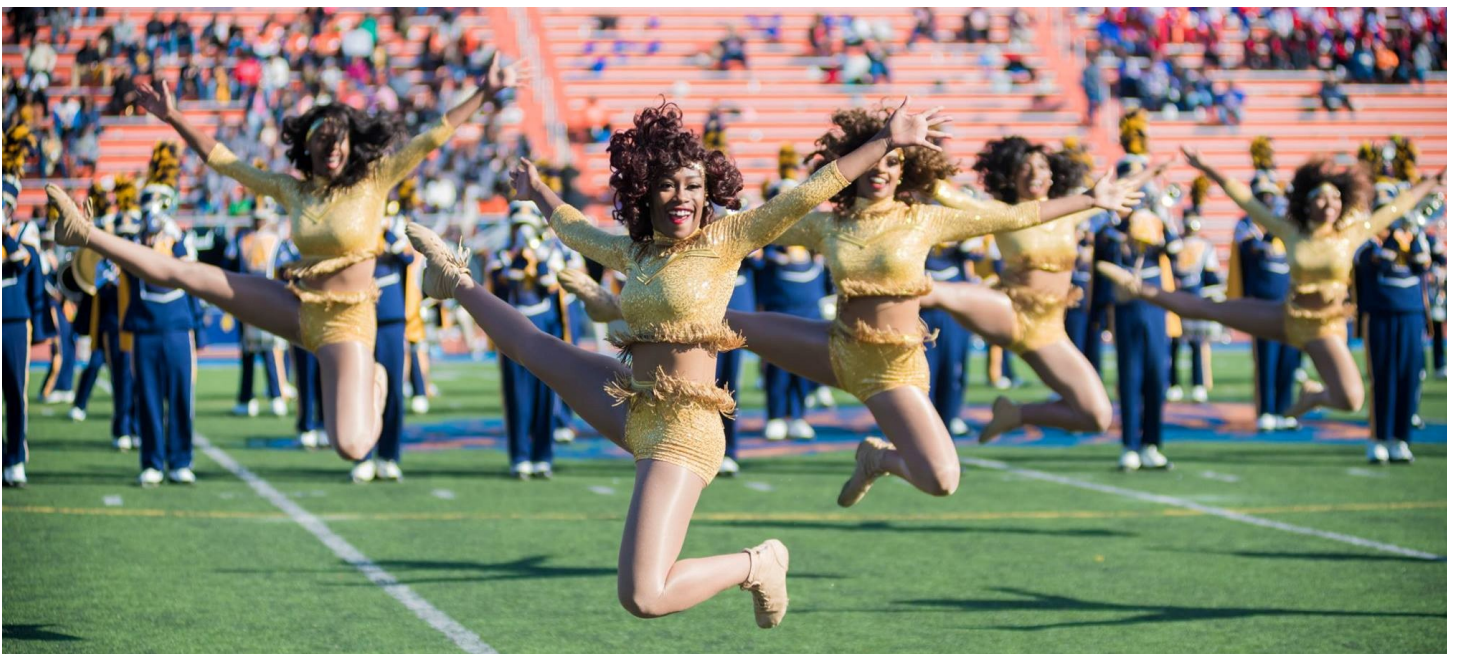
- Ability to move and transition between maneuvers with great ease
- Limber body allowing for exaggerated controlled movements
- Candidate can easily execute controlled movements with little effort

Comfort with Golden Delight Style

- Learns stands style easily and can perform choreograph with little additional instruction
- Executes Golden Delight walks with ease without looking awkward

Attitude, Image and Personality

- Embodies the "Sweetheart" image of Golden Delight
- Social media presence is positive
- Gets along well with others and helps others succeed
- Positive attitude demonstrated

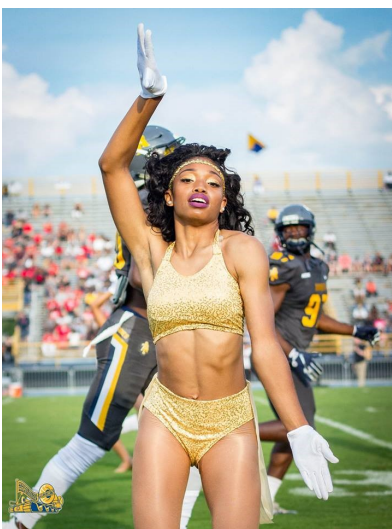


FREQUENT QUESTIONS



Who is eligible to audition? Can I audition in high school? High School Seniors that are admitted to NC A&T State University and current college students. (admission letters required as proof) No exceptions. We recommend you take the SAT Fall of your Junior year and apply to NC A&T SU the spring/summer of your Junior year.

