

Edison Band Competition Information

What is the USSBA?

The US Scholastic Band Association (USSBA) was formed in the Fall of 1988 by the Cadets Drum and Bugle Corps organization to provide high school band programs with a competitive circuit 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, bands are offered 150 festival opportunities as well as invitations to compete at major Regional Championships and the US Scholastic Band Championship. Bands in the USSBA compete in eighteen different classes from Class I A to Class VI Open, performing and competing with other bands of like size and talent.

USSBA Classification System

USSBA classification for participating bands is based on the total number of performers in each ensemble. This includes playing members, auxiliary (color guard, majorettes, etc.), and command personnel (drum majors, color guard captains, etc.).

Group I:	1 to 43 members
Group II:	44 to 58 members
Group III:	59 to 77 members
Group IV:	78 to 103 members
Group V:	104 to 140 members
Group VI:	141 or more members

Bands will be assigned and compete in either Open Class (seasoned or experienced bands); "A" Class (bands in building years or new to the competitive setting; or Festival Class (allow bands to perform non-competitively but still receive critique and ratings).

Edison Band will compete in the Group III, Open Class this year.

Judging

Each band performance will be judged in the following areas. Percussion and color guard judge scores are not included in ranking and rating scores.

- Visual Performance
- Individual Music Performance
- Ensemble Music Performance
- Overall Effect, Music Emphasis
- Overall Effect, Visual Emphasis
- Percussion
- Color Guard

In addition to placement awards, special awards may also be given out for Best Music, Best Overall Effect, Best Percussion, Best Visual, and Best Color Guard. The Marine Corps sponsors these shows and also presents an “Esprit de Corps” award to band with most spirit.

Typical Competition Schedule

Band will either practice at Edison, eat food lovingly prepared by parents, travel to competition site or travel to competition site, practice and eat food lovingly prepared by parents.

Tickets for the competitions will be available at a discount through the EBPO during the week prior to the competition or can be purchased at the gate on the day of the show.

The band will be given a step-off time prior to the competition—this is the performance time. Generally, bands perform in order of groups and classes. Each performance will last 15-20 minutes counting entering and exiting field.

Each competition usually has two awards ceremonies—one for the first three groups and one for the last three groups. The awards ceremony will take place about 1 half hour after the last performance for the group and class included in the awards. It is generally a good idea to stick around for this as it is always exciting and rewarding to see the kids get their first place trophies.

Other Information

Go to www.yea.org for more information on USSBA and individual competitions.