

*Membership in the Colts provides opportunities to develop leadership, perseverance, and musical and performance expertise that cannot be found anywhere else. You'll feel the synergy of one team working together to achieve common goals and develop bonds that last a lifetime.*

**YOU BELONG HERE**

Things to do: RSVP for camp \ Member app \ Practice \ Email sign up \ Prepare exercises \ Pay in advance to save \$25 \ More practice

**2020 Membership Information**

**COLTS**



# Colts Audition Process



We select members who exhibit talent, enthusiasm, responsibility, growth, and commitment.

Students currently in high school through age 21 are eligible to audition. (If you turn 22 on or after June 1, you are eligible for this season.) Many members are from Iowa and throughout Midwest, but many are from other states and even overseas. We have had members from nearly every state, as well as England, Japan, The Netherlands, Canada, Australia, Germany, and Taiwan!

Our member return rate is generally as high or higher than other drum corps. This is an important endorsement of the Colts experience. All positions are open and will be awarded to those who demonstrate a strong desire to be successful here.

Start your journey toward Colts membership at our November rehearsal weekend or one day events. This is your best chance to earn a position, as you will learn valuable information on which to build for future rehearsals. If you have an unavoidable conflict, there are audition options in December and January. (After December, contact the caption head in your section to inquire about available openings.)

After your first rehearsal, you will most likely receive a “recall” to a second audition so we can observe your growth and commitment. At times, you may be asked to attend more than two rehearsals before you are given a decision about your membership so we can monitor your progress. Most students know their final result after a second audition, and we intend to have our roster set (except color guard) after the January camp in Dubuque.

Your talent and skills are given primary consideration in the selection process, but we also consider your commitment level, communication, financial responsibility, attitude, parental support, and your growth and improvement.

*Some of your best friends are here; you just haven't met them yet!*



# SECTIONS WITHIN THE DRUM CORPS



## Brass Members

Brass players will audition with the exercise packet that best fits your interest:

*Audition exercises will be sent to you following your submission of an information request: [colts.org/inforequest.html](http://colts.org/inforequest.html)*

Students should be prepared to play on a marching instrument, both standing and moving. Students may also prepare their own selection on an instrument of choice.

Please bring your own marching brass instrument to camps. If you need an instrument provided, please email us at [colts@colts.org](mailto:colts@colts.org) in advance of the rehearsal. **New Yamaha instruments are provided for summer.** We replace most of our instruments every year, but many don't arrive until later in the spring. Brass members may be asked to purchase a mouthpiece to our specifications.

The Colts brass ensemble will be comprised of the following members:

Trumpet: 20-26

*We play Xeno, professional-level trumpets*

Mellophone: 12-16

*Similar to French horn or flugelhorn*

Baritone: 20-24

*Similar to concert baritone or euphonium*

Tuba: 12-16

*Bell front tubas, carried on the shoulder*

## Percussion Members

Percussionists will audition with the exercise packet that best fits your interest:

*Audition exercises will be sent to you following your submission of an information request: [colts.org/inforequest.html](http://colts.org/inforequest.html)*

Cymbal should prepare a short phrase of your own choice musically and visually, in addition to the cymbal packet. Front ensemble students are expected to perform a short segment of a personal selection for the individual audition. We ask that you provide your own cymbals, sticks, and/or mallets, as well as a practice pad.

We play Yamaha percussion, and use Innovative Percussion sticks and mallets, Remo heads, Sabian cymbals, and TreeWorks wind chimes. *We are grateful for the endorsement of these companies.*

The percussion section consists of these battery and front ensemble sections:

Snare: 7-9

*We use traditional grip*

Tenor: 4-5

*Set of six multi-toms*

Bass: 5

*Independent pitched parts throughout*

Cymbals: 4-6

*Marching cymbal section with individual parts*

Front Ensemble: 12-16

*All types of keyboards, melodic and auxiliary percussion, and many unique instruments, sounds and electronics, including synthesizers.*

## Color Guard Members

Color guard students should be prepared for basic movement exercises and flag work. Students interested in weapons should be able to demonstrate all basic techniques and tosses. Please be prepared to learn choreographed routines for dance and flag, and weapons if interested. We will provide all equipment, but you may bring your own rifle and/or sabre. Please wear lightweight workout clothing for rehearsals and knee pads (if desired).

