

West Virginia Marching Band Invitational Governor's Cup Marching Band Series

Presented by the
West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History
Randall Reid-Smith, Curator

Dear Band Director,

Hello, my name is Randall Reid-Smith, and I am contacting you on behalf of the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History (WVDACH). The department plans to host the tenth annual West Virginia Marching Band Invitational (WVMBI) on Saturday, October 23, 2021, at Laidley Field in Charleston, WV. This competition helps promote the department's educational VH1 Save The Music Foundation program, which provides free musical instruments to middle schools throughout our state.

This marching band season, as we come out of the pandemic, we will work with local band competitions to promote a Governor's Cup Series. The (WVDACH) will present \$1000.00 in cash prizes to the top West Virginia bands at a series of Governor's Cup competitions throughout the state. Participating local competitions are:

- September 11, 2021 (Morning) – Spring Valley High School “Sound in the Valley”
- September 11, 2021 (Afternoon) – Huntington High School “Thunder on the Hill”
- September 18, 2021 – Cabell Midland High School “A Knight at the Round Table”
- September 25, 2021 – Poca High School “Heritage Day Festival”
- October 2, 2021 (Morning) – Wyoming East High School “Warrior Classic”
- October 2, 2021 (Afternoon) – Beckley Woodrow Wilson High School “Soaring Sounds”
- October 9, 2021 (Morning) – Parkersburg South High School “Patriot Invitational”
- October 9, 2021 (Afternoon) – Parkersburg High School “ PHS Jim Kessell Marching Band Festival
- October 16, 2021 – Musselmann High School “Big Apple Marching Band Festival”
- October 23, 2021 – Charleston – The West Virginia Marching Band Invitational
- October 30, 2021 – Philip Barbour High School – Governor's Cup Finals

We have the approval to support your contests with prize money for West Virginia High School bands. We will provide \$1000.00 per contest to award to the top West Virginia bands at each contest.

- \$300.00 – Grand Champion – 5 points toward overall Governor's Cup Standings
- \$200.00 – 1st Runner-Up – 4 points toward overall Governor's Cup Standings
- \$100.00 – 2nd Runner-Up – 3 points toward overall Governor's Cup Standings
- 3rd Runner-Up – 2 points toward overall Governor's Cup Standings
- 4th Runner-Up – 1 point towards overall Governor's Cup Standings
- \$100.00 – Each Class Champion – A, B, C, Classes – 1 point towards overall Governor's Cup Standings

Bands will need to compete in at least 3 local competitions, plus the West Virginia Marching Band Invitational (WVMBI) Championships on October 23rd at Laidley Field in Charleston and compete in the Governor's Cup Finals at Philip Barbour to be eligible for the year end overall Governor's Cup. If a band competes in more than 3 local contests, their best 3 scores would be used for final calculations plus their score at the WVMBI and Governor's Cup Finals. Each host band is eligible at their own competitions to be scored and awarded points towards the Governor's Cup. Governor's Cup finals award money:

- \$3250.00 – Governor's Cup Grand Champion
- \$2000.00 – Governor's Cup 1st Runner-Up
- \$1000.00 – Governor's Cup 2nd Runner-Up
- \$ 750.00 – Governor's Cup 3rd Runner-Up
- \$ 500.00 – Governor's Cup 4th Runner-Up

We will again host the drumline competition, *"Drums at the Capitol,"* This is open to all bands participating in the WVMBI on Saturday October 23, 2021 in Charleston. The drumline battle will be held separately from the field show competition. The TOP SIX drumlines from the prelims will compete at Laidley Field directly after the field competition. Separate awards and cash prizes will be presented to the top six drumlines, as well as a \$20,000 drumline to the First Place Drumline.

[Click here for the 2021 Drumline Application](#)

The WVMBI will include competing bands organized within five classes: A, B, C, D, E. Bands are organized into classes based on band size. Sizes for band class are based on numbers of performers:

- E – 20 and below
- D – 21 to 39
- C – 40 to 59
- B – 60 to 79
- A – 80 and above

The invitational awards will include class championships for each of the five classes. Two grand championship awards will be presented: one for E, D and C classes and one for A and B classes. There also will be an overall West Virginia State Marching Honor Band.

As last year, we will have the West Virginia "Showband" Class. All bands have 15 minutes of performing time (including entrance and exit from the field of competition), preceded by a 20-minute time slot for warm-ups. The competition will begin at 10:00 a.m.

All West Virginia high school marching bands are invited to apply to the WVMBI and participate in the Governor's Cup Series Competitions. All marching ensembles and drumlines will be considered for acceptance into the competition upon completion of the attached application. Please note that the WVMBI is open to a limited number of ensembles, so please be sure to fill out the application form honestly and completely. The deadline for Applications is October 8th, 2021.

[Click here for the 2021 Marching Band Application](#)

The WVDACH is very excited about WVMBI Sate Competition and the Governor's Cup Series. Our hope is to assist in awarding funds to help with success in promoting marching bands in West Virginia.

We hope you will consider the opportunity to participate in these wonderful events. If you have any questions or comments regarding the WVMBI or Governor's Cup Series, please do not hesitate to contact me at (304)558-0220.

Thank you,

Randall Reid-Smith