



A LGHS Music Boosters FAQ



What to expect on Competition Day...

There are three perspectives to a marching band competition day—what the students do, what the parent volunteers do, and what the spectators do. Detailed timelines are emailed to all parents and students (hardcopies are in the band room) by the Monday or Tuesday before the competition—as soon as we know our performance time.

What does a typical competition day look like for the Students? Students meet early in the day to practice, usually 9:00 or 10:00 am. They usually break around 11:30am for lunch. They may bring a lunch, go home to rest, or walk downtown—no driving. The Pit spends part of their lunch hour breaking down their equipment and helping to load the trailers. The buses arrive around 1 or so (depending on the distance to our competition). The students load the buses with their instruments/flags and a duffel bag (containing their marching shoes, black socks, band jacket, etc). When they arrive at the competition site, the students have 20 minutes to stretch out, have a snack (provided by the Boosters), and use the restrooms. They change into their uniforms on the buses. Girls must wear boxers and sports bras for this reason. Once changed, the band puts on their hats and plumes and gets out their polished instruments. They go to a warm up area to rehearse (about 1 hour) until it is time for them to assemble for Stand-by. This is their final physical and mental warmup.

What happens after the students perform? After their performance (15 minutes), the students return to the buses to change into their travel uniform (black pants, Field Show T-shirt, Band Jacket). Students are *not* allowed to eat in their marching uniforms. The relief of the performance being over is combined with their excitement about sharing a great dinner with their friends. Dinner is served next to the buses by our Food Crew and Volunteers. The food is ALWAYS a hit! Dessert is often a birthday cake to celebrate that week's birthday(s) provided by the family of the birthday student(s). After dinner, the band walks back to the stadium to watch the rest of the competition and wait for the Awards Ceremony. There is LOTS of cheering and noise! After awards, students load the buses and go home. The buses usually depart the competition around 10:30p and arrive home 11:30p-12:30am (depending on the distance traveled). Many students help unload the trailers upon their return to the High School, making that process go very quickly. For some freshmen, the first Saturday competition will be the most exciting day they have ever experienced. For all, it will be the start of a great season!

What about the Parent Volunteers? What do we do? The **Parent Volunteers** have a full day also. We all wear our Orange Booster Shirts, or some combination of orange and black. The dedicated **Food Volunteers** have prepared much of the food (for 150 people) on the day before. On competition mornings, the hot food is baked and placed in our professional quality cambros that will keep everything hot until it is time to serve. The **Coffee Volunteer** brews coffee and fills beverage cambros. The **Pit Pops** and **Uniform Managers** load our two trailers with uniforms and equipment in the late morning or early afternoon. Our **Color Guard Sewers** repair flags or costumes.

Can we/Do we have to ride on the bus with the kids? Parent volunteers may ride on the bus as chaperones if they make a reservation in advance (10-15 seats available), other parents carpool or drive their own vehicle.

How does the equipment get loaded, transported, and set up? The Pit Pops and Uniform crew are responsible for loading and unloading the trailers, both before and after competitions. Equipment is usually loaded in early afternoon, once the students have done any rehearsing that was needed in the morning. The trailers leave before the buses so they can set up our “camp”. This is where our food will be served, canopies set up, and Pit Equipment reassembled. The Food Team, however, is responsible for bringing the food.

It is important that all camp operations go smoothly so the students will stay focused on what they have learned



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and practiced. Uniform and hat carts are lined up so they can change about 20 minutes after the buses arrive. Food tables and chafing dishes are set up and generators run our lights because it will be dark when we eat dinner. Pit Pops (men and women) attend to the equipment and the Food Crew sets up the food before the band heads to their stand by area. Pit Pops follow the band into the stadium, set up the Pit, and watch the performance from the ground level. Food volunteers cheer loudly from the stands and then rush to our camp as soon as our performance is over to start setting out the food for our hungry students. When the band returns, the Pit Pops quickly break down the Pit Equipment and the Uniform Managers check in the uniforms (and make sure that they are hung properly).

Can (I/my relative/friend/family member/casual acquaintance) eat with the Band? All Competition Day volunteers are welcome to eat with the students and are asked to make a \$5 donation in the basket at the beginning of the buffet line. Due to costs and difficulty in projecting demand, we cannot offer meals to other people.

What About Tearing Down our site, returning to the school and unloading equipment back at LGHS?

While the students and other volunteers head back to the stadium to catch the end of the competition, the Pit Pops and others who want to help are responsible for tearing down the site, re-loading our trailers, and getting started back to the school. Once we arrive, equipment is unloaded and returned to the Music Room. This goes much faster than the initial loading, because we have many, many students available to help us out.

Can we just attend the Competition? Sure! **Spectators** are encouraged! Entrance fees are \$8-15. LGHS supporters try to sit together. Orange and black are our colors! Dress warmly, as the stadiums usually go from cool to cold as the season progresses. Stadium blankets are also a good idea. You may want to bring seat pads as well. Smaller bands than us perform before us; larger bands than us perform after us. You will see creative shows, great music, and students having fun the whole time. Remember to cheer for every school—they deserve it! Also, plan to see the awards. The ceremony is full of tradition and worth the wait. Attending a competition is the payoff. You will get to see your student be part of something larger than all of us. Walk around the venue and look at the faces of the performers and their colorful costumes. You are guaranteed a great evening!