The Colts color guard will include 36-40 students, using flags, rifles, sabres, and dance to visually interpret and enhance the show. New flags and uniforms are provided each year to fit the style and theme of the program.

## Drum Majors

The Colts select drum majors from returning members. Besides being field conductors, our drum majors serve a leadership role on and off the field.



# Cost Of Membership



Member fees only cover a portion of the costs to operate a world class drum corps.

You will find Colts fees compare favorably to quality summer music camps, and to other corps. We keep membership fees as low as we can with extensive community fundraising, and through careful and efficient operations.

A sponsorship program is available in which you can raise some or all of your fees. Additional information is given in your contract packet and is on the website. Payment plans can be arranged in special circumstances.

## 2020 Colts Fees

	1st Year	2nd Year	3rd Year	4th Year+
Equipment and Uniform Fee <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 400
Program Tuition <sup>(2)</sup>	\$ 1,700	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,300	\$ 800
Tour Fee <sup>(3)</sup>	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 4,100</b>	<b>\$ 3,900</b>	<b>\$ 3,700</b>	<b>\$ 3,200</b>

**“We use music and excellence to teach each other about success in life”  
- Colts Mission**

An integral part of the Colts philosophy is developing future leaders. Members in the corps participate in leadership training through various discussions and exercises throughout the summer. A leadership program is available to veteran members during the preseason and involves regular conference calls on a wide variety of topics relating to leadership within the Colts, and how these lessons can be applied to life beyond the drum corps activity.

## Preseason Rehearsal Fees

The cost for your first audition is \$200 (or \$150 for returning members), which includes all audition and application fees. **Pay the fees for your first camp in advance and SAVE \$25.**

*Deadline for advance payment will end the Monday before each camp.* Each subsequent rehearsal you attend is \$75. This fee covers the cost of these rehearsals and does not apply toward your summer tuition. We provide an appropriate amount of meals for our events (typically seven for three-day events and one for one-day events). For three-day events, we provide overnight accommodations at the facility.

## Equipment And Uniform Fee<sup>(1)</sup>

All members pay a \$400 fee which contributes to the cost of repair, maintenance, upgrade, and replacement of instruments and uniforms. This fee also includes any personal items given to you throughout the season. This may include gauntlets, plume, and marching shoes for brass and percussion and leotards, shoes, uniform accessories, and a flag bag for color guard. Certain uniform and personal items are yours to keep at the end of the season. Brass members may also be asked to purchase a specific mouthpiece.





## Program Tuition<sup>(2)</sup>

This fee contributes to the cost of summer housing, rehearsal facilities, instruction, show design, and overall operations.

1st year member: \$1,700

2nd year member: \$1,500

3rd year member: \$1,300

4th+ year member: \$800

## Tour Fee<sup>(3)</sup>

All members pay the same tour fee of \$2,000, which contributes to the cost of meals, transportation, and tour operations.

We provide four meals per day, over 300 very good meals in total, and you will not have to pay for more than five meals out of pocket all summer. We are known for one of the best food programs in drum corps.



*With the generous support of grants from the Dubuque Racing Association, the Colts have been able to upgrade their fleet of vans.*

# 2020 Season Schedule

Attendance is critical and expected at every rehearsal! Legitimate conflicts may be excused **provided you communicate with us** in advance. *Attending part of a rehearsal is better than not attending at all.*

Auditions for the Colts are a combination of three-day and one-day events at various locations around the county. Check [www.colts.org](http://www.colts.org) for more specific info on our audition locations!

## Dubuque, IA Weekend

November 22–24, 2019 (*All Sections*)

## Houston, TX One-Day

December 8, 2019 (*Brass & Guard*)

## Gainesville, FL One-Day

December 15, 2019 (*Brass & Guard*)

## Nashville, TN One-Day

December 22, 2019 (*Brass & Percussion*)

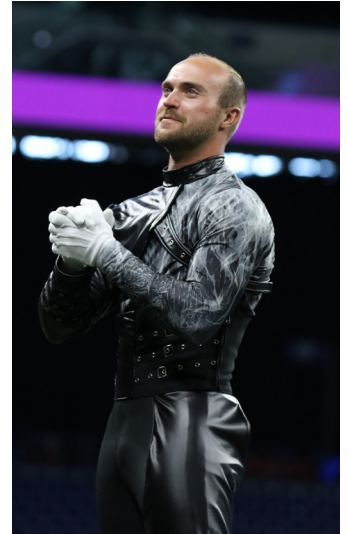
## Dubuque, IA Weekend

December 27–29, 2019 (*Brass & Percussion*)

## Atlanta, GA One-Day

January 5, 2020 (*Brass & Percussion*)

Recalls and rehearsals continue in January (brass and percussion) and February (brass). **All members are expected to attend the April 24–26, 2020 rehearsal in Dubuque.**



## The Summer

We will be in session for 79 days, travel over 11,000 miles, and will perform 40 times in 20 states for over 200,000 people.

