



The Colt Cadets are an outstanding performing group made up of members primarily in middle school and high school from Dubuque and the tri-state area. Founded in 1967, the Colt Cadets are one of the few remaining cadet corps in the country!

We use music & excellence to teach each other about success in life.



Program Goals

The Colt Cadets provide a positive, supportive, and educational environment that will:

- Foster character development. Members will be challenged and taught in ways that build confidence, self-discipline, work ethic, and teamwork.
- Develop members' musical, performance, and physical skills to a level they did not know they could reach.
- Support music and performance education in Dubuque.

2020

The Cadets require and help develop dedication, discipline, and motivation. Members learn leadership skills and confidence as they achieve goals they once thought were unattainable! Students develop **a strong work ethic and a dedication to excellence** that stays with them in school and other activities.

School band experience is not required – just a desire to learn and be great! We teach the rest! Many students learn to play instruments or learn color guard skills here for the first time. We provide all instruments and uniforms.

You don't need any experience to be part of the Colt Cadets!

The Colt Cadets will perform about 25 times this summer in parades and competitions for more than 75,000 people around the Midwest. Summer rehearsals begin in mid-June, with performances from late-June through early-August. In 2020, we'll cap our season at Lucas Oil Stadium (home of the NFL Colts) in Indianapolis, IN.

When not on the road competing, Colt Cadets will be housed and rehearse at schools in the tri-state area. All members will have housing provided for the summer to create greater camaraderie among members and additional opportunities for growth! We will have a break in mid-July for all students to return home. This mid-season break allows time for family vacations or other summer programs for your student!

Experienced? We will challenge you, as well. We train advanced students to compete at a World Class level by providing a unique educational environment that not all students can access in their home towns. Many members with advanced skills are often featured in our summer show.

Colt Cadets Family

We reach our goals through our unique instructional environment, rehearsal structure, performances, and travel opportunities.

You'll meet many new friends from other schools and from other groups throughout the country. The bonds we develop as we work together are much like a family.

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

Teaching Staff

Our teaching staff comes from all over the U.S. and are exceptional in their area of expertise. Most work as professional educators during the school year.

The staff is experienced in preparing students for many opportunities. We put student success first, and our goal is to maintain a positive learning environment that challenges individuals to try new things and reach their maximum potential.

Parents Make It Work!

We actively encourage family involvement, so everyone shares the rewards of the drum corps experience.

Most parents volunteer in some way with travel, miscellaneous projects, sewing, cooking, or driving.

Parents are encouraged to visit rehearsals and share in what is being learned in all aspects of our program.

SECTIONS IN THE CADETS



Brass members include students who currently play brass, woodwind players who wish to learn a second instrument, and those who have never played an instrument before. We use Bb instruments (same keys as band instruments). Players who are band members use their own mouthpiece to complement embouchure development. We use four brass instruments: TRUMPET,

MELLOPHONE (same as trumpet in method, but sound is more like a French horn), BARITONE (same sound and mouthpiece as baritone or trombone) and TUBA (carried on the shoulder for marching).

Percussion

We play and teach all percussion instruments. The BATTERY section consists of snare drum, tenor drums, bass drums, and cymbals. The battery is the marching percussion section you see on the field. The FRONT ENSEMBLE includes mallet instruments, such as xylophone, marimba, and orchestra bells, as well as a collection of smaller percussion instruments and cymbals. This section remains stationary on the front sideline, as their instruments are too large to carry on the field.



Color Guard

We use flags, props, and lots of dance. This section of the corps visually interprets and enhances the music. Some woodwind players join this section, but again, no previous experience is required.

All instruments and equipment are provided!

When we travel, all transportation, meals, and accommodations are included in the cost of membership!

Member Attendance

Attendance is very important for success. Each member is an equal and integral part of the whole, and any member missing is a detriment to the group's success. You should plan activities around the Cadets schedule as much as possible, but if you need to miss once in a while, we will work with you. We are very good at coordinating schedules with our members. Please speak with us regarding any questions or conflicts you might have.

Colts Youth Organization

The Colts Youth Organization was founded in 1963 and offers the Colts, Colt Cadets, Colts Summer Pans, and the Colts Summer Band. Over 320 students from 3rd grade through age 21 are members of a Colts program.

The Colts Drum & Bugle Corps is our flagship program, with 154 members ages 16-21. The Colts travel, rehearse, and perform full-time all summer, performing 40+ times for over 250,000 people in 20 or more states. The Colts celebrated their 55th anniversary in 2018, and the Colt Cadets celebrated their 50th anniversary in 2017.

