

2024 Lake Waconia Band Festival





Welcome to our 25th Year!

Welcome to the 25th Annual Lake Waconia Band Festival! The Festival draws top bands from around Minnesota with an expected audience of 3,000 for this marching bands-only parade.

Our first band will begin performing at 6:00pm and the entire parade route is 1st Street.

Because of the sponsorship of local Waconia businesses, we are awarding gift cards from Music Mart to the top-rated bands (1st, 2nd and 3rd places) in each of three divisions. Trophy awards will be given for People's Choice, Best Color Guard, Best Percussion Section and Best Wind Section. Judging is done by Tri-State Judging.

The awards ceremony will follow the conclusion of the parade at Meuwissen Field on the west side of Bayview Elementary School this year.

The Lake Waconia Band Festival is funded by donations from local Waconia businesses. We encourage you to visit the local businesses in Waconia and thank them for their support of the Festival.

As Waconia is the host band, they will close out the parade with their performance.

Mark your calendars now for the 26th Annual Lake Waconia Band Festival, scheduled for Saturday, June 21, 2025!



Festival Facts

Today marks the 25th year of the event that started as the brainchild of a handful of parents and the staff of the Waconia Marching Band. It follows in the footsteps of another successful marching band competition, *Flags Over Minnesota*, held in Waconia from 1975 to 1984.

The Lake Waconia Band Festival has earned the reputation of being one of the best Minnesota band festivals! This is in large part to the amazing support of our entire community. From the businesses that financially support this day, to the neighbors who share their streets with our visiting guests, it takes a community like Waconia to open its streets and hearts to the crowds that visit us each year.

This band festival is designed to give people of the area a chance to see some of the finest marching bands from Minnesota. It is a festival for music lovers and marching band enthusiasts, but it is also intended to give people who have not experienced marching band a chance to see what they have been missing.

Today, you'll see firsthand the precision, uniformity, fanfare, and in-step marching that goes into the making of top-notch marching band groups. Already, these musicians have been practicing in the many weeks leading up to the summer competition season. As parents of marching band students know, the commitment and passion of these students, their directors, and coaches runs deep.

Marching bands are comprised of more than only musicians. You will also see wonderful color guard displays and vivid, show-stopping dancing and dramatics. Alongside each band, you'll see a fleet of helpers. There are prop-masters who create and move the props necessary for the dramatics, street helpers whisking away flags and props, color guard carrying the flags and banners, and scores of parents moving along the sidelines assisting as needed.

2024 People's Choice Award Voting





The People That Make this Festival Possible

It takes hundreds of hours and over 100 volunteers to make this event successful! Approximately 12 team leaders oversee these volunteers. Please thank them for all the hours and hard work put in to make this Festival possible.

2024 Festival Coordinator: Jenny Moran

Assistant Festival Coordinator: Jill Stineman

Operations: Mitch Fisk

Bus Parking: Kelly Amott

Environmental Services: Mitch Fisk

First Aid/Medical: Jeremy Baker

Food Trucks: Steph Doty

Fundraising: Jill Stineman

Hospitality: Kristen Baker

Intersection Safety: Korey and Misty Compaan

Parade Starters: Macie Fisk

Program and Design: Anitra Trapp

Staging: Mark Murphy

Volunteers: Martha Swift

We would also like to thank two staff members from Waconia Public Schools:

Bucky Mieras, Student Activities Director

Jake Hannes, Athletic Facilities and Grounds Coordinator



2024 Lake Waconia Band Festival Parade Order

The Waconia Marching Band Drumline (Exhibition) –
Marching the parade route in reverse from Bayview Elementary School to City Square Park.
Honor Guard

PARTICIPATING BANDS:

Montevideo High School Marching Band
Litchfield Marching Dragons
Richfield High School Marching Spartans
Cotter High School Marching Band
HCPA Marching Warriors - Exhibition
Dassel-Cokato Marching Band
Two Rivers High School Marching Band
Sauk Rapids High School Marching Storm
728 Cadets Marching Band
Champlin Park Marching Rebels
Owatonna High School Marching Band
Waconia Marching Band- Host



Food Truck Options



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First Aid / Emergency

First Aid/Emergency

A First Aid Tent is available at Bayview Elementary School. In case of emergencies in weather and other circumstances, follow directions of personnel from the Festival Safety Team, Waconia Fire Department, and Carver County Sheriff's Office. An emergency plan has been developed, and area elementary schools (Bayview – Walnut & 1st Streets and Trinity Lutheran Church Birch St & 2nd St) will be available should shelter be required.

