

Dear Director,

We are thrilled that you will be with us at the **Bands of America W. Houston Regional, presented by Yamaha** on October 2nd, 2021. It is a privilege for us at Music for All to be able to provide this experience for you along with your students and boosters – to deliver on our mission to create, provide, and expand positively life-changing experiences through music for all. This will be a special season for us all – a return for your students to the Bands of America stage.

Music for All is about building leaders and celebrating teachers and teaching. We know this will be an unforgettable celebration of what makes music education so important and special to all of us. We cannot wait to see you again at the gates of the 2021 Bands of America Championships!

WHAT'S NEW IN 2021:

- Performing students are admitted free for Regional Finals, Super Regional Finals and opposite day Prelims, and Grand National Prelims and Semi-Finals.
- 12-Band Finals for Regional Championships
- Cooperative tickets have been discontinued
- Contactless Ticketing
- Pre-Draw for Finals Performance Order at Regional Events
- Updated Bag Policy

TENTATIVE PRELIM SCHEDULE & DAILY SCHEDULE

Please follow the Final Packet link below to view the current show schedule. We will communicate any significant changes, and a final version of this schedule will be released the week of the event.

EVENT COMMUNICATIONS AND IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

We have posted important documents on our website for your preparation for the W. Houston Regional. It is crucial to read through all documents provided.

Please carefully review the following event specific documents at:

<https://marching.musicforall.org/fallfinalpackets/>

- **Important Event Procedures**
- **Prelim Schedule**
- **Daily Schedule**
- **Site Overview Map and Stadium Map**
- **Driving Directions/Area Map**
- **Judge Bios**

The **Important Information** dropdown menu provides important information common to all BOA Championships this fall. Please familiarize yourself with this information:

<https://marching.musicforall.org/directorinfo/>

Please read and review the additional information found on these pages:

- Fall Championship General Event Procedures
- Fall Championship Parking Information
- Fall Championship Picnic Information

CREDENTIALS

All additional credentials above the standard 6 name badges and 25 field passes must be purchased by Monday, September 27th with a credit card. The combination of additional name badges and field passes may not exceed 10. Of those 10, a maximum of 4 may be name badges.

Cost of additional W. Houston Regional Name Badges and Field Passes: \$36.

BUS/EQUIPMENT TRUCK PARKING PASSES

At the W. Houston Regional, bus/truck parking passes are complimentary. Once you complete your online parking pass order, you will receive a confirmation email which contains a link to a Dropbox folder, containing the parking pass template. Include your school name on the pass, and you may only print the number of parking passes you requested in the form. The number of vehicles admitted into the lots will be verified by BOA Staff. If you need to purchase additional passes, please fill out the form again.

SPECTATOR PARKING

There is a \$5 charge for spectator parking at the W. Houston Regional. **Please advise your parents and boosters to arrive early and allow extra time to get to the stadium, especially during peak times.** Refer to the Important Event Procedures document for further details.

PROCEDURES AND ADJUDICATION HANDBOOK

Please download the 2021 Bands of America Official Procedures and Adjudication Handbook (“rulebook”) from <https://marching.musicforall.org/adjudication/> and review it carefully; **specifically the significant updates for 2021, listed at the front of the handbook.**

SCRIPT AND PROGRAM BOOK BAND INFO

The deadline to submit the information about your band that we need for the announcer's script and program books is August 26, 2021. FOR 2021: Regional Championship program books will be online, digital programs only and not printed. Super Regional and Grand National program books will be printed and available for purchase at the event. You'll find the link to the form in the Directors' Info at <https://marching.musicforall.org/directorinfo/>

EVENT DAY COMMUNICATIONS - BAND App

Music for All will be using the BAND app as our pre-event AND event day communications tool. We highly suggest that you download the app to stay in communication with Music for All Staff. Feel free to share the link with any relevant staff that you would like to have access to information such as schedule changes, weather updates, etc.

Join the 2021 Bands of America Season long BAND: <https://band.us/n/afab512419HcS>

Join the W. Houston Regional BAND: <https://band.us/n/aba654qbfbpeb>

NOTE - whoever you share the link with to join the BAND group will receive updates at the same time as you do, as well as have the ability to communicate directly with MFA event staff through the app.

