

## What happens on a Saturday for a Marching Contest?

First, you should plan on the contest being an all-day affair. The students may have to report to school as early as morning practice time and not return to the school until 11pm or midnight. They will compete in a preliminary round during the morning or early afternoon hours. The finals are held in the evening hours.

There are several factors that determine just how long the day is - one of which is how early the application form is submitted for the contest. The earlier the submission, the later in the day we perform at preliminaries.

On contest days, the band members report to the band hall, get dressed, have inspection, board busses - just like before a game - and head to the contest site. Once at the site, there is a procedure - they head to a warm-up area, then to a staging area just outside the performance field, then perform in the preliminaries round. After the performance, they will head back to the busses and change out of their marching uniforms (again, this depends on what time we perform - a later performance might mean that they just hang up their jackets and put up their instruments and shakos).

A meal will be arranged for them on the site - usually a sandwich, chips, cookie with soda or water, or perhaps pizza. Someone brings the "Band Wagon" - the Trinity Band Trailer that converts into a concession stand, and we serve the food from it. If you attend the contest and want to meet up with the band after their preliminary round performance, look for our Band Wagon. Depending on the length of the day, more than one meal may be provided or other arrangements will be made.

The finals performance list is determined by the top ten scores in the preliminary round. When we make finals (keeping a positive attitude), the directors will receive our finals performance time - which will determine what time we need to be at the warm-up location and the staging location.

Answers to questions that have been sent to me:

Yes, they will march in the rain but not if there is a chance of lightning. There have been contests where the final awards were based on the preliminary round results because the weather turned bad right at the time of finals.

Yes, you are highly encouraged to attend the marching contests and CHEER LOUDLY while our band is entering the performance field. However, once the band starts its performance - the entire STADIUM is QUIET!

Our band students will get to know the awe-inspiring feeling of marching onto the field and the stands erupting in cheers. They also know the spine-tingling feeling of Absolute Silence in the stadium as the announcer asks the Drum Majors "Is your band ready...?" and they strike up the first notes of their performance. They have the attention of every one in the stands, until the last note is played - and then the stands roar with applause and celebration!

Yes, there is an admission charge. I do not know what the price will be this year for any of the contests; I won't find out until just before the event.

Yes, you will want to purchase a marching contest patch. These are available for sale at a kiosk in the front of a stadium. Each contest has its own patch and most students want the patches for their letter jackets.

As always, check the website for the latest information - click on the Marching Season 06 button on the left side of the home page; then click on the Contest 06 button for more information. If you have any other questions, just email me at [ann.ness@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ann.ness@sbcglobal.net).