

Celebrating 75 Years

HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND COMPETITIONS



**TRI-STATE
BAND FESTIVAL**

1951-2026



September 26, 2026

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE 75TH TRI-STATE BAND FESTIVAL

DATE: September 26, 2026 (*last Saturday in September*)

LOCATION: All events will be held at the Luverne Public Schools
(*due to a major MNDOT Highway 75 renovation project; Main Street cannot be used for any events from April through November 2026 so all Tri-State competition will be held at the school*)

PARADE COMPETITION: Begins at 10 am

FIELD COMPETITION: Begins at 12:30 pm

IMPROVEMENTS FOR THIS YEAR:

- Food trucks and vendors available all day
- Staging, parade and field show all at one location
- Parents & supporters only have to park once
- Event schedule tightened
- No judge will adjudicate the same caption in parade and field
- Band hosts provided for each band upon request
- Expanded gathering spaces available for bands
- Golf cart transport available all day for festival goers
- Bands will be recognized for the number of years participating in the festival prior to their performance

We hope that you will give us the opportunity to host you and your students as we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Midwest's longest continually running high school marching band competition!

Sincerely yours,

Becky & Missy

Becky DeBoer & Missy Buckland
2026 Co-Chairs
Tri-State Committee
213 East Luverne Street
Luverne MN 56156
507-283-4061



75TH ANNUAL TRI-STATE BAND FESTIVAL

Saturday, September 26, 2026

10:00 am: Parade Competition | 12:30 pm: Field Competition

In celebration of Tri-State's 75th Anniversary...

FREE REGISTRATION – ON OR BEFORE JULY 30, 2026

SCHOOL: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

SCHOOL PHONE: _____

DIRECTOR/DIRECTORS: _____

CELL PHONE CONTACT(S): _____

EMAIL CONTACT(S): _____

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT (Grades 9 – 12): _____

Please check or circle the competition(s) you will be participating in:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PARADE ONLY | \$75.00 entrance fee (prior to July 30, 2026) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FIELD ONLY | \$75.00 entrance fee (prior to July 30, 2026) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PARADE AND FIELD | \$100.00 combined entrance fee (prior to July 30, 2026) |

Please check or circle the class you will be competing in:

_____: Class A _____: Class AA _____: Class AAA _____: Class AAAA

Tri-State CLASS ASSIGNMENT is based on SCHOOL ENROLLMENT in grades 9 through 12. Bands may move up a class in the competition at the discretion of the director.

Class A	1 to 250 students
Class AA	251 to 500 students
Class AAA	501 to 999 students
Class AAAA	1,000 and over

RETURN THE REGISTRATION FORM TO:

Luverne Area Chamber | 213 E. Luverne Street | Luverne, MN 56156
507.283.4061

Or e-mail: luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: AUGUST 25, 2026

No fee charged if you register by July 30, 2026

TRI-STATE BAND FESTIVAL – SEPTEMBER 26, 2026
COMPETITION RULES AND REGULATIONS

PARADE RULES:

1. General Effect Music, General Effect Visual, and Colorguard front judges will be on the reviewing stand to the right of the bands. The Music Performance, Visual Performance and Percussion will adjudicate from the street.
2. Bands must assemble on time for the parade. **PENALTY: May be assessed.**
3. Trailers will not be allowed on the parade route without authorization by Tri-State Band Festival Committee.
PENALTY: Disqualification.
4. The judging area is 80 yards prior to the judges' trailer and 20 yards past the trailer. Total time in the judging area may not exceed 5 minutes. (From the time the first band member enters until the last band member leaves the judging area shall not exceed 5 minutes.) **PENALTY: May be assessed.**
5. Use of mechanized vehicles, animals, and pyrotechnics of any kind, including fireworks, discharge of firearms, or any hazardous materials shall not be permitted. **PENALTY: Disqualification.**
6. Bands may not leave any "debris" along the parade route. **PENALTY: Disqualification.**
7. Any band may choose to move up a competitive class.

FIELD RULES:

1. **COMPETITIVE AREA**

- The competition field will be a regulation size football field, 160 feet wide by 300 feet long, including a "pit" area 15 yards either side of the 50 yard line. The boundaries of the field will be marked and the field will be lined every 5 yards and divided into thirds by hash marks.

2. **FIELD ENTRANCE and EXIT**

- A field entrance may be made from either end zone or the back sideline.
- Bands may troop the stands. Trooping may only start when the entire band has cleared the field. Any instruments may play while trooping. Drums must use a "drum tap" once the band has cleared the stands. Bands must troop from west to east.