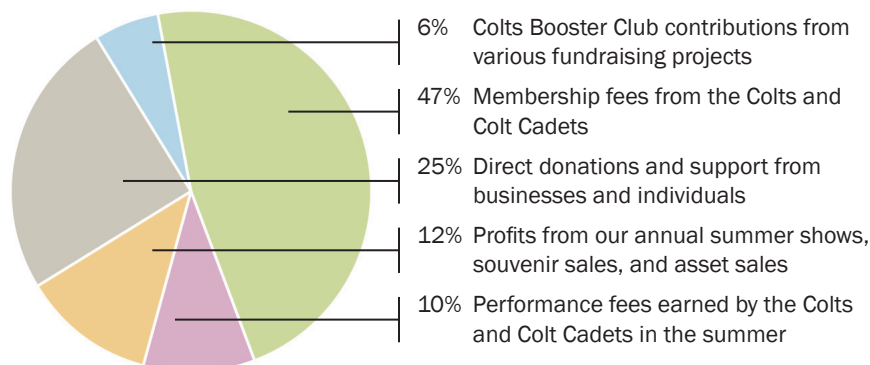


The Colts Summer Band provides an alternative opportunity for young band students entering grades 4-8. The program runs for four weeks, and includes lessons, concert band rehearsals, and performances.

Financial Picture

A prominent and successful collaboration of organizations, such as the Colts, is expensive to operate. All of our funds are self-generated. We receive little in the way of federal, state, or local funds, and do not receive United Way funding. Our annual operating budget is over \$1.5 million.

FUNDING FOR THE ORGANIZATION



Our nonprofit organization is governed by the Corporate Board, and supported by a second nonprofit corporation, the Colts Booster Club. The Corporate Board is responsible for policy and planning, while the Boosters manage local fundraising activities, including our annual car wash. A full-time executive director handles the business operations and overall management of the organization. Donations to the Colts are tax-deductible!

Membership Fees

Colt Cadets membership costs \$1,450 tuition, plus \$200 equipment and uniform fee. You receive a \$50 discount for each additional member from the same family.

Members can earn most or all of their fees with a solid effort made using the sponsorship program. Given that, we believe no student should be denied membership for financial reasons.

Members Receive:

- Instrument or equipment, dry-fit member shirt, and uniform
- 400+ hours of professional instruction
- Four well balanced meals a day, prepared "on the road"
- 3,500+ miles of travel in Colts-owned or chartered buses
- Housing while on the road
- Trips to several states throughout the central U.S.
- Admission to DCI Championship events in Indianapolis, IN

Email or call at any time with questions about any aspect of Colt Cadets, including financial and fundraising programs. We will work with you to make membership a reality!



The HAVlife Foundation's mission to prevent lost potential allows the Colt Cadets to provide an opportunity for students ages 10 – 15 to develop a positive and confident approach to citizenship regardless of financial means. Through the HAVlife Foundation, the Colts are able to provide a unique, need-based scholarship for local members in the Colt Cadets, along with other scholarship opportunities.



Colt Cadets Drum & Bugle Corps

2300 Twin Valley Drive
Dubuque, IA 52003
www.colts.org

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Field photos provided courtesy of Jolesch Photography.

Are The Colt Cadets For You?

Try it! Your first few practices are a trial period for you. There is no obligation to join and no charge to attend. You'll be amazed at how much you learn in a short amount of time!

Your first standing ovation is something you'll never forget, and what you learn in the process will stay with you for the rest of your life!

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT US:

"Colt Cadets is truly an incredible experience. From the friends I've made to the incredible staff, Colt Cadets has taught me many life and leadership skills that are second to none. I'll never forget the experiences and the family I've made after spending two summers with the Colt Cadets!" - Justin, Colt Cadets Member

"Colt Cadets has provided me with an abundance of connections and opportunities. Going in, I thought I would only gain musical skills, but I gained so much more. I went into this program as a shy kid who loved music with low self confidence. Colt Cadets has changed me into a confident person who knows the importance of hard work and determination. These, and more, are skills I will take with me through the rest of my life." - Jenna, Colt Cadets Member

"My whole family has had such a rewarding experience with Colt Cadets! Even if you're only able to volunteer for a short time, you'll be able to see how much time and energy the staff and members put into everything. I've met so many great parents and students, and I can't wait for 2020 to start!" - Sally, Colt Cadets Parent

"People often ask me, why do you teach at the Colt Cadets? I teach CC because I love the people. I've never met such a group of hard working, passionate, and dedicated young musicians. I come back every year because I want to continue being surrounded by wonderful students, volunteers, and staff. You hear it all the time, but the Colts organization truly is a family, and one that I consider myself lucky to be a part of." - AJ, Colt Cadets Staff and Colts Alumna