### Preseason Tour (Spring Training): May 17 through June 19

Members move in for summer before Memorial Day. [You need to complete your school obligations first.] Our first summer performance takes place in downtown Dubuque on Memorial Day. Preseason Tour includes housing stops and exhibitions around the tri-state area, and includes our annual car wash on Saturday, June 8. We use the Preseason Tour to learn the show and learn how to tour.

### Competitive Tour: June 20 through August 8

The early season tour includes competitions throughout the United States, as well as Colts-sponsored “home” shows in Dubuque, Des Moines, and Kansas City. We perform in Independence Day parades on July 4th.

Beginning in mid-July, DCI Regional Shows are every weekend, including San Antonio, TX; Atlanta, GA; and Allentown, PA. The season concludes August 6–8 with the DCI World Championships in Indianapolis, IN.

We will return to Dubuque on Sunday, August 11. Many members will fly home from Indianapolis. Schedule a return flight after 5:00 a.m. on Sunday morning, August 9. We will drop you at the Indianapolis airport.



# Colts Youth Organization:



Photo courtesy of Ray Morgan ©2015

## Transportation

*How do I get to an audition from here?*

Many members drive to camp from as close as down the street or across the country. We may be able to help you coordinate a car pool, if needed. Dubuque (Airport Code: DBQ) is serviced by American Airlines. Try to book all the way into Dubuque, but you can often find reasonable fares into Moline (MLI), Cedar Rapids (CID), or Madison (MSN) airports, and all are quite accessible for pick-ups, as well as O'Hare (ORD) and Midway (MDW). We are able to coordinate transportation from these airports, provided you communicate with us in advance.

To put it simply... **IF YOU CAN GET TO CHICAGO, WE CAN GET YOU TO DUBUQUE!**

For our three-day events, contact us **before you book an airport other than Dubuque.**

For one-day events, students will need to provide their own transportation between the airport and our rehearsal facility, as well as their own lodging, if needed, before or after our event.

*Still don't know how to be here?*

**There is a way!** Email us at [colts@colts.org](mailto:colts@colts.org). We are here to help!

At the Colts, you will find a supportive family atmosphere committed to your excellence, success and achievement.

*Please share this information with your parents and invite them to attend the weekend rehearsal!*

## Parents Invited...Needed!

We expect parents to have lots of questions and the best way to get the information you need is to attend a weekend. Parent information sessions are held at every event we host. During our three-day events, parent meetings will be Friday night at 9:00 p.m. in November, December, and January. For our one-day events, times will be announced with each event's details. **Parental attendance is strongly encouraged**, especially if this is your member's first year. Volunteerism and parental involvement are cherished in the Colts and are critical to our success.

The Colts prosper due to the tremendous support from many parents and friends who donate their time and talents. Your help is appreciated during any weekend rehearsal...for any number of important tasks! In any given season, **over 15,000 hours of volunteer time is contributed**; especially important is the 7,000+ hours to run the kitchen truck on tour.

Rehearsals are a parent's opportunity to see our program up close and get to know the people who make it work. Parent help is needed in the kitchen with meals, construction at the Colts Warehouse, uniform fitting, mailings, clerical help, sewing, or any number of special projects.

# The Big Picture



## Youth Programs

Colts-sponsored programs now serve over 300 young people in grade 3 through age 21 in the Colts, Colt Cadets, Colts Summer Band, and Colts Summer Pans, and we partner with Dubuque area music programs.

These programs, coupled with our philosophy of community, members and family first, are the reasons we have the largest base of local membership and support in DCI.

## Colt Cadets

The Colt Cadets are for youth ages 12-18, with about two-thirds each year coming from the tri-state and surrounding areas.

**The Colt Cadets were formed in 1967** and are one of only three remaining cadet corps in the activity. Many Colts members begin their time in drum corps in the Colt Cadets.