3. **TIMING**

- All bands must report to the competitive area 15 minutes prior to their scheduled performance time.
- A 60 second warm-up is allowed prior to the official introduction and performance.
- All bands must be in competition for a minimum of 8 minutes to a maximum of 11 minutes.
- Following the conclusion of their performance, bands will have a maximum of 2 minutes to exit the field.

4. **EQUIPMENT**

- The use of mechanized vehicles, animals, and pyrotechnics of any kind, including fireworks and the discharge of firearms, or any hazardous materials shall not be permitted. **PENALTY: Disqualification.**
- Bands may not leave any "debris" on the field when the field show is completed. **PENALTY: Disqualification.**
- Dropped equipment of any kind will not be penalized. Dropped equipment may be retrieved by band personnel, festival official, or judge without penalty. However, returned equipment must be accepted by the band personnel. **NOTE: Dropped equipment may still negatively affect other scoring.**

5. **OPERATIONAL RULES**

- No band may use the competition field prior to the competition.
- To avoid conflict with bands in competition, there will be no musical warm-up prior to the 60 second starting line warm-up. All practicing must be done in one of the designated practice fields.
- Drum-lines may warm-up on the south side of the school in the areas identified on the map.
- All set-ups (pre-ground equipment, electric sound equipment, etc.) must be completed after the preceding band has exited the competition field and before the band has begun their performance.
- No non-uniformed member will be permitted on the competition field at any time during the show.
- A competing band director may conduct only from outside any boundary line.
- Directors may not contact any judge during the competition.
- Each competing director is entitled to confirm their own group's points or point total.
- If two or more bands have a tie in their final score, the higher placement will be awarded to the band with the higher "raw score" (subtotal before penalties). If after using the criteria a tie still exists, the highest general

effect total will be used to determine placement.

- The Outstanding Winds award will be taken from the Music Performance score.
- Bands will be allowed to have two designated photographers in the area of the field during the band's performance. *Photographer passes can be given to each band performing on the field.*
- Bands with special warm-up procedures shall have a representative in the Crow's Nest to tell the announcer when the band is ready to: "Take the Field in Competition."

6. CLASS

- Any band may choose to move up a competitive class.

SCORING SYSTEM – YOUTH IN MUSIC:

200.0 – General Effect Music:	Content (100.0) & Achievement (100.0) = 10%
200.0 – General Effect Visual:	Content (100.0) & Achievement (100.0) = 10%
200.0 – Music Performance:	Content (100.0) & Achievement (100.0) = 10%
200.0 – Visual Performance:	Content (100.0) & Achievement (100.0) = 10%
200.0 – Percussion:	Content (100.0) & Achievement (100.0) = 5%
200.0 – Colorguard:	Content (100.0) & Achievement (100.0) = 5%
TOTAL SCORE:	100.00

ADJUDICATION:

The Tri-State Band Festival contracts with Tri-State Judging Association to provide judges for the competition.

TROPHIES AND SPECIAL AWARDS

- Tri-State Band Festival Parade Sweepstakes Trophy: This trophy is awarded to the band with combined top score of the parade competition.
- Tri-State Band Festival People's Choice Parade Trophy: This trophy is awarded to a parade band selected by a committee of Luverne residents who are not on the festival committee.
- Tri-State Band Festival Field Sweepstakes Trophy: This trophy is awarded to the band with the combined top score of the field competition.
- Tri-State Band Festival People's Choice Field Trophy: This trophy is awarded to a field band selected by a committee of Luverne residents who are not on the festival committee.
- Tri-State Band Festival Class Trophies: Trophies will be awarded to the first and second place bands in each class for the parade and field competitions.
- K.M. Getman Originators Award: This award will be a special award made to the band which, throughout their Tri-State Band Festival participation, best exhibits their pride, spirit, enthusiasm, friendliness and unity of high school marching bandsmen. In 1951 Ken Getman and other originators of the festival saw a need for an educational opportunity for bands to share ideas and see one another perform. This award commemorates the past ideas and future hopes of the Tri-State Band Festival. Judging for this award will be done by members of the Tri-State Band Festival Committee and community who have worked with and observed bands the entire day.
- Special Unit Awards: Auxiliary Unit Plaques will be awarded in field competition to the top band in each category for Outstanding Drum Major, Outstanding Auxiliary, Outstanding Percussion, and Outstanding Winds. These plaques will be given in addition to the regular awards.
- Participation Awards: All bands participating in the Tri-State Band Festival shall receive a participation award.