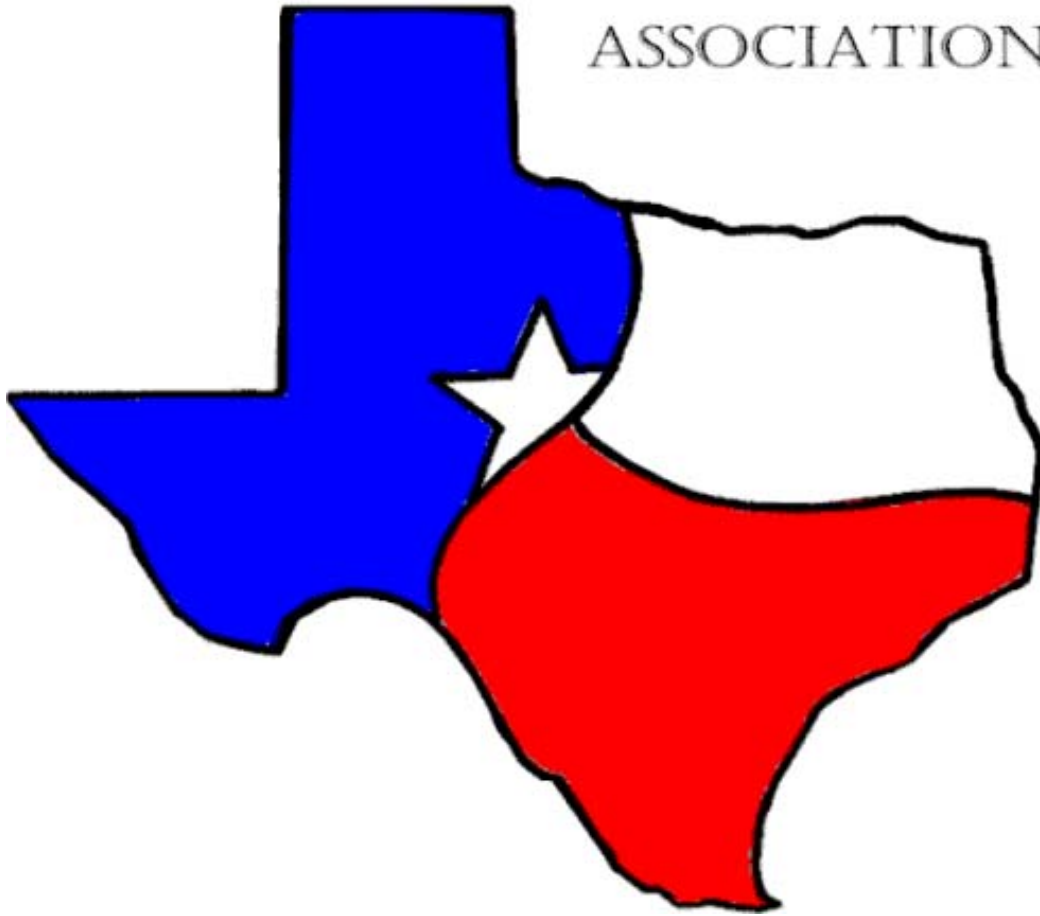


TEXAS EDUCATIONAL  
COLORGUARD  
ASSOCIATION



Contest Host Manual  
2012

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## **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this TECA Show Host Manual is to help standardize all of our contests to allow units, instructors, and spectators a consistent contest experience throughout the contest season.

## **ROLE OF THE TECA CONTEST DIRECTOR:**

The TECA Contest Director is the link between the show host, judges, staff, TECA Board and the competing units in preparation for and during the contest. The duties of the TECA Contest Director include, but are not limited to the following: Maintain communication with the Show Host with any needed updates or information. Maintain a current awareness of rules and interpretations. Ensure each contest is run in the same manner. Ensure all units at the contest are aware of any conditions or problems that may arise at the contest. Record any damage at contests caused by any unit. Final say regarding any changes to the schedule, or the contest day, at the contest.

## **CONTEST SITE SPECIFICATIONS:**

Performance floor must have a minimum of 70x100 to allow for a regulation floor of 60x90 with a five-foot safety zone. Two warm up areas to include body warm up and equipment warm up and additional outside warm up area for percussion. A Judges and TECA Contest Staff room, for meals and snacks. Room for Critique with 3 tables and ample chairs--should be separate from judge's meal area. A backup Sound System, microphone and an extra grounded extension cord should be available. Vendor Area for unit booth space for commercial sponsors (10x10 space suggest \$100); TECA Sponsors (no charge). Ample signs for inside and outside the contest site. (See list on page 4)

## **SECURING YOUR CONTEST SITE**

Check all calendars in the school (principals, athletic department, etc.) to ensure your site is open. When securing your site, also secure warm up spaces, prop storage, a common meeting ground for participants (cafeteria or auditorium), changing rooms or bathrooms for participants, bathrooms for spectators, concession area, judges' room, critique room, custodial services, parking and a backup plan for electrical, heating and air.