Judges' Information

Determining classes for Lake Waconia Band Festival participating bands is based on both school size (grades 9-12) and band size of the 14 competing bands. School size information is drawn from the Minnesota State High School League website; band size is the number of total band members (winds, percussion, color guard, honor guard, and drum majors) given by the director and printed in the festival's program. Bands are then ranked 1-14 by school size and 1-14 by band size. School size rank is given 2/3 weight (multiplied by 67%), and band size rank is given 1/3 weight (multiplied by 33%). These two results are then added together to rank the bands and come up with band classes for a parade. If two bands have the same result, school-size determines the tiebreaker. Tri-State Judging Association does these calculations for the festival.

The actual judging area is a 100-yard stretch of the Festival's route on 1st Street. At approximately the 80-yard mark (between Vine and Maple Streets) is a trailer to give the judges an additional vantage point to see the bands in action. Each band is also timed by the judges.

The categories each marching band will be rated on are below with the name of the Judge for that discipline.

Music General Effect: *Musicianship, Performance Effectiveness, and Coordination of Auxiliaries with the Music*
Judge: Joel Matuzak

Visual Execution: *Alignment of Rank, Files, and Diagonals, Effective Performance, Personal Bearing, Uniformity in Position of Instruments and Equipment*
Judge: Jesse Talbot

Visual General Effect: *Overall Set-Up, Showmanship, Performance Effectiveness, and Auxiliary precision, interpretation, difficulty, and choreography*
Judge: Gary Swanson

Music Execution: *Musical Content, Brass and Woodwind tone quality, intonation, articulation, note & rhythmic accuracy/phrasing and Percussion tuning, tonality, precision, balance within section, musicality, difficulty and rhythmic accuracy.*
Judge: Ron Stary

Percussion: *Percussion sections are evaluated on their musicality, balance, blend, phrasing, technique, dynamic contrast, tone quality, control of pulse and tempo, and uniformity/precision.*
Judge: Barry Peterson / Head Judge

Guard: *Musical interpretation, integration, staging, creativity, use of body, form, and equipment, expressive opportunities, timing and precision, uniform approach to technique, visual communication, control of body and form, and marching technique*
Judge: Tamara Schmidt

Additional Help for Our Judges: Tabulator – Kim Peterson; Timing – Katy Matuzak; Tech – Matt Nielsen

THANK YOU Tri-State Judges for your help with the 2024 Lake Waconia Band Festival!

2024 People's Choice Award Voting





Special Thanks to Our Sponsors

If you want to become a sponsoring member of the Festival, please contact Jill Stineman at lakewaconiabandfestival@gmail.com

We wish to express a special thanks to the local Waconia businesses. They have contributed funds, donations of services, and/or products to make the Lake Waconia Band Festival possible this year. We encourage you to stop in to one or several of these businesses to thank them and support them as a part of our community.

If you want to become a sponsoring member of the Festival please contact Mitch Fisk at lakewaconiabandfestival@gmail.com; if you wish to sponsor the Waconia Band Boosters, please contact Kari Sell at waconiabandboosters@gmail.com

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Event Sponsors

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Montevideo High School Marching Band

Director: Hunter Hamby

Drumline Instructor: Hunter Hamby

Color Guard Instructor: Ally Girard

Drum Majors: Madi VanBinsbergen and Semisi Paongo

Band Member #: 43

Name of Show: On Bourbon Street

Repertoire: *Just a Closer Walk with Thee*, *House of the Rising Sun*, *Funkytown*

Show Explanation:

On Bourbon Street will take you through all the street performances you would hear attending Mardi Gras in New Orleans! The show's opener is a 2nd Line Classic, *Just a Closer Walk with Thee* made famous by New Orleans street performers such as Tuba Skinny. This will lead to a 60s classic *House of the Rising Sun* by The Animals, but with a slower and bluesier twist that you might hear a cover band performing on the streets. We'll keep our drum feature a surprise for the show but we will end our show with the group kLucky Chops version of *Funkytown*! This show is sure to bring Louisiana to your door and make you get up and dance!



Litchfield Marching Dragons



Directors: Bailey Benoit

Assistant Director: Tasha Koll

Drumline Instructor: Matthew Mendiola

Color Guard Instructors: Remington Zeppelin and Zach Olson

Drum Major: Kendrall Ball and Isabelle Culbertson

Band Member #: 120

Name of Show: Big Top

Repertoire and Show Explanation:

Ladies and gentleman, boys and girls, step right up and see the Litchfield Marching Dragons as they bring the circus to you! *Big Top* is an arrangement of many familiar tunes. Based on an arrangement of David L. Harvey's *Greatest Show on Earth* you will hear some of the classic circus tunes from Offenbach's *Ballet Parisien* to Julius Fucik's *Entry of the Gladiators*. Sit back, relax, and enjoy the show!



