

West Virginia Marching Band Invitational

Presented by the West Virginia Division of Culture and History

Randall Reid-Smith, Commissioner

Dear Band Director,

Hello, my name is Randall Reid-Smith, and I am contacting you on behalf of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History (WVDCH). The division plans to host the sixth annual West Virginia Marching Band Invitational (WVMBI) on Saturday, October 21, 2017, at Laidley Field in Charleston, WV. This competition helps promote the division's educational VH1 Save The Music Foundation program, which provides free musical instruments to middle schools throughout our state. As an added bonus, this year the Senate of the State of West Virginia proclaimed the WVMBI the Official State High School Marching Band Championships of West Virginia.

The WVMBI will include competing bands organized within four classes: A, B, C, D. And for the first time, in WVMBI history, we will provide an Exhibition Class for bands wishing to participate and receive comments only. Bands are organized into classes based on band size. Sizes for band class are based on numbers of performers:

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

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

All bands have 15 minutes of performing time, preceded by two 20-minute time slots for warm-ups. The competition will begin at 10:30 a.m. Post-competition events will include a performance by the WVU Pride of West Virginia marching band. There will not be a Full Retreat.

All West Virginia high school marching bands are invited to apply to the WVMBI. All marching ensembles 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 WVDCH is very excited about this competition and its success in promoting marching bands in West Virginia. We hope you will consider the opportunity to participate in this wonderful event. If you have any questions or comments regarding the WVMBI, please do not hesitate to contact me at (304)558-0220.

Deadline for applications is September 30, 2017.

Thank you,



Randall Reid-Smith
Commissioner

West Virginia Division of Culture and History