

Colt Cadets are an outstanding performing ensemble made up primarily of **students in middle school and high school**. While most are from Iowa and surrounding states, we often have members who come to us from Florida, Texas or other parts of the country!

Colt Cadets perform at the 2024 DCI Championships in Marion and Indianapolis, Indiana.



Program Goals

- Provide a positive, supportive, and educational environment.
- Foster character development.
- Develop members' musical, performance, and physical skills.
- Support music and performance education in Dubuque.

Colt Cadets 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 everything they do.

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.

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

Colt Cadets perform over 20 times each summer in competitions and parades for more than 75,000 people throughout the Midwest. Summer rehearsals begin in mid-June, and they cap their season at Lucas Oil Stadium (*home of the NFL Colts*) in Indianapolis.

COLT CADETS

DCI 
DRUM CORPS INTERNATIONAL

WHO ARE WE?

CC

CC FAMILY

The drum corps experience is realized 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!**

Parents Make It Work!

We actively encourage family involvement, so everyone shares the rewards of the Colt Cadets experience. Most parents volunteer in some way with travel, miscellaneous projects, sewing, cooking, or driving.

Parents are encouraged to visit rehearsals and see the instruction and care being provided by our 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.



Scan the QR code to view our complete preseason rehearsal schedule.

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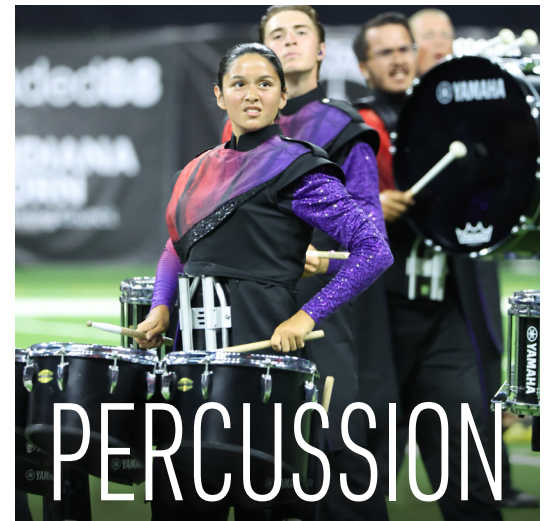
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BRASS

The brass section includes 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 euphonium or trombone) and TUBA (carried on the shoulder for marching).

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 marimba, xylophone, 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.



PERCUSSION

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

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



GUARD

Member Attendance

The Colt Cadets stay together from June through August rehearsing and performing the show. A weeklong break in July allows students to return home for family vacations or other summer commitments.

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.



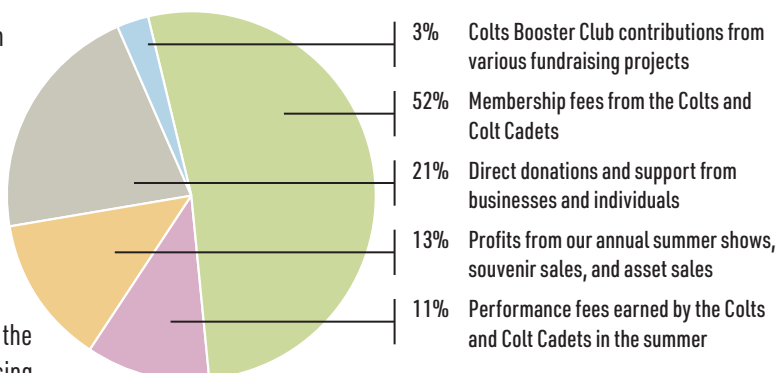
Colts Summer Band provides an alternative opportunity for young band students entering grades 5-9. The program runs for four weeks, and includes lessons, concert band rehearsals, and a performance.

The Organization

The Colts Youth Organization was founded in 1963 and offers the Colts, Colt Cadets, Colts Summer Band, and Colts World Percussion. Over 600 students from 3rd grade through age 21 participate in Colts programs annually. Colts Drum & Bugle Corps is our flagship program, with 165 members ages 16-21. Members come from over 25 states plus a few from overseas (Japan and Europe). 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 60th anniversary in 2023.

A prominent and successful collaboration of programs, 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 nearly \$2 million.

Our nonprofit organization is governed by the Colts Corporate Board, and supported by a second nonprofit corporation, Colts Alumni & Booster Club. The Corporate Board is responsible for policy and planning, while the Boosters manage 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!



Colt Cadets membership costs **\$2,900 tuition and tour fees** for the entire summer (*approx. \$45 per day*). This is a great value when compared to other summer camps or travel sports.

Members can earn most or all of their fees with a solid effort made using the Sponsorship Program.

Members Receive:

- Use of instrument or equipment and uniform, plus a dry-fit member shirt you keep following the season
- 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 part of the country
- Admission to DCI Championship events in Indianapolis, Indiana

Email or call at any time with questions about any aspect of Colt Cadets, including financial and fundraising opportunities.

We believe no student should be denied membership for financial reasons. And we will work with you to make membership a reality!



Through the HAVlife Foundation, we have been able to provide a unique, need-based scholarship for local members.



Colt Cadets Drum & Bugle Corps

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DCI Championships, August 2024
Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis



NO WOODWINDS? Our tradition of using only brass and percussion instruments dates back to the early days of drum and bugle corps in the 1950s. Many woodwind players find success in drum corps playing the baritone, keyboards in the front ensemble, or color guard. **If you want to be here, we have a place for you!**

IS CC 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 our Open House rehearsals. 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! What you learn in the process will stay with you the rest of your life!**