

BOA Nationals – Indy Here We Come!

The 2009 season for our marching band is drawing to a close and what a season it has been! The Bands of America Grand National Championships is November 11th – 14th. The competition is held at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, Indiana. This article should provide most of your need-to-know info. But, stay tuned to upcoming fanouts for additional news and details.

A few key items:

- We leave for Indy on Wednesday, November 11th. An itinerary is included in this newsletter. (please note, the itinerary is subject to change)
- We return from Indy on Sunday, November 15th.
- Our preliminary competition time is Friday, November 13th at 3:15 p.m.
- For the weekend, the kids, directors and chaperones will be staying at:
Jameson Camp
2001 Bridgeport Road
Indianapolis, IN 46231
- The camp and practice field locations are closed to visitors. Mr. Armbruster and staff will need to focus on the show. No phone calls.
- If you are a chaperone, you are responsible for purchasing your own tickets to enter Lucas Oil Stadium for any of the performances. Name badges and field passes for staff and crew have been sent to the band director's office and have been/will be distributed.
- Photography Policy: **Still cameras (digital or film, professional or otherwise) ARE allowed in the stadium and may ONLY be used from stadium seating, but not on the field.** Staff and crew – keep the cameras stowed while you are at field level. You can, if you wish, access stadium seats to take pictures. Videotaping, as well as audio taping, is NOT permitted from anywhere in the stadium. Violations of this policy could cause assessment of a penalty to the band.
- For this, as well as other information concerning BOA, you can visit www.musicforall.org and click the link for "Grand Nationals."
- Please review the Nurse's notes in this Newsletter and advise if there have been any changes to your emergency contact information.

BOA Nationals – What to bring

Bring all materials you would need for any rehearsal at home. You will need drill cards, drill books, pencils, breathing tube and ALL other equipment. Your child will NOT (repeat NOT) need their water bottle for practices. As we did with band camp, we will provide bottled water for their consumption during practices and after performances.

Here is a short list of items that students should be sure to pack. Some of these are discussed further in this article.

Sleeping bag/bedroll/blankets/pillows	Air Mattress (only certain students – they will be notified)	Pajamas
Clothes – enough variety to dress in layers if it's cold	Bath towels/wash cloths	Socks – multiple pairs
Toiletries – bathing and grooming supplies	Bathing suit – to use in the shower	Lip protection
Kleenex	Sunblock	Black Towel (winds only)
Flashlight	Tennis shoes – 2 pair	Camera
Flip flops for showers	Rain Gear	Member shirts
Dinkles	Extra plastic bag for bedding	Drill book
Hair dryers – try to coordinate with other cabin mates	Coats	Hat/gloves

Bedding: Because we will be at a camp, most cabins come equipped with bunk beds and most students will need only their bedding (a sleeping bag and/or blankets and pillow). However, some students and chaperones may be required to bring along an air mattress. Those people will be notified. Please store all bedding in a garbage bag with your name clearly marked on the outside just like you did for Band Camp. **ALL SLEEPING BAGS/BED ROLLS MUST BE AT SCHOOL BY 7:00 PM ON TUESDAY NIGHT (November 10th)**

Shower Items: Towel and washcloth, swimsuit (for modesty during showers), toiletries (soap, shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrush, etc.). You may want to bring flip-flops as well. Hair dryer. Please double up by sharing with a friend. There are NEVER enough outlets anyway.

Uniforms. All uniform parts and accessories including:

- marching shoes
- 3 pairs black socks
- 2009 member shirts
- other plain white/gray t-shirt to back up or second shirt.

EVERYTHING SHOULD BE CLEARLY LABELED WITH YOUR NAME!

New members should talk with upperclassmen. They have been through these trips many times and can let you in on some of the secrets for a successful trip. We never know what kind of weather we're going to have. Bring enough clothes to be able to dress in layers. Rain gear may come in handy as our practice facility is outdoors. Remember to pack light. You must be able to carry your own luggage.

Do not bring entertainment items such as large video games/TV's etc. (iPods and gameboys ok)

What NOT to pack

- 2-way radios
- Pagers
- Lighters
- Knives
- Candles
- Matches
- Medications – ALL medications are to be turned in to the nurse. There are no exceptions.

Items that are OK to bring (please note, students are responsible for their own property; use of these items during rehearsals and meals is not permitted):

- Cell Phones
- iPods
- Gameboys

Meals

All students should plan to bring dinner, drinks and snacks for the bus ride TO Indianapolis on Wednesday. Glass containers are not allowed.

The chaperones and volunteers will be preparing and serving meals to the group from Thursday morning through Sunday morning. One exception: Friday night at the mall. We make an annual trip to Circle Centre Mall in downtown Indy. This is the only time during the weekend that you can meet up with your child and even have dinner with them. Most likely, they'll just want some cash from you!

Saturday night, after Finals, ALL parents are invited to a pizza party celebration back at Jameson Camp.

Nurse's Notes

If there are any changes in your child's medical information or medications—or if you have any changes in your insurance or emergency contact information—please get that to Vickie Ragland ASAP before we leave for Indianapolis. To prepare for our trip to Nationals, we will be using the same information that was provided on the Medical Release Forms that were filled out in June. It is imperative that you contact Vickie if there have been any changes!

Just like school and Band Camp, students **ARE NOT ALLOWED TO HAVE ANY MEDICATIONS IN THEIR POSSESSION—prescription or over the counter—WHILE AT NATIONALS.**

The exceptions to this rule are:

- Rescue Inhalers for asthma
- EPI-PENS
- Insulin Pumps
- Skin creams for acne, eczema, etc.

Remind your child to keep the RESCUE INHALERS AND EPI-PENS WITH THEM AT ALL TIMES!! The nurses will have Tylenol, Motrin, cold and allergy medicine, etc., with us—you DO NOT need to send this unless your child requires a specific brand or form (such as liquid or chewable Tylenol or Motrin, dye-free products, etc.)

Vickie will be collecting medications for the trip after practice on Tuesday, November 10th. Please make every effort to bring it that night. If that is absolutely not possible, please bring it to school well before departure time—preferably by 4 PM—on Wednesday, November 11th. Make sure that the medications are in their original container and that the dosage is clearly marked. Please put the containers in a Ziploc bag with your child's name on it.

A final note for parents: please make sure that your child packs appropriate clothing, including several socks and a few pairs of tennis shoes. It most likely will be cold and possibly damp since it is November—but we have also been known to see 70 degree days and students with sunburns!! Don't forget the sunscreen and sunglasses, along with the sweatpants, sweatshirts, gloves, hats and jackets. BE PREPARED!!

If you should have any questions, please call or email Vickie:
734 844-1878
734 634-3089 (cell)
vickersgoblue@wideopenwest.com

FINALS Notes

It goes without saying that this is the event the kids look forward to all season. The Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Marching Band has a sterling reputation in the band world. Countless parents from across the country, judges, and other BOA members regularly include PCMB among a short and elite list of shows they've absolutely got to see!

This is a remarkable opportunity to reveal, on a national stage, just what type of program we have. Aside from its reputation as a perennial Grand National Finalist, PCMB is also known for its uncompromising displays – from both students AND parents – of sportsmanship and respect for other programs.

We know, first hand, just how much work, sweat, tears and commitment goes into this. For the students and for ALL others who make the trek to Indianapolis, please adhere to the best of behavior, respect and courtesy for all program participants from across the country. You never know who you're sitting next to. Everything you say and do will be a reflection on our program and its rich national reputation.

Let's enjoy a GREAT National's experience! Be sure to wear your PCMB yellow with immense pride for this great program!!

GO PCMB!!!!