Should I audition in the spring or the summer? We strongly encourage ladies to audition in the spring (February) of each year. Our summer auditions are much more highly competitive. By that time, we are only looking to fill a few spots. Also, candidates chosen early have the benefit of training with veterans & staff over a longer period of time.



How do I apply for auditions? Information for auditions is typically posted on www.goldendelight.net 2-3 months prior to the audition date. Auditions are by invitation only. Once invited, candidates will receive additional information. There is no formal "application" to complete for an invitations. Ladies that are invited will be given a details candidates packet that must be prepared and brought when you come for the audition experience.

What is the audition process like? Candidates are taught combinations that demonstrate ability in several areas— field dance/dance technique, twirling, walks and stands. Ladies are also asked to come to auditions with some original choreography. Prospective members are taken through a series of assessments to determine your qualifications to be on the team. This includes an interview with the staff. On the final day, ladies will perform their combinations for a panel of judges. Decisions are shared on the spot.



What if I have never twirled before? You can go to your local high school and ask for someone to teach you basic twirls, attend a twirling camp or attend a Golden Delight prep clinic. We highly recommend you come to auditions knowing the basic spins. We do teach flag candidates how to twirl but NOT majorettes. Majorettes must have at least two years of twirling experience.

What is a typical rehearsal like? What is the time commitment? We rehearse M-F from 5-9pm. We spend time working with the Blue and Gold Marching Machine to prepare our field presentations and time in the studio honing dance and twirling skills. Games are on Saturdays. Some Sundays are spent traveling and performing at community events. Band camp begins in late July and runs until school starts. The season begins late August and runs to mid-November. Seasons are extended if we participate in the Honda Battle of the Bands. (held Late January)

Can you work and be on the team? No.



Can freshman audition for Golden Delight? Yes. Freshman women are welcomed to audition for our squad. Our freshman ladies also perform their whole first year. There is not a "red shirt" process

FREQUENT QUESTIONS

Do you offer scholarships? NC A&T Band does not offer scholarships to first year squad members. Upperclassmen with good grades may apply for band scholarships. Leadership/captains are given Leadership Scholarships. We encourage ladies who are interested in the university to seek assistance through their major department or external sources.

Do you have a weight limit? YES. We have size limit and it is a criteria at judging. Due to the nature of our uniforms and routine choreography, candidates must be in great physical shape and have a toned and fit physique. Candidates should be appropriate weight range for their height. Curves are not discouraged! A womanly appearance is encouraged. Emphasis is placed on the appearance of the midsection, arms and thighs for the look in our costumes. Additionally, abdominal strength is necessary for dance execution and upper body strength is needed to be an effective twirler. We encourage you to treat Golden Delight as a sport. This ensemble is in the entire field show and the best word to describe what they are is "athletes." Successful candidates will have fitness and technical proficiency.

Do you allow males? No. Golden Delight is not a co-ed performance ensemble. It is for women only. Please do not inquire as there are no exceptions.

