

Newbie News – BOA Regionals (Youngstown)

What is BOA?

BOA is Bands of America, a national organization which sponsors regional marching band competitions across the country. They also sponsor the annual Grand National Competition in Indianapolis each November. Please check out their website (www.musicforall.org) if you'd like more info.

Who will we be competing against?

Bands come to compete from mainly the Ohio and Pennsylvania areas, although there will be bands traveling from other states as well. Unlike PIMBA, classifications in BOA events are determined by school size, not band size.

How is the event run?

Each band competes in the preliminary round which runs all day. Awards are given out for prelims at 4:45 p.m. Top scorers are then invited to compete in finals which begin at 7:15. The final awards ceremony is scheduled for 10:15 p.m.

What will my child eat?

You must provide your child with a packed lunch. The Band Boosters will provide them with their dinner.

What should my child take?

Make sure your child has everything they will need for a very long day. Include personal items for freshening up (wet wipes, hairbrush, toothbrush or mints...), clothing appropriate for the whole day, amusements for the bus (music, books, homework {ha!ha!} small pillow if desired). They may also want some spending money as there are items available for purchase such as patches, pins, t-shirts, etc. The band will be able to visit the concession stand and vendor area. You will also be able to order videos and band pictures.

What do families do at Regionals?

- Plan on arriving early.
- You can purchase tickets at the booths located outside the stadium. Tickets will probably cost \$23 per person for the whole day, or \$15 for prelims and \$15 for finals. Children 8 and younger are admitted free. There will also be a senior discount for those 65+.

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- You may come and go throughout the day as you desire. The same rules of etiquette as for PIMBA competitions apply.
- We recommend packing at least your lunch. You will be able to eat at/in your car. You will have time to travel out for dinner if you desire. There are a couple of fast food restaurants within walking distance of the stadium, although these tend to get crowded, especially during the dinner break. There are also many fast food joints within a short driving distance. Concession stands in the stadium may be open on a limited basis. Please see the attached maps for more info regarding parking and area restaurants.
- *The stadium will be cleared completely after prelims.* You must take all your belongings with you. Gates will reopen at 6:45 for finals, although people will begin lining up much earlier.

Can I videotape the band?

BOA does not permit videotaping of the performances. Digital cameras with sound recording capabilities are also not allowed. A professional recording will be available to purchase. Professional photos of the band will also be available.

If you need more info

The preliminary schedule and the daily schedule are available at the BOA website (musicforall.org), or via link from the Gateway Band website (gatewayband.org). The day's schedule for the Gateway Band will be provided by Mr. Read. As always, call or e-mail with any questions.

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