

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – SEPTEMBER 9, 2026



Music is Coming! 2026 Bands of America New Mexico Regional Championship is in Las Cruces, NM, on Sept. 19

16 high school marching bands will compete for the regional championship title

LAS CRUCES, NEW MEXICO – Marching band season has begun! Sixteen high school marching bands from across the region will perform at Aggie Memorial Stadium at New Mexico State University on Saturday, September 19, as part of the Bands of America New Mexico Regional Championship, presented by Yamaha and Sweetwater.

Bands of America Championships are the nation's premier marching band events, showcasing outstanding student musicians and visual performances.

The New Mexico Regional Championship host group is The Pride of New Mexico, who will welcome and assist the Bands of America staff with the facilities and running of the event. There will be an exhibition performance by New Mexico State University Pride of New Mexico Marching Band following the conclusion of preliminary competition.

Schedule

Gates will open for preliminary competition at 8:15 AM and for finals at 6:30 PM. The full schedule of performing bands can be found at marching.musicforall.org/new-mexico-regional.

Performances will be evaluated by a panel of nationally recognized music educators and marching band experts. The 12 highest-scoring bands will advance to finals, with the top-scoring band named champion at the end of the night.

Tickets

All tickets are digital, and the event is cashless. Spectators can skip the line and buy tickets, including full day passes, tickets for finals, and student group tickets, online at marching.musicforall.org. Children 10 years or younger are admitted for free for general admission seating.

The Performances

Each participating band performs a unique show that is up to 11 minutes long. Then, they are evaluated and scored based on musical and visual performances, as well as general effect. The bands will perform their shows throughout the fall, with the goal of receiving a score as close to 100 as possible at each of the championships in which they choose to participate.

The 2026 Bands of America Championships season includes 28 events across America, culminating with the Bands of America Grand National Championships at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, November 12-14.

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About Music for All

Music for All's mission is to create, provide, and expand positively life-changing experiences through music. Our vision is to be a catalyst to ensure that every child in America has access and opportunity for active music-making in their scholastic environment. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational organization, Music for All's events and programs serve more than 600,000 attendees annually — and more than 1.7 million program participants since 1975. Programs include the Bands of America Regional and the Grand National Championships for marching bands; the Bands of America Summer Camp for students and teachers; the Music for All National Festival for concert bands, orchestras, and percussion ensembles; national honor ensembles including the Honor Band of America, Jazz Band of America, and the Honor Band in the Rose Parade®, Advocacy in Action Awards, the Music for All Podcast Network, and affiliate concert and marching events across America. Visit musicforall.org for more information.

Music for All's efforts are supported by our national presenting sponsors, the Yamaha Corporation of America and Sweetwater, and our family of sponsors, strategic partners, and grantmaking foundations.

Follow Us!

You can keep up with the latest information for Music for All online at musicforall.org, Facebook (@musicforallnetwork and @bandsofamerica), Instagram (@officialmusicforall and @officialbandsofamerica), and TikTok (@officialmusicforall.)

Sponsor Information

Music for All efforts are supported through sponsorships, including current partnerships with National Presenting Sponsors: Yamaha Corporation of America and Sweetwater; Official Uniform Sponsor: Fred J. Miller, Inc.; Official Student Travel Partner: Music Travel Consultants; Official Spirit Wear Sponsor: PepWear; Corporate Sponsors: Ball State University and Visit Indy. Music for All is also supported by Indy Arts Council and the City of Indianapolis; Ball Brothers Foundation; Lilly Endowment Inc.; George and Frances Ball Foundation; Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation, Inc., Nicholas H. Noyes, Jr., Memorial Foundation, Inc., the NAMM Foundation, and the National Bank of Indianapolis.

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