

Loudoun's Battle of the Bands Performer Expectations

GENERAL INFORMATION

Loudoun's Battle of the Bands is a joint program implemented by Loudoun County Parks, Recreation and Community Services (PRCS), Loudoun Youth Inc., and the Loudoun County Youth Advisory Council (YAC). The competition was established over a decade ago to support YAC's "For teens, by teens" mission and to provide a 100% free platform for teen musicians to play for a live audience with professional sound mixing. In addition to the prizes provided for the winning acts, the program provides constructive criticism via a panel of industry professionals who judge the competition. Past competitors have gone on to play at large scale events such as the Van's WarpedTour, American Idol, even open for Bon Jovi at the Capital One Arena (as high school students)! Many of our competition alumni attribute a portion of their success to the lessons learned while going through Loudoun's Battle of the Bands. We look forward to having you join us, and remember...the "greats" in any field start here at home!

Eligibility

- All Bands/Acts must be at minimum 71% high school or middle school aged members. Students under the age of 11 or over the age of 19 will NOT be permitted to compete. *Ex. Seven (7) member band: Five (5) high school students (who are all above the age of 11) and two (2) college students (who are both under the age of 19.) *this rule was added to accommodate bands with graduating seniors staying local.*
- All Bands/Acts must be at minimum comprised of 57% Loudoun County residents. *Ex. Seven (7) member band: Four (4) students are from Loudoun and three (3) are from Fairfax. *this rule was added to accommodate bands who live on the county line.*
- Bands/Acts may register to compete in the battles as either a soloists, vocalist, instrumentalist, or DJ/producer.

Registration process

There are two steps to registering your band or act for the competition:

- **Step 1:** One member of your band/act will submit the Band/Act Initial Interest Form on behalf of the entire band. Please be prepared when filling out this form, it requires a sample audio or video track of your band/act playing, your band member's names and contact info, and some promotional verbiage for your band/act. Have this information ready before filling out the form and ensure its accuracy before submitting!
 - All entries will be reviewed by the Youth Advisory Council's teen Battle of the Bands Committee. Historically most submissions are granted entry into the competition, but bands that submit samples that violate the rules stated below, or don't take the process seriously will be denied entry.
 - Once your band/act has been approved you will be emailed instructions for how to complete the second step of the application.
- **Step 2:** Every member of the band will receive via email the Participant & Parent Waiver to complete. (This is why it is important to ensure that the email addresses that are submitted on the initial interest form are accurate for each member! EVERYONE who is taking the stage is required to submit the Participant & Parent Waiver or the band/act will be pulled from the competition. If you are under 18 a parent must also sign this waiver.
- **My band/act has registered and been accepted, now what?**
 - The band lineup and performance dates will be announced at our November 15, 2018 Battle of the Bands Kickoff Event. The Youth Advisory Council will conduct a random drawing

- among bands and solo acts to determine the dates in which each band/act will play, and the subsequent lineup.
- If you cannot make the battle you are scheduled for, we will have an open call for band date/lineup swaps at the kickoff meeting. Please be sure that you know your schedules and conflicts with all the dates listed below to help out other bands who may need to swap!
- Since we will be starting a month earlier this year, we HIGHLY recommend that bands start or continue to practice *today*. From the kickoff date there are only THREE WEEKS until you *might* have to take the stage. **Start getting your 15 minute sets ready now!**
- Pending registration numbers, each battle will have approximately nine to ten (9 to 10) total competing performances. For example: four (4) solo acts and five (5) bands. After each battle, fans and judges will vote and move a minimum of three (3) acts forward. If all slots are not filled prior to the selection date, we will keep those slots open for late sign-ups.
- Please regularly check your email, as this will be the primary means of providing information and updates!

Registration Timeline:

- **October 31st, 2019 Band/Act Initial Interest Form Due**
- **November 7th, 2019 Battle KICKOFF Event at The PRCS Admin Office**
 - Exact meeting time to be sent to registered bands via email.
 - **Each band is required to send at least one rep to this meeting**, although sending as many band members as possible is appreciated. Parents are welcome to attend if they would like.
- **November 22nd, 2019 Participant & Parent Waivers Due**
 - **If you are under 18 on November 22nd, 2019 a parent must complete the form with you.**

Battle Dates:

- **Battle # 1: Friday, December 7, 2019 at Cascades Overlook Event Center**
 - **Lyrics due before: November 22nd, 2019**
- **Battle # 2: Friday, January 24, 2020 at Cascades Overlook Event Center**
 - **Lyrics due before: January 10, 2020**
- **Battle # 3: Friday, February 28, 2020 at Cascades Overlook Event Center**
 - **Lyrics due before: February 7, 2020**
- **Final Battle: Friday, March 27, 2020 at Tally Ho**
 - **Lyrics and STAGE PLOT** due before: March 6, 2020
*If you're unsure how to make a stage plot, do a simple online search. Previous participants have recommended this "free" tool that you can print out/save as a pdf in your browser: <http://www.bosstweedbackline.com/stage-designer/> *please note Loudoun's Battle of the Bands is unaffiliated with this website/service.*