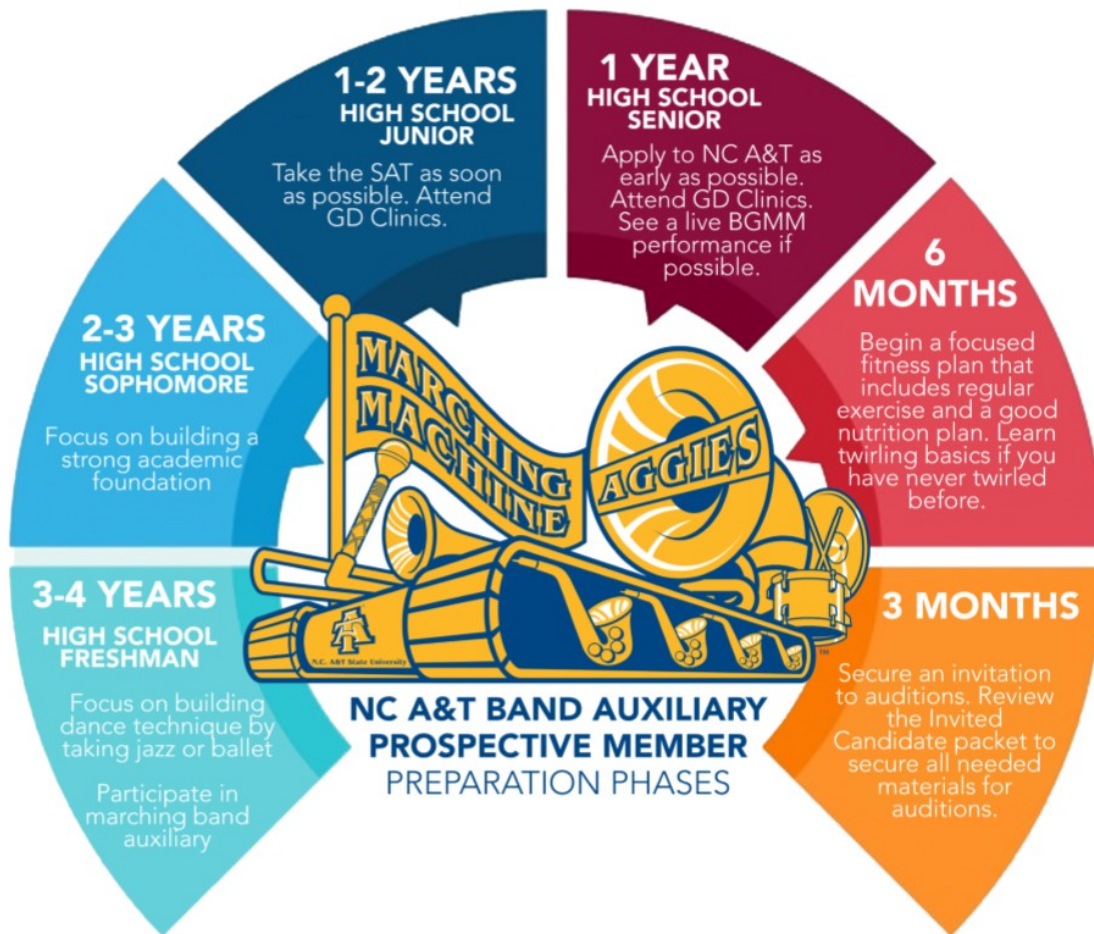
What is the difference between flag, majorette and dancer? All members of Golden Delight are dancers. Everyone does walks, parades, stands and field dance routines in the show. In the field show elements when we are twirling, most ladies twirl flag (14-16 ladies) and a select few twirl baton (4-6 ladies). We do not have auditions for ladies that carry the banner. They come from the selected squad.

Can you audition if my hair is natural? Absolutely. Most of the ladies on our team have natural hairstyles. The choices we make in terms of how we wear our hair for performances does so to allow uniformity and cover natural hair. Hair needs to be long enough to braid. Also be mindful that we wear uniform styles and everyone is required to wear them. It is applied in a way to protect your natural hair and we promote healthy hair.

I have tattoos/piercings, can I be on the team? Yes. However, all tattoos must be covered during all rehearsals and performances. If you do not already have tattoos, we recommend making sure that any you acquire in the future are in less noticeable places. If you have piercings other than one hole in the ear, they must be removed for all rehearsals and performances.

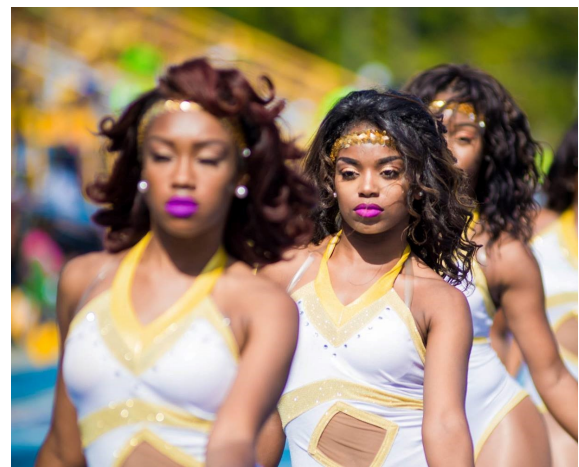
Does it cost to audition? Auditions are free of charge. Housing and meals are not provided for auditions. Candidates selected for the squad do have a financial obligation ranging from \$650-700 paid in installments where possible. This typically covers travel attire, shoes, hair, make-up, uniform undergarments, dance tights, and Sweetheart Academy training materials for new members. All items purchased are able to be kept by the team members. That amount varies from year to year. All performance uniforms, travel expenses and meals are paid by the department of bands during the season.

How many women do you select for the squad? Average squad size is 18-22. However, we have varied from anywhere from as little as 12 to as many as 32! We do not select based on meeting demands for a certain number. Selections are based on mastery of basic skills, meeting minimum requirements, execution of choreography with flexibility and showmanship, sex appeal and womanly demeanor and an overall "fit" for Golden Delight. Competition is high and only those who meet the expectations and come prepared will be considered.



PREPARING FOR THE SWEET LIFE

As a prospective member, we encourage you to begin the process of working towards auditions as soon as possible. The graphic above will help you map out a plan! Candidates typically spend a minimum of 1-2 years doing some intentional training for the audition experience.



Your primary goal should be admission to NC A&T State University. As a consistently top ranked HBCU in the nation, the university has very high academic standards. Be sure to work on a strong academic record and make sure we have a major program that matches your career goals.

CONTACT US

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