

*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](#)

**2018 Membership Information**

**COLTS**

# Colts Audition Process



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

Students currently in grade 9 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.

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 should be familiar 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)*

Be prepared to audition using these exercises. However, you may also demonstrate your abilities with any piece, etude, or excerpt you feel comfortable with. Other options are anything you've been working on for contest, as well as your state's all-state band/orchestra audition material.

**Please bring your own marching brass instrument to camps.**

If you need an instrument provided, please contact [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 should be familiar 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)*

Snare, tenor, and front ensemble students should prepare a short solo (1-2 minutes) for your audition, as well as the packet exercises. Cymbals should prepare a short musical and visual phrase of your choice. We will provide all instruments for camps. We ask that you provide your own sticks and/or mallets as well as a practice pad. We will evaluate you individually, and as a part of the group.

We play Yamaha percussion, and use Innovative Percussion sticks and mallets, Remo heads, Sabian cymbals, and TreeWorks wind chimes. *We are gracious 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

Please bring lightweight workout clothing for rehearsals (no jeans!), black pants or shorts, and a black tshirt for Sunday's performance, your own rifle/sabre (if you can), and knee pads (if you like). No need to purchase special equipment for rehearsals.

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.



*The Colts organization celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2013.*

*We remain one of only three groups in DCI to sponsor a second competing corps (Colt Cadets).*

# 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.

## 2018 Colts Fees

	1st Year	2nd Year	3rd Year	4th Year+
Equipment and Uniform Fee <sup>[4]</sup>	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200
Program Tuition <sup>[2]</sup>	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,200	\$ 700
Tour Fee <sup>[3]</sup>	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800
Personal Uniform Items <sup>[4]</sup>	Variable per section but no more than \$150			
<b>TOTAL not incl. Personal Uniform Items</b>	<b>\$ 3,600</b>	<b>\$ 3,400</b>	<b>\$ 3,200</b>	<b>\$ 2,700</b>

## “... about success in life.”

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 and involves bi-weekly 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 \$175 (or \$125 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 \$60. 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 \$200 fee which contributes to the cost of repair, maintenance, upgrade and replacement of instruments and uniforms.

## Program Tuition<sup>[2]</sup>

1st year member  
\$1,600  
2nd year member  
\$1,400  
3rd year member  
\$1,200  
4th+ year member  
\$700

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





# 2018 Season Schedule

## Mark these dates in your calendar.

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.*

### Dubuque Weekend

November 24-26, 2017 (*All Sections*)

### St. Louis One-Day

December 3, 2017 (*Brass Only*)

### San Antonio One-Day

December 10, 2017 (*Percussion Only*)

### Tampa One-Day

December 10, 2017 (*Guard Only*)

### Miami One-Day

December 16, 2017 (*Brass Only*)

December 17, 2017 (*Guard Only*)

### Dubuque Weekend

December 29-31, 2017 (*Brass & Percussion*)

Recalls and rehearsals continue in January (brass and percussion) and February (brass) in Dubuque, San Antonio, and Miami. **All members are expected to attend the April 27-29, 2018 rehearsal in Dubuque.**



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

All members pay the same tour fee of \$1,800, 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.

## Personal Uniform Items<sup>(4)</sup>

The exact amount of personal uniform items is determined in the spring but will cost no more than \$150 for any member. Brass and percussion members pay for gauntlets and a plume (*except front ensemble*). All brass and percussion purchase new marching shoes for each season.

Guard members receive personal tights and/or leotards, shoes, jewelry and other personal uniform accessories, plus a flag bag, all of which is yours to keep for the one fee.



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

## 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 25 through June 22

Members move in for summer the Friday 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 9th. We use the Preseason Tour to learn the show and learn how to tour.

### Competitive Tour: June 23 through August 11

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 do 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 9-11 with the DCI World Championships in Indianapolis, IN.

We will return to Dubuque on Sunday, August 12. Many members will fly home from Indianapolis. Schedule a return flight after 5:00 a.m. on Sunday morning, August 12. 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.

*We are here to help!*

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. O'Hare (ORD) and Midway (MDW) in Chicago are also possibilities. We are able to coordinate transportation for students from these airports for our three-day events, provided you communicate with us in advance of the event.

For our three-day events, CONTACT US FIRST **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) or call the Colts office.

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. More than 50 parents help out on tour every summer.

Rehearsals are a parent's opportunity to see our program up close and get to know the people who make it work. Your 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, and Colts Summer Band, and we partner with Dubuque area music programs, Dubuque Senior High Color Guard, and Prescott Elementary School.

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 area. **The Colt Cadets were formed in 1967** and are one of only three remaining cadet corps in the activity. Many Colts members get their start 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, and have remained in the top 14 since, making Finals multiple times.

## Corporate Structure

**Two non-profit corporations operate the Colts Youth Organization:** 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 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 organization recently moved operations to an 11,000 square foot office and warehouse located in an area of Dubuque known as Key West. The building is minutes from the Dubuque Regional Airport, just off U.S. Highway 61.

## History & Philosophy

Since 1963, *we have used music and excellence* to shape thousands of members; teaching skills and providing experiences that contribute to their success in life. The Colts have been DCI finalists eight

times, and have placed in the Top 25 for 34 years in a row. The Colts are 41-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.



## Colts Youth Organization

www.colts.org  
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Dubuque, IA 52003

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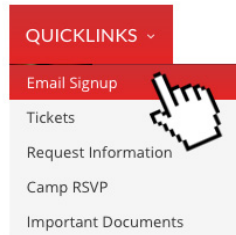
Field photos of the Colts and Colt Cadets provided courtesy of Jolesch Photography ©2017

## Make Sure You Sign Up For Email Updates

All communications will be sent via email and on the Colts website.

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 school locations will be announced at:

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