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Richfield High School Marching Spartans



Directors: Chad Armbruster and Mike Andrle

Drumline Instructor: Ryan Larson

Staff: Owen Tucker and Calvin Millet

Color Guard Instructors: Mike Andrle and Jeff Olson

Drum Major: Gwen Royster

Assistant Drum Major: Kyle Lucero Mendoza

Band Member #: 40

Repertoire: *Space Odyssey* by Richard Strauss and *Space Oddity* by David Bowie

Name of Show: Liftoff!

This year, the Richfield High School Marching Spartans will appear in twelve parades, concerts and special appearances throughout Minnesota. Richfield High School is proud to offer a comprehensive band program including two Concert Bands, Percussion Studio, Jazz Band and Marching Band. The Richfield High School Marching Spartans would like to thank their volunteers, transportation team and school administration for their outstanding support.



Cotter High School Marching Band

Director: Andy Meurer

Drumline Instructor: Sam Wantock

Color Guard Instructor: Jenna Rickoff

Drum Majors: Francis Koll and Ava Koopman

Band Member #: 65

Name of Show: Dad Rock

Repertoire: Music from the classic rock legends Queen, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Motley Crue, and Brian Adams

Show Explanation:

Dad Rock is a show about the music that whips every mom and dad right back to the 70s and 80s. Dressing up in your favorite rock concert outfit, throwing on your makeup and jewelry, and heading out to wait in line for what will inevitably be the musical experience of your lifetime. Our show aims to bring you back to a time where live music left a lasting impact on your soul. Our selections will hit you with wave after wave of nostalgia, and bring you back to the glory days of live rock concerts.





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Hmong College Prep Academy Marching Warriors

Directors: Kiersten Sloneker and Emma Grams

Drumline Instructor: Dana O'Brien

Color Guard Instructor: Lori Miller

Marching Instructor: Jaime Verkuilen

Drum Major: Muaj Vaj and Jason Khang

Band Member #: 50

Name of Show: Radioactive

Repertoire: *Radioactive* (Imagine Dragons, arr. Paul Murtha)

Hmong College Prep Academy was founded in 2004 with a mission to provide the best integrated, challenging and well-rounded educational experience to students in grades K-12. Today, HCPA serves over 2,600 students across grades K-12, providing them with the tools they need to succeed beyond high school.

The HCPA Marching Warriors is made up of students in grades 6-12, from first year band students to recently-graduated Seniors. With over half of the ensemble being new to the world of marching, the HCPA Marching Warriors are thrilled to be stepping into their fourth year of parade marching and are looking forward to joining the growing community of Minnesota Marching Bands.



Dassel-Cokato Marching Chargers

Director: Anson Hanna

Drumline Instructor: Gus Wiitala

Color Guard Instructor: Heidi Lietha

Drum Major: Katie Johnson

Band Member #: 50

Name of Show: Cut the Cord

Repertoire: *Funeral March of a Marionette* by Charles Gounod, *Master of Puppets* by Metallica, *Cut the Cord* by Shinedown

Show Explanation:

Cut the Cord portrays the dark events of marionette puppets: their awakening, being forced to remain under control and having to "cut the cord" to eventually break free. The show begins with *Funeral March of a Marionette*, depicting the awakening and marching of marionettes. *Master of Puppets* demonstrates the controlling and binding of the marionettes. And lastly, *Cut the Cord* will portray the ensemble breaking free from the control that was once binding them.



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Two Rivers High School Marching Band

Directors: Erik Christianson

Drumline Instructors: Shawn Meghani, Cyrus Martin Risch
and Shakti Gurung

Color Guard Instructor: Katie Haflock

Drum Majors: Caroline Brown, Dylan Donahue and Moss Remick

Band Member #: 50

Name of Show: Going for Gold

Repertoire: *Olympic Theme, All I Do is Win, We Are the Champions*

Show Explanation:

The Two Rivers Marching Band celebrates the summer Olympics by *Going for the Gold* with both new and classic pop tunes.