MFA Employees - Vaccination

Please share the following statements with your administration and community, as needed.

Music for All recently announced it will require all salaried employees and contracted personnel to be vaccinated against COVID-19 prior to attendance at the 2021 Bands of America Championships. The safety and well-being of those attending Bands of America Championships continues to be a top priority for Music for All. The latest recommendations of scientists, health officials, and authorities are that the COVID-19

vaccine provides the best protection against severe infection. Music for All will follow local requirements for safety and policies for event spectators. Policies and guidelines will be posted on marching.musicforall.org prior to each event.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY CAN'T BE THERE? WATCH LIVE ON BOALIVE.TV

All 2021 Bands of America Championships will be live streamed on BOALIVE.TV, powered by BOX5 Media. Viewers can choose pay-per-view to watch one event, or a subscription for the best value to watch the entire BOA season. Please share this opportunity with your band boosters, students, and community so that those who cannot be there in person to cheer you on can enjoy performances from wherever they are.

CONNECT WITH BANDS OF AMERICA AND MUSIC FOR ALL ONLINE

Music for All will post photos, videos, and updates from each show this fall and we would love for you, your students, and your band's fans to join the conversation.

Encourage your band to follow Music for All and Bands of America on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram so they don't miss any of the action. Use **#BOA2021** all season long and help promote music education in your community.

Facebook:

[facebook.com/musicforallnetwork](https://www.facebook.com/musicforallnetwork)
[facebook.com/bandsofamerica](https://www.facebook.com/bandsofamerica)

Instagram: @officialmusicforall

Twitter: @BandsOfAmerica and @musicforall

ADVOCACY IN ACTION

Advocacy in Action is a signature program of Music for All designed to collect, recognize, and share effective practices and initiatives that support music education in our schools. The awards recognize and celebrate the commitment of school administrators, community leaders, teachers, and parents who believe in music education and are advocating to ensure that it is part of a comprehensive education for all children.

The Awards highlight the benefits of a strong music program and show what your school or community is doing to provide access and opportunity for active music-making. The Awards also allow educators to showcase their own music programs that are sometimes overlooked or not fully understood by members of the public beyond the school community. We hope that by celebrating these programs, we can inspire music education advocates nationwide to lead by example and take action in their own programs and communities. Designed to be a permanent, searchable resource, you can read and be inspired by the details of all our award-winners online at advocacy.musicforall.org.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The Music for All Marching Band Scholarships honor graduating seniors who intend to major in music education in college. All applicants must be nominated by the directors of bands performing at a 2021 Bands of America Fall Championship event. Please go to <https://marching.musicforall.org/scholarships/> to see more information and to apply before the October 25th deadline.

VOLUNTEER

Music for All has a number of opportunities to get involved, stay involved, and give back to your community and your music programs. Show your support for Music for All in person by volunteering at our Grand National Championships held November 11-13 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, IN. Information about this opportunity will be available in October. For more information on this opportunity and other ways to get involved, visit musicforall.org/volunteer or email volunteer@musicforall.org.

MUSIC FOR *ALL*

At Music for All, we believe that every student in America should have access to high-quality educational experiences, but we know that barriers exist in many of our nation's communities. By investing in new initiatives to increase accessibility for urban schools, small and rural schools, and students with special needs, we are dedicating ourselves to the creation of a world where music truly is *for all*.

We hope to make your band's experience in W. Houston an enjoyable and memorable one. If you have any additional questions after reading through this packet, please do not hesitate to contact us during regular business hours, Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. EST at **800-848-2263**. Beginning at 5 p.m. EST on Friday, October 1, 2021, through the show on Saturday, please call the EVENT HOTLINE at **877-643-6043** to reach Music for All personnel on-site. We look forward to seeing you in just a few weeks. You will see our passion and mission come to life from the moment your buses arrive at Legacy Stadium.

We are excited to BOA together again with you this fall. Have a safe trip to Katy!

The Music for All Staff