Locations for Battles/Meetings:

- PRCS Admin Office: 742 Miller Drive SE Leesburg, VA 20175
- Cascades Overlook Event Center: 21453 Epicerie Plaza, Sterling, VA 20164
- Tally Ho: 19 W Market St. Leesburg, VA 20175

Bands

- All songs and lyrics intended to be performed must be submitted via email to Christina.Haag@loudoun.gov and approved a minimum of two weeks before the event.
- Band roster (who is in your band/act) on the day of competition must match the Participant & Parent Waivers we have on file.

- No last-minute roster changes will be permitted without Participant & Parent Waiver. The members who performed in the battles and at the finals are final. In other words, no band hopping; whether your band gets eliminated or not.
- Band members may not participate and compete in more than one band.

Soloists

- Solo acts may be of any variety: vocalists, instrumentals, etc. All songs, lyrics from any samples, and lyrics intended to be performed at Loudoun's Battle of the Bands must be submitted via email to Christina.Haag@Loudoun.gov and approved two weeks prior to the event.
- We encourage all vocalists to be accompanied by live music, as opposed to a pre-recorded track. Accompanists who are not competing will not be judged; therefore, they may be from outside Loudoun County and over 18. Participants must provide the name of any musician accompanying them and a signed form, if the musician is under 18.

Equipment

- We rent a drum kit, combo guitar amp, Eden Bass rig and microphones for all local bands to share.
- Bands must bring their own pedal boards, additional guitar amps, keyboards, instruments (except drums), and LONG high quality cables.
 - When it comes to cables the last thing you want is for it to be too short, or for the cable quality to be low and have your talent muffled or distorted.
 - We suggest a 25' cable minimum with 30' or 35' being even better.
 - Cables should be unbalanced guitar cabled and NOT balanced TRS type.
 - If you're unsure what type of cable to bring, email Christina.Haag@loudoun.gov with a detailed spec sheet for what you have. He'll confirm compatibility with the sound engineer.
- Due to quick change times, musicians are not permitted to switch out pieces on the drum kit but drummers **MUST BRING STICKS!**
- Here is a list of equipment we have rented in the past; this year's specs will be similar:
Sonar drum kit 22"BD, 1010"TT, 1012"TT, 1616"FT, 3 cymbal stands, SD w/stand, HH stand, throne, and BD pedal, 1 Zildjian cymbal set 20"R, 18"C, 16"C, 14"HH, 1 Drum rug
- Pro tips:
 - Tune your instruments back stage during the act leading up to yours and then set is on a stand. Don't wear your instrument while setting up.
 - Vocalists: If you're going to hold the mic, hold it properly. The sound engineers cannot make adjustments to help the sound if you are holding the mic incorrectly. Please ask for help if you're unsure. We want you to sound your best.
- Sound check: When the sound engineer asks you for a mic or instrument check, speak or play loudly and clearly in to the mic/instrument while listening in the monitor in front of you. A simple point up or down with your finger for volume adjustment will expedite the process.

POLICIES

Check-in/Set-up

- **Arrive no later than 5:30P the day of your performance.** If you can't make it by 5:30P make sure Christina.Haag@Loudoun.gov or the Battle of the Band Committee Chairs (YAC Staff) know at least 2 days in advance.
- Check in directly with YAC Staff.
- Pizza and bottled water will be provided to all acts.

Backstage

- ONLY participants are allowed back stage. Under no circumstances will anyone other than band members or soloists be permitted backstage or anywhere near the backstage area. Safety is our priority. It is important to keep that space clear.
- Listen to and follow the direction of the stage managers, professional sound engineering crew (The Reales), and YAC staff.
- CLEAN UP after your performance. If you have water bottles, throw them away. Do not leave anything on stage. We are not responsible for any lost or missing items.

Language

- Professional conduct is expected. No foul language in your songs or backstage is permitted. Respect other performers; if you are heard using foul language you may be dismissed and escorted from the event.

Performance

- The battle lineups are very tight. We plan to include more bands than prior years, and are committed to a fast-moving show to give more youth a chance to perform.
 - At all events, you will be timed for your set-up and performance.
 - **Set-up time is seven (7) minutes.** If you are next in the lineup, it is your responsibility to tune your instruments and be prepared for the quick, seven-minute change-over. If a glitch occurs that is beyond your control, you will not be penalized. If you are not prepared and/or not following directions, any extra set-up time will come out of your performance time - NO EXCEPTIONS!
 - Included with your lyrics and set list, you must include the timing of each song.
 - **Your performance may not exceed 15 minutes (unless otherwise notified.)** If you go above the limit, sound may be cut.

