DeSoto Classic Invitational
Marching Contest
Information

Location:
The contest will be held at Eagle Stadium on the DeSoto High School
Campus at 600 Eagle Drive, DeSoto. Maps are enclosed.

Stadium Information:
The stadium features a brand new synthetic turf field surrounded by an 8
lane track. The home side seats a capacity of 5,000 people including
two levels of seating. Please reference the Classic flyer for a picture of
the home side. **First Aid facilities are available in the stadium and
staffed by registered and certified personnel for the duration of the
contest.** Full Service Concessions will be available throughout the day.

Parking:
Bus parking is located to the EAST and SOUTH EAST of the stadium.
Please ask your buses to enter from the Eagle Drive entrance. You will
find a parking assistant to help you. The lot is for BUSES ONLY. Cars
may park in the lots behind the home stands to the south of the stadium.
The entrances for these lots are at Westmoreland Road. Handicap
parking is also available near the stadium entrance at Westmoreland Rd.

Admission:
Admission is $5.00 for all spectators 12 years of age and over and $2.00
for children under 12. Infants and toddlers are admitted free of charge.
Participating band students should be dressed in a band uniform, or band
attire, etc. to be admitted.

A hand stamp or contest wristband is required to reenter the stadium.

Seating:
All bands who have completed their performance may sit on the home
side of the stadium. Band students may re-enter the stadium through the
home side gate.

Concessions:
There are concessions stands provided at the stadium with a full menu
that includes hamburgers, hot dogs, French fries, funnel cakes, drinks,
nachos, candy, etc.

Due to the amount of foods available, we ask that you do not bring
meals for your band on campus. This includes meals on buses as
well. Thank you for your cooperation.

Check-in:
At check-in the Band Director will receive a contest packet. The packet
will include a campus map, program, event schedule and wristbands.
You will find different wristbands for the band staff and chaperones/
work crew. The number of staff wristbands is based on a list of staff
members provided by the Band Director at online check-in/ registration.
One (1) Chaperone/crew wristband will be provided for every eight (8) students in the band.

NOTE: Anyone not wearing a wristband or in uniform, will be asked to pay an admission fee.

Warm-up Areas: Warm-up areas are indicated on the enclosed map. The greeters will direct each band to their warm-up area at the scheduled time. All bands should be prepared to move into position at the designated time.

NOTE: Bands will face SOUTH while in the warm-up areas. The use of whistles and/or drum cadence is prohibited when moving from the warm-up area to the contest field. Pit Ensembles/ Front Ensembles are not allowed to play in the Pit/Equipment Trailer parking lot. You may move to the east side of the campus, away from the stadium if you would like to rehearse with the front ensemble. Please see a contest official for more details.

Water Stations: Water stations are provided in the warm-up area and the field exit area. Please encourage your students to drink plenty of clear fluid throughout the day.

Field Entrance/ Exit: Bands entering the field for competition will enter through the gate at the EAST end of the home stands. Pit/Props will enter through the gate at the EAST end of the visitor stands. To exit the field, bands turn right on the track in front of the press box; follow the track to the gate on the WEST end of the home stands. Pit/Props will exit through the gate at the EAST end of the visitor stands. You will then proceed to the photography area.

Official Timing for Movement Onto Field And Performance Timing: The minimum performance time in all classes is five (5) minutes with a maximum of ten (10) total minutes.

1. When the band is released from the “at gate” position, the five (5) minute pre-performance period will begin by signal from the field starter. This time will be recorded and countdown markers will be held up showing time remaining.

2. At the end of four (4) minutes, the band will be announced. Performance time will begin within one (1) minute of this announcement.

3. Should a band director or his designated assistant indicate that the band is ready prior to the end of the four (4) minute period; the band will be announced following a signal from the field starter. Performance time will begin (a) on the first sound or step following the announcement or (b) at the end of five (5) minutes, whichever comes first.

4. The announcement script for your band reads, “The next band in Class _____ is the _____ high school band from ______. The director
of the _____ band is _____. Assistant director(s) is /are _____.
Music selections include _____. Drum Major(s) _____, is your band ready? _____ Band you may begin your performance in preliminary or (Finals) competition.

5. The time will stop when the last marching member clears the field boundaries.

6. When the show has ended and the band has cleared the field, no audible cadence is allowed.

Judges: The judges are located at the top of the home stands under the press box on the south end of the stadium. The percussion judge may be located on the track in front of the home side bleachers or in the press box. One of the marching judges may also be on the field. The auxiliary judge is located up top beside the marching and wind judges.

Scoring: The bands are scored in line with the Area Marching Contest scoring system. There are seven judges whose ranking (not points) will determine winners and finalists. The three music judges will constitute 20% each; the two marching judges will constitute 15% each; the percussion judge and the auxiliary judge will each constitute 5%. The general effect score will be determined by total points including percussion and color guard scores. Trophies will be awarded based on the highest score for each caption in each class.

Results: Written critique sheets, recorded comments (MP3 comments), on a flash drive and a DVD of your preliminary and finals performance are provided in your packet. Results will be available for pick up in the Directors Hospitality suite a minimum of 30 minutes after your group of bands has completed prelims. Participating bands may pick up their material from the track immediately following the final awards competition.

Directors should bring a device that can play a USB Flash Drive in order to listen to the judges’ comments.

Video: Professional quality video recording services are provided by 5-Star Productions and DeSoto High School. Parents and band students may order DVDs at the 5-Star booth. All filming rights belong to the DeSoto High School Band Boosters Club, Inc. and 5-Star Productions; no band or band representative will be allowed to film all or part of any performance(s).

Photography: There is professional photography for those bands who wish to participate following all preliminary performances.
Finals Competition: In the event that a band wins their classification, but does not score high enough to earn a finals position, that band will have the option to perform in exhibition. Those directors should indicate that preference by notifying the director at the Directors’ Hospitality area once results are announced.

Drumline Contest: The indoor drumline contest is held in the Freshman Campus cafeteria. This area is located directly across from the home side of the stadium. Please see the attached map for more specific directions. You are allowed to perform your show music for the judge to critique and evaluate. The most outstanding performance will receive a trophy at the awards ceremony that evening. Each group has a total of 15 minutes to perform and move equipment.

Auxiliary Contest: The color guard contest will be held in the High School at Gym 2. The most outstanding auxiliary unit of the day will receive a trophy during the awards ceremony that evening. Each unit will have a total of 15 minutes to assemble and perform. Please provide a CD of your musical selection.

Directors Hospitality: We will provide a Directors Hospitality room located in the field house on the east end of the stadium. Band directors with the proper wristbands are invited to visit this area throughout the day.

Emergency Repairs: An on-site instrument repairman is provided for last minute repairs. This person is located near the warm-up area.