



2018
Western Carolina University
“Tournament of Champions”

Dear Tournament of Champions Invited Director,

On behalf of Western Carolina University and the “Pride of the Mountains” Marching Band, we would like to cordially invite you to attend the 18th annual “Tournament of Champions” Marching Band Competition. This year’s event will occur on Saturday, October 20th on the campus of Western Carolina University in picturesque E.J. Whitmire Stadium.

Known as one of the preeminent marching band championships in the southeastern United States, we are proud of the organizations that have attended our event over the last 17 years and are hopeful that your program will join our esteemed list of participant bands. We are focused on providing your students, staff, and parents, an unforgettable experience from the moment you accept this invitation. Our staff works throughout the year to assure that scheduling, organization, and logistics are at the forefront of our planning and will be representative of the experience you can expect on the day of the event.

Our competition utilizes a preliminary/finals format with the addition of a 20-minute clinic session for directors and staff following EVERY band’s preliminary performance. This clinic will be conducted by a nationally recognized adjudicator, who will focus on design as well as performance. The purpose of the clinic will serve to provide immediate feedback, constructive critique regarding performance and design, as well as create a format for question/answer with the clinician and each band’s director and staff. We will conduct this clinic in an indoor environment to allow for a more personal approach and conversation to each band’s performance. Our goal is to increase the educational value and performance/design awareness of your band’s participation, well beyond the final numbers and placement.

We offer four divisions during the preliminary competition including A, AA, AAA, and AAAA classes. Our field of finalists will showcase winners from each of these classes as well as the next 8 highest scoring bands, providing us with an amazing 12 band finals competition!

The Online Registration Process

ONLINE Registration will time stamp your submission date/time and determine your performance time for the preliminary competition. Within two weeks of your online registration, the downloadable form with your Principal’s signature and registration fee of **\$100.00** will be due. Should you fail to mail your performance agreement within two weeks of your online registration, your submission will be voided and will require that you resubmit another online form. In doing so, your initial performance time stamp will be forfeited. The link below will be active on **Monday, February 19, 2018 at 7:00PM** to submit your registration.

<https://form.jotform.com/80354985404966>



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2018 JUDGE PANEL

Chief Judge – Dale Warren

Music Judges

Levi Chavez (TX)
Randy Greenwell (IN)
JD Shaw (SC)
Chip Wood (FL)

Visual Judges

Michael Gaines (CA)
Jeff Sacktig (GA)

Colorguard Judge

Rick Subel (GA)

Percussion Judge

Shane Gwaltney (TN)

Drum Major Judge

Emily Salgado (FL)

Judge bios will be posted on our website in the coming weeks.

Our educational mission is to provide your program a nationally renowned panel of evaluators who will offer clear, in-depth, and useful commentary. Throughout the evaluator assignment process, we consider each individual's background as an educator, creative mind, as well as their ability to provide constructive criticism, delivered in a positive manner to high school students. These individuals are selected on their ability to comment "beyond the score sheet" and deliver educational insight to your staff and students that will assist in the growth, improvement, and motivational aspects of your marching band program.

We are honored as well as excited to extend you this invitation for participation in the 18th annual "Tournament of Champions." We promise to do everything in our power to offer your students, staff, and parents, a first-rate experience coupled with unparalleled educational feedback.

Please feel free to contact us should you have specific questions regarding your participation. We look forward to spending Saturday, October 20th with your fine organization!

Sincerely,

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