Sauk Rapids Rice High School Marching Storm

Directors: Heidi Martinson and Garrett James

Drumline Instructor: Matthew Winans

Color Guard Instructor: Susana Manea and Kayla DeBoer

Drum Major: Lydia Johnson

Band Member #: 70

Name of Show: *On the Edge of Rage*

Repertoire: *No Doubt, Fall Out Boy, Nirvana*

Show Explanation:

This summer, the Sauk Rapids Rice High School Marching Storm is *On the Edge of Rage*. The 2024 Sauk Rapids Rice High School Marching Storm show will feature the music of No Doubt, Fall Out Boy and Nirvana -- *the apple of hostility is ripe...the question is - will you take a bite, or won't you? - the choice is yours.*





LIONS CLUB OF
WACONIA MINNESOTA

728 Cadets Marching Arts

Directors: Joe Jaeger and Shannon Curtis

Drumline Instructor: Garret Sorenson, Owen Sabinash, Danielle Larson

Color Guard Instructor: Lauren Emerson, Jordan Lauseng, Carrie Snyder

Drum Majors: Lillian Mohr and Grace Weber

Band Member #: 110

Name of Show: The Finish Line

Repertoire: *The Big Race* by Randy Newman, *Fast Car* by Tracy Chapman, *Getaway Car* by Taylor Swift

728 Cadets



Champlin Park Marching Rebels

Director: Steve Johnson

Music and Visual Staff: Davis Bitterman, Ethan Goulson, Grant Goulson and Nick Tentis

Drumline Instructors: Tyler Hague, Ava Bergman, Joe Cady

Color Guard Instructors : Addie Guenther and Emily Erickson

Musical Arrangements: Steve Johnson and Grant Goulson

Drill Design: Addie Guenther

Drum Majors: Mikey Beasly and Eleanor Martenson

Band Member #: 80

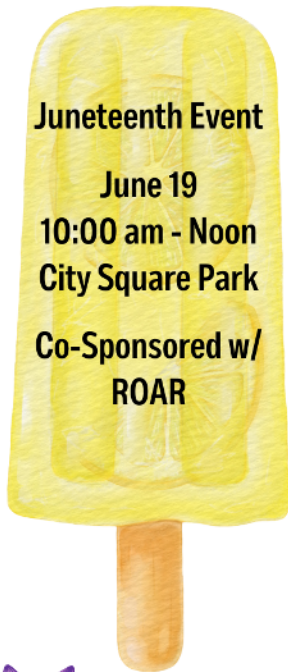
Name of Show: Declassified

Repertoire: *Also Sprach Zarthustra* by Strauss, *Rocket Man* by Elton John and *Critical Mass* by Todd Stalter

The Champlin Park Marching Rebels consists of 80 dedicated musicians who pride themselves in being highly active in the many summer and fall marching venues. Over the last 32 years the band has performed and competed across the country in parades as well as field competitions in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Tennessee, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, and California. In 2016, the Marching Rebels made an appearance at the Liberty Bowl in Memphis Tennessee, winning Grand Champion in both the Parade and Field Competitions and participated in the 2022 New Orleans Sugar Bowl parade and halftime performance.



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OUR EVENTS**

Owatonna High School Marching Band

Directors: Peter Guenther and Holly Guenther

Drumline Instructor: Lee Sackett

Color Guard Instructors: Gary Swanson and Madelyn Guenther

Bass Instructor: Peter Guenther

Woodwind Instructor: Holly Guenther

Visual Design: Joel Matuzak

Colorguard Design: Gary Swanson

Music and Percussion Arrangement: Joel Matuzak

Drum Majors: Nora Johnson and Lola Berg

Band Member #: 98

Name of Show: Purple Mozart

Repertoire: *1999, Purple Rain* and *Let's Go Crazy* by Prince, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*, *Symphony #40*, *Aee Verum Corpus* and *Dies Irae* from *Requiem* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

The 100 member Owatonna High School Marching Band is a co-curricular offering in the summer and is comprised of Junior High and High School band members. The band has performed at Disneyland, the National Independence Day Parade and 4th of July Celebrations in Bristol, Rhode Island, as well as marched in the televised *Long Beach 4th of July Parade* as well as the 4th of July parade in Pacific Palisades, California.

The Owatonna Marching Band has earned numerous championships in their respective class every summer as they compete in Minnesota. The band's commitment to musicianship and showmanship have made them a crowd favorite at parades all over the country!



Waconia Marching Band



Directors: Nick Hansberry, Phil Snyder, Alli Mottaz

Drumline Instructors: Alli Mottaz, Jake Esterberg, Tony Mottaz

Color Guard Instructors : Sue Snorek, Rachel Bonkougou, Sydney Kuykindall,

Drum Majors: Shay Compaan, Hailey Klitzke, Brennan Markiewicz, Nic Wills

Band Member #: 145

Name of Show: Drop Dead Gorgeous

Repertoire: Dies Irae from Verdi's Requiem, *Zombie* by The Cranberries, *Disturbia* by Rihanna



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