

## Compare the USSBA to your Local or National Band Organization

|   | USSBA | Yours |
|---|-------|-------|
| Judges are seldom from your local area, and thus, will not be prone to pre-judging  | ✓     |       |
| The office is open during the band season from 7am - 7pm EST, seven days a week. Additionally, a number of representatives will make themselves available to you via mobile phone 24 hours a day, 7 days a week   | ✓     |       |
| 3 Classes in which your band can participate based on experience and competitive level: Open (more competitive), A (less competitive), and Festival (non-competitive)   | ✓     |       |
| Group Size is separated into 6 groups based on the total number of students in the band   | ✓     |       |
| Discounted Registration to Music is Cool Clinics with The Cadets and Crossmen Drum & Bugle Corps  | ✓     |       |
| Discounts on instruments & accessories from companies such as Yamaha, Zildjian, Vic Firth, Remo and Dinkles   | ✓     |       |
| Chances to perform in college and professional venues such as Giants Stadium, M&T Bank Stadium, The US Naval Academy, J.Birney Crum Stadium in Allentown, PA, Hersheypark Stadium in Hershey, PA, Franklin Field in Philadelphia, PA, and Finley Stadium in Chattanooga, TN | ✓     |       |
| Representatives to advise and support your program via campus visits or conference calls.   | ✓     |       |
| In Service credit for attending workshops and clinics (where applicable)  | ✓     |       |
| Post show critiques to offer constructive advice on how make program better rather than negative commentary   | ✓     |       |
| Judges sheets on a national scale that provide continuity between events week-in and week-out, and giving the ability for bands to compare their score to bands across the country  | ✓     |       |
| Easy-to-navigate website to provide information on events, scores, judges, and news   | ✓     |       |
| Unlimited number of performance spots available for Championship-level events with registration available to all bands appearing in one USSBA event or receiving an invitation to participate   | ✓     |       |
| No Timing or boundary penalties   | ✓     |       |
| Non - Band members can hold props on field (including adults)   | ✓     |       |
| Full schedule of local events in most regions   | ✓     |       |
| Clinic / Shows that enable students to get direct advice and feedback from adjudicators   | ✓     |       |
| Finals-only format for all shows guarantees the same experience for all bands   | ✓     |       |

### Fees

- Participation in one sanctioned show is free of charge. Some Regions and Events do include a Registration Fee for participation. Check the USSBA website for details.
- USSBA Membership is \$275. This gets you into all local shows with NO INDIVIDUAL SHOW FEES.
- Regional Shows are free of charge
- The USSBA All-States Championships do have a ticket quota that is in line with the size of the bands. 90% of the time, the band has indicated little problem with the quota.
- USSBA State Championships are free of charge to all doing the All-States Championships. For those doing USSBA State Championships only, there is a ticket quota, or fee.

### Bonuses for USSBA Member Bands

For those Directors who are attending more than one USSBA event in 2005, we are pleased to provide you and your program with the following special considerations:

- Invitation to attend MUSIC is COOL Clinics with the Cadets or Crossmen with deeply discounted admission.
- Invitation to attend discounted workshops with the Cadets and Crossmen and their staffs.

- USSBA member bands receive special discounts on instruments and accessories from our corporate partners including Yamaha Instruments, Zildjian Cymbals, Remo Drumheads, Vic Firth Sticks and Mallets and Dinkles Marching Shoes.
- USSBA Bands and their students will have the first opportunity to participate in
  - Honors Concert Band ensembles
  - All-Star Jazz Band ensembles
  - Special events and performances offered exclusively to USSBA bands

### Contact USSBA

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## US Scholastic Band Association



Other YEA! program offerings include the Cadets and Crossmen Drum and Bugle Corps

#### Youth Education in the Arts

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[www.yea.org](http://www.yea.org)





## History

The US Scholastic Band Association (USSBA) was formed in the Fall of 1988 by the Cadets Drum and Bugle Corps organization to provide competitive marching band activities featuring the best adjudicators from across the United States. In 1996, the USSBA, Cadets and Crossmen Drum and Bugle Corps were incorporated under the banner of Youth Education in the Arts (YEA!). Today, the USSBA is the largest membership based independent scholastic music organization in the nation.

Each year, over 600 participating high school music programs are offered more than 140 festival opportunities, as well as invitations to perform at Regional, State, All-States and National Championship events. Bands in the USSBA participate in six different groups based on size, and are further divided into Open Class, A Class or Festival Class based on the band's talent and experience.