The Colt Cadets participate in **DCI Open Class** competition. They were honored as the Most Improved corps in 2006. In 2010, they reached Open Class Finals at the DCI Championships for the first time in their history. Colt Cadets continued as Open Class Finalists from 2011 to 2015, and again in 2019.

## Corporate Structure

**Two non-profit corporations operate the Colts Youth Organization:** The Colts Youth Organization is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation that is governed by volunteer board members who hire a full-time executive director to manage the organization, and are responsible for the oversight, planning, finances and vision of the Colts. **Contributions to the Colts are tax-deductible**, and we are exempt from federal and state income taxes.

The Colts Booster Club runs local fundraising events including our annual car wash. The booster club also provides many volunteers for our “home” show, Music On The March. A volunteer board of directors governs this group.

The Colts organization recently moved operations to an 11,000 square foot office and warehouse located in an area of Dubuque known as Key West.

## History & Philosophy

Since 1963, *we have used music and excellence* to shape thousands of members, teaching skills and providing experiences that contribute to their overall success in life. The Colts have been DCI finalists eight times, as well as placing in the Top 25 for 35 years in a row. The Colts are 42-year members of Drum Corps International.

A key facet of our success is our committed teaching, design, and support staff. Combined with tremendous support from our community and volunteers, the Colts continue to grow and succeed.

You will learn that to be truly successful, you must meet your own standards, and you will be the most demanding judge you ever encounter. **You will find you are capable of so much more than you ever realized.** We'll help you set and achieve goals, and create new standards and expectations for yourself that will last a lifetime. We will give you a chance to discover who you truly are.

You will come away from a summer with Colts more mature, motivated, and self-confident, with new, lifelong friends.



*The Colts organization celebrated its 55th Anniversary in 2018. We remain one of only three groups in DCI to sponsor a second competing corps (Colt Cadets).*





## Colts Youth Organization

www.colts.org  
Phone (563) 582-4872  
2300 Twin Valley Drive  
Dubuque, IA 52003

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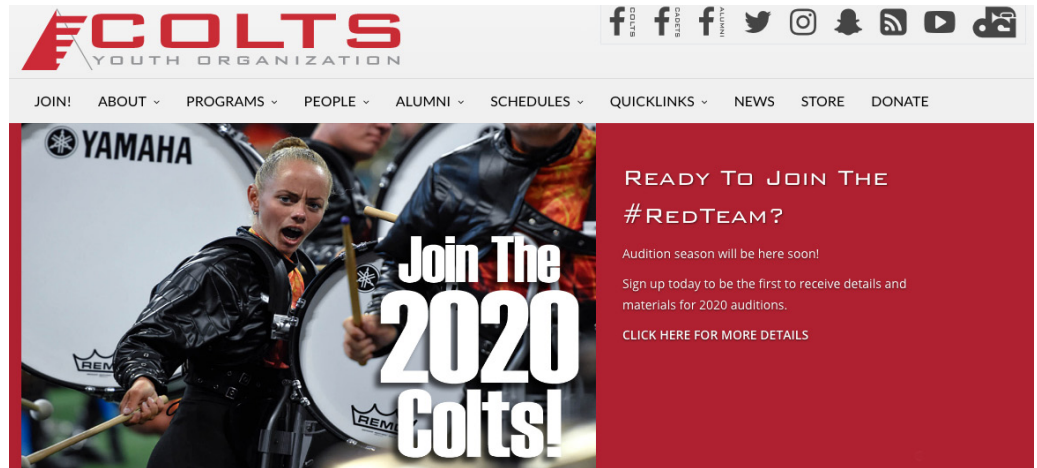
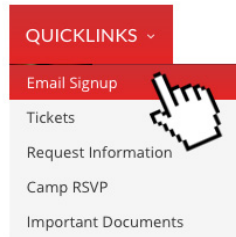
Field photos provided courtesy of Jolesch Photography & Terykeyla Photography.

## Make Sure You Sign Up For Email Updates

All communications will be sent via email & online at [www.colts.org](http://www.colts.org)!

Encourage your parents to sign up as well so they receive the same information you do.

If you do not register, you will not receive information!



**Always check the Colts website before leaving for camp!**

Last minute changes such as weather delays or camp locations will be announced at:

[www.colts.org](http://www.colts.org)