



Grand National Championships presented by Yamaha

FINALS AWARDS CEREMONY

Lucas Oil Stadium – Indianapolis, IN



- This is a full band, Olympic style retreat with the 12 Finalist Bands, and any non-finalist Class Champion Bands.
 - At the Finalist Director’s meeting, each band will be given a Retreat Map, with exact lineup locations and meeting times for each band.
 - Bringing your instruments and color guard equipment out onto the field is **optional**.
- Each band should report to their Finale Staging area in a single file line.
- BOA staff will be in each staging area to assist with the line up and give the line leaders final instructions.
- We will walk with the lines and bring them onto the field, across the back sideline.
- Line leaders will break away from the line at their assigned yard line, and head towards the front sideline.
- There will be a cone at the stopping point (top of the High School Numbers). This is where directors should enter the field and turn your line back into a block.
 - Blocks are to be no more than five yards wide. You can extend as far backfield as you need to.
- When all of the bands are on the field and the blocks have been built, we will begin the presentation of the medallions, followed by the Grand Nationals Video montage.
 - Directors and staff may distribute their National Finalist medallions to each student at this time.
 - Class Champions Students (named during the Semi-Finals Award Ceremony) will receive National Champion medallions.
- An announcement will be made for “Dum Majors – Front and Center, please.”
 - Drum majors and Color Guard captains should follow BOA Staff to form a **condensed line**, on the front sideline, centered on the 50-yard line. This is where the awards will be presented.
- Order of Awards:
 - **Special Awards** – The following awards will be presented first in the ceremony if the recipients are not among the finalist bands. If the recipients are finalist bands, these awards will precede their placement award.
 - **The Al Castronovo Memorial Esprit de Corps Award:** This is a special award open to all Bands participating in Grand Nationals and is not based on any scores from the competition. The recipient is determined as the group that best exhibits pride, spirit, enthusiasm, friendliness, camaraderie, and unity of purpose for the marching band activity, as observed and evaluated by the Bands of America staff and volunteers throughout the weekend championship.
 - **Invitation to the 2025 Rose Parade:** The Tournament of Roses will be present at Grand Nationals and will select a band to invite to perform in the 2025 Rose Parade. The invitation will be extended to an eligible Semi-Finalist band that has indicated in advance via form response that they will accept the invitation if

extended. The announcement and invitation will be made during the Finals Awards Ceremony.

- 12-5th Place
- High Achievement Awards for Finals: Outstanding Music Performance
- 4th Place
- High Achievement Awards for Finals: Outstanding Visual Performance
- 3rd Place
- High Achievement Awards for Finals: Outstanding General Effect
- 2nd Place
- The Grand National Champion traveling trophy
- **Every time your school's name is announced, step forward and give your salute.**
- After your salute, accept your trophy, center yourselves and take a photo with the awards presenter.
 - After the photo, return to your place in line. Place your trophy on the ground in front of you.
- After the announcement of the Grand National Champion, an announcement will be made for the bands to "Break Ranks".
 - This is a Bands of America tradition where all students may break to meet, acknowledge, and congratulate each other, as well as our new Bands of America Grand National Champion
 - The next announcement will be made for students and staff to clear the field.
 - The Grand National Champion will be given the option to perform an encore performance.
 - DIRECTORS – Please create a plan with your students prior to the awards ceremony on how you want them to exit the field. We welcome you to come up into the stands to watch the encore performance of the Grand National Champion, should they choose to do one.