## Experience

The USSBA is the sister organization to the Cadets and Crossmen Drum and Bugle Corps. The Cadets are 9-time World Champions and the Crossmen are perennial World Championship Finalists. The commitment to excellence shown by both of these organizations carries over to the USSBA by taking the practical, real world experience gained throughout the intensely creative and competitive world of the contemporary drum corps activity and sharing in with member bands on a variety of different levels.

## Focus

USSBA's focus is on the educational development of today's music student, as well as the administration and facilitation of quality events.

### *Competitive vs. Non-Competitive*

- The USSBA supports both competitive and non-competitive philosophies in performance, allowing the band director to choose which method best meets the educational needs of their program.
- Competitive classes are broken down by total number of performing members in the ensemble. The classes are further divided into two tiers based on level of achievement.

## Service

The USSBA provides the highest quality service and support year round to high school band directors through their staff of former band directors and current contest administrators at the YEA! office.

## Customer Service

The USSBA office is open during the band season 7AM-7PM EST, seven days a week. Additionally, a number of representative will make themselves available to you via mobile phone 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

## www.yea.org

The USSBA website is updated several times each day with over 80,000 hits registered per day at the peak of the band season.

## Real World Experience

Access to Experts such as George Hopkins, Director of the 9-time World Champion Cadets, and Steve Frederick, past Band Director and Principal of North Penn High School give insight from the Director, Adjudicator and Administrator points of view. Additionally, designers, instructors and educators such as DCI Hall of Fame member Marc Sylvester, Jonathan Schwartz, Steven Bentley, Dennis DeLucia and others can help you move your program to the next level.

## Adjudication

The USSBA provides high school bands with well known and respected adjudicators from throughout the world of music and marching arts. Directors receive feedback on their achievement as well as design and programming in an educational manner where talent levels can be maximized for each participating student.

Assigned from our pool of over 250 of the best adjudicators in the country, our judges go through a rigorous screening and training process, and veteran judges participate in annual continuing education activities. Judges will seldom be part of the local activity, and thus will not be prone to pre-judging. Most schools see a particular judge only one or two times and many judges are themselves teachers and creators.

Post-event critiques between judges and band staffs are well received and are conducted in creative and engaging atmospheres to assist in the development of each individual program.

The adjudication format for USSBA shows includes five caption judges who each utilize a criteria referenced rubric with an incremental numerical scale. Music is the dominant component and the captions include:

|                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| ■ Individual Music Performance | 20% |
| ■ Music Ensemble               | 20% |
| ■ Music Effect                 | 20% |
| ■ Visual Performance           | 20% |
| ■ Visual Effect                | 20% |

Adjudicators provide both written and audio feedback, including comments and suggestions as the judge responds to the performance in real time. Colorguard and Percussion specialists are employed at local Gold shows as well as all USSBA Regional, State, and Championship level events, allowing all auxiliary components to benefit from adjudicators focused exclusively on their contribution.

The USSBA is very user-friendly in our work with, and service, to high school music programs.

- We have always worked as hard as possible to get props and other tricks onto the field.
- We allow parents and students to hold props without penalty.
- Our timing is flexible to the benefit of all participating bands.
- At large USSBA events, we do all we can to park you, assist you, and care for you in the most congenial manner.
- Adjudication sheets are available for viewing at [www.yea.org/ussba](http://www.yea.org/ussba).



## Fall Season

### Local USSBA Sanctioned Events

The USSBA sanctions nearly 140 local high school competitions each fall, further exemplifying the organization's commitment to the development of the programs that are members of the association. Unified judging sheets combined with experienced adjudicators give band programs a seamless season of critique and feedback through Local, Regional and Championship events.

- All School Sponsored Events have two coordinators and one tabulator, as well as a chief judge on site. This allows for the competitive part of the event to be managed in consistent fashion from week to week and event to event.

### Regional Championships

The USSBA holds Regional Championships throughout the season in areas outside the core Mid-Atlantic Region. Regional Championships are typically held in larger high school and collegiate level venues and feature an excellent panel of adjudicators.

### State – All-State – National Championships

The USSBA season ends for some bands with a series of State Marching Band Championships featuring bands from the same state competing for titles in the same class. The official culmination of the USSBA season is the USSBA All-State Marching Band Championships featuring over 200 high schools from throughout the Mid-Atlantic region.

- State Championships are held in larger college and professional level facilities
- USSBA All-State Championships are held at J. Birney Crum Stadium in Allentown, PA and Hersheypark Stadium in Hershey, PA.
- The USSBA National Championships are held in Maryland showcasing the best bands from a wide variety of East coast, Midwest and Southern states.