

# Field Show Tutorial

For new band families, a Field Show Competition can be confusing. This is a tutorial to help you understand what the tournaments entail, from a parents' perspective. A field show is equivalent to an athletic game – and we only have 4 “regular games” during our season, so each field show is extremely important. Our field show scores will determine if we qualify for the Southern California championships.

## A typical field show day...

**Rehearsal:** Students rehearse in the football stadium for a few hours. They wear or bring their “undergarments” (t-shirt, shorts, black socks) and bring their Alternate Uniform (season T-shirt, black pants, black shoes, band jacket) to wear after their performance. There's time for a 1 hour meal break after the rehearsal and then they report back to the buses at "Call Time". Before the band buses leave, the parent Pit Crew & Uniform volunteers head to the field show site to unload the uniform carts and pit instruments. Chaperone volunteers check in all students prior to loading the buses.

**Field Show Site Practice and Performance:** When the Band gets to the field show location, they dress into uniforms (with the support of the parent Uniform Crew volunteers) and then they move to warm-up locations with the chaperones. The chaperones will keep them hydrated while they warm up. The parent Pit Crew helps the percussion students push their equipment. About 10-15 minutes before the performance time, the Band moves into a “staging” location near the field. When the previous band has cleared the field, they enter the field, warm up, and set up for their show. Time penalties are given if set-up runs over the allotted time (parent Pit Crew needs to be off of the field). After the announcer asks if the band is ready, Drum Majors salute the judges to acknowledge readiness and then they perform.

Bands are grouped into categories based on the number of instrumentalists in the band. The smaller 1A bands perform earlier in the day and the larger 5A and 6A bands perform last. The host school band performs an exhibition at the end. Mira Costa performs in the 4A division (91-120 instrumentalists).

**Scoring:** The total number of points possible is 100. The band is judged in three areas: Music Performance, General Effect, and Visual. Music Performance evaluates aural impression; General Effect appraises the total product; Visual assesses the depth and quality of the visual performance. There are also separate scores given to the Percussion and Auxiliary (aka Colorguards).

**Awards:** After performing, the band heads back to the buses and they change out of their uniforms into their Alternate Uniform. They usually have a chance to buy food, snacks or souvenirs before returning to the stadium to watch the 5A and 6A bands. The chaperones sit with the band. The uniform carts and pit instruments are loaded by the Pit Crew back into the trucks and the Pit Crew returns to MCHS to unload.

There's a break while the judges compile the scores and then the award ceremony occurs. As awards are handed-out, the leadership of the receiving band performs a choreographed greeting, followed by a greeting by the host band. Awards are given for each band category, as well as a Sweepstakes (overall) winner that is announced at the end. After the awards our leadership will march over (with awards) to where the band is sitting to have a last hurrah for a job well done. This is a good photo opportunity.

**Parent Support:** It's great for our band to see parents in the stands cheering for them – the kids appreciate their parents' support, just as athletes do and it's a great opportunity to meet other band parents. Make sure to arrive 30 minutes prior to performance time. Seating will only be allowed while bands warm up, once a band begins its performance fans will have to wait at the entrances to the stadium. There is an entrance fee for each competition (field shows are fundraisers for host schools). Volunteers are free!

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The top 12 bands in each class, based on scores at field shows throughout the season, qualify for the SCSBOA championships. With only four field shows, we need to do well in each field show to qualify. We are relative novices to the championship competition, having qualified only twice: last year and the year before. Two years ago, we placed 4th -- and last year we received the bronze medal. As the season progresses, the cumulative scores of the bands in each category are posted on the [scsboa.org](http://scsboa.org) site – and we can track our progress towards the championships.

Our first field show of the season is always at West High in September -- it is only 3 miles away. All of our other field shows are 25-35 miles away, so this is a good chance to see our "local" show.