Social media & Marketing

- It is expected that you will promote the event by any means that your band/act deems fit. This could be via social media, printed materials, etc.
- Please monitor your personal social media use, failure to comply with the rules detailed in this packet while online could result in disciplinary action (e.g., a parent conference or you and/or your band being removed from the event). It is important to remember that infractions outlined in the language policy prohibiting certain types of communication also apply to electronic communications. Be in control of what you do online and your online/social media presence. For example, if a friend is tagging you in inappropriate or inflammatory tweets, do not reciprocate in a similar way. Stay positive, do what you know is right, and consider blocking or reporting this person, if warranted.
- Cyberbullying takes many forms. Cyberbullying is the use of electronic technologies to hurt or harm other people. Examples include sending offensive text messages/emails, posting false statements, creating fake accounts, circulating embarrassing photos. If you are being cyberbullied or hear about/observe someone else being cyberbullied, report the behavior and get help. It is important to not respond, retaliate, or forward any harassing/intimidating/bullying content. Un-friend, block, or remove people who send inappropriate content. Save harassing messages, as this evidence could be important to show an adult.
- It is totally unacceptable to participate in cyberbullying. If we come across any inappropriate behavior on social media, you and/or your band may be removed from the event.

Merchandise/Marketing Materials

- Band Merch can be sold by bands with (PRE-APPROVAL ONLY) at the final battle at the Tally Ho.
- All band/act marketing materials and merchandise must be pre-approved by the Loudoun's Battle of the Bands Committee prior to the final battle at the Tally Ho. This includes t-shirts, CDs, bracelets, promo items, etc. All submissions must be sent by March 1st, 2020.

- Please submit artwork/item descriptions/photos to Christina.Haag@loudoun.gov .

On-Stage Behavior

- This event is coordinated by the Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services, Loudoun Youth Inc. and the Youth Advisory Council. **It is important for you as artists to understand your audience, this is a community program run for youth by youth.**
- If we feel that your performance is inappropriate or offensive – for example, includes the insinuation of sexual acts, drug use, violence, or discrimination - sound will be cut and you will be escorted from the event.
- Safety of our participants, audience, and staff is of utmost priority. **Any calls for or encouragement of moshing, circle pits/pits, slam dancing, rioting, pushing, shoving, breaking/destroying items (your own property or not), etc. will immediately get your sound cut.** Breaking this rule will result in you and your bandmates being barred from the program indefinitely.
- **Calls for violence or violent behavior on stage or off will be treated as serious active threats.** Police and emergency services will be called and appropriate criminal prosecution will be pursued.
- Stage diving is prohibited! If you or someone from your band/solo act dives off the stage, sound will be cut and you will be removed from the event.

Attire

- The dress code for Loudoun's Battle of the Bands participants is consistent with the Loudoun County Public Schools policy. This policy reads in part: "The primary responsibility for the proper dress and grooming of students rests with the parent or guardian of each student."
- Loudoun's Battle of the Bands is a music competition, whereby as artists, you have the opportunity to express yourself. Costume checks will be done before you go on stage. If you intend on revealing a costume once on stage, it must be approved by the stage manager and production staff.
- You will be required to change prior to your performance if the dress code is broken before taking the stage. If the dress code is broken while on stage sound will be cut and you will be escorted from the event, with the possibility of criminal prosecution for the following violations:
 - Clothing with writing or graphics that state or imply drugs, alcohol, violence, discrimination, etc.
 - If you remove your clothing, flash under-garments, or expose genitalia while on stage.

Drugs & Alcohol

- It is prohibited by law for participants to possess, distribute, use, or be under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Participants who violate this law will be subject to criminal prosecution and being banned from Loudoun's Battle of the Bands and affiliated events.

Guardians & Adults

- Please keep in mind that this is a youth-run event. Mistakes happen every year, if an issue arises on the event management side (technical difficulties, etc.) please be patient.
- We hold you to the same guidelines as the participants. Additionally, if you harass a staff member, a participant or a judge, you will be asked to leave immediately. Remember, this is a youth run event.

Where to Find Information

Any last minute information will be emailed to each band/acts main point of contact, and/or posted on www.loudoun.gov/teens If you do not have access to the internet, notify Christina Haag.

Future Event Promotion

Photos and videos may be taken by the events' sponsors and used to promote upcoming Battle of the Bands, affiliated events, and for promotional purposes in print and online.

Supporting Fellow Musicians

It is expected that you will support the other band/acts that are competing by watching their performances. This positive effort is noted by the judges, and will behoove you in the future if you decide to pursue a career in music.

Sole Discretion

Loudoun County Parks, Recreation and Community Services and/or Loudoun Youth Inc may take any action or decide any matter in its sole and absolute discretion to ensure the safety and success of the Loudoun's Battle of the Band program and its affiliated youth events.

Questions? Contact Christina Haag: Christina.Haag@loudoun.gov (703) 737-8335