## **CHOOSING YOUR CONTEST ROUTE**

After securing your site, you must decide on the route the spectators and participants will take during the competition. **The Contest Director will assist with and make all final decisions regarding the flow of the contest.**

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**Spectators:**

Which door will the spectators enter building?

Where is spectator parking?

Where will your ticket table be?

Where will concessions be? (Two concessions areas one for Spectators and one for Participants)

Where are spectator restrooms located?

Which door into the gym will the spectators enter?

**Participants:**

Where do the buses / truck(s) enter for loading and unloading?

Where are props stored?

Where do the buses / trucks park?

Where is unit check in?

Where do the participants store their belongings?

Where can they change?

Where are warm ups? (Have a body and equipment for guard and additional outside for percussion.)

Which door will be the performer's entrance?

Which door will be performer's exit?

Is there anything about your facility that instructors need to take into consideration?

(Like small doors, ramps, basketball hoops that do not move, narrow hallways or tight turns.)

Where is the floor folding area?

Where is first aid?

Is there appropriate daytime/nighttime lighting? (I.e. dark hallways, stairwells, walking paths, parking areas)

What is the rain plan, do we have towels, brooms, etc.?

**JUDGES:**

Where do judges park?

Where is judge's room?

Where is critique?

**Gym:**

Where do judges sit?

How is it barricaded? (Contest Director will decide and assist taping off stands upon arrival)

Where do the guards sit after performing? (This should be the back stands if possible)

Where is the sound table? (The contest Director will dictate.)

Where is the tabulation area?

**The paths for spectators and performers should not cross.**

**AWARDS:**

TECA has a minimum expectation of the quality and size of awards. The awards are a direct

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reflection of the contest host and care and consideration of quality should be addressed.  
All trophies should meet the minimum height requirements.

3rd place- 9 inches in height,  
2nd place-11 inches in height,  
1st place- 13 inches in height

Trophies may be larger but may not be smaller than minimum requirements.

### **JUDGES and TECA STAFF MEALS:**

The following are guidelines that should be followed:

All judge and staff meals are to be separate from the Concession Stand.

All meal menus should be approved by the Contest Director one week before the show.

The director will dictate what times the meals will be ready in accordance with the show schedule i.e. initial judge's meeting time, break time, lunch or dinner and retreat times.

Meals will be needed for 9 judges and 6 staff. The Contest Director will inform the host if there are any additional judges or staff.

The judges' room, where meals are served, should be decorated. Judges are guests and the meals and atmosphere should be plentiful and welcoming. Bottled water, soft drinks, and snacks should be available at all times. The Contest Director will advise of any special dietary needs.

### **TECA FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES:**

TECA will fulfill the following financial responsibilities for each TECA contest:

Sound Person Fee

Tabulator fee

Judges fee

Contest Director Fee

**All other fees are the responsibility of show host.**

### **MISCELLANEOUS CONTEST INFORMATION**

**BANNERS:** Only TECA banners, TECA sponsor banners, or other TECA approved banners may be hung in the contest area. Signs of good luck to units are allowed if in good taste.

### **PROGRAM:**

For each non-championship contest, the host should provide at least a copy of the contest schedule for spectators at the spectator entrance. If the host should decide to provide a more complete program, one must be provided for TECA Contest Director at the contest.

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**SIGNAGE:**

Ample signs for outside and inside the contest site are a must, and should include but are not limited to:

SPECTATOR PARKING  
SPECTATOR ENTRANCE  
ADMISSION PRICES  
CONCESSION PRICES  
BUS / TRUCK PARKING  
CHECK IN TABLE  
UNIT TABLES  
GENERAL WARM UP  
BODY WARMUP ROOM  
EQUIPMENT WARMUP ROOM  
PERCUSSION WARM UP  
PROP LOADING AND UNLOADING  
PROP STORAGE  
PERFORMANCE GYM  
FLOOR FOLDING AREA  
JUDGES ROOM  
CRITQUE ROOM

Signs should be on all corners surrounding the school and all entrances of the contest site, and ground signs with arrows for directional purposes.

**VOLUNTEER STATIONS:**

Unit Check In (2 adults, 3-4 student guides)  
Spectator Admission Table (2 adults)  
On site first aid (1 doctor or nurse)  
Spectator Entrance/Exit Doors (min. 2 each door)  
Performer Entrance/Exit Doors (min. 2 each door)  
Performer backside seating Doors (min. 2 each door)  
Open Warm up area (2)  
Timed Warm up room per room (1 adult and 2 students)  
Sound runner (1)  
Parking Lot with reflective vest and flashlights for safety (3-4)  
Food prep for judges/staff (1-2)  
Concessions as needed  
Trophy Presenter (2)

**Remember shows may run long hours use volunteers in shifts.**

**Volunteer Job Descriptions:**

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**Ticket Sales/Spectator Entrance:**

Take money & give out wristbands or stamp hands to verify payment to enter gym. Adult for each door to make sure everyone entering has a wristband/stamp.

**Guard check in:**

This desk must be ready two hours ahead of the first performance time. Two adults will be needed at this post. Check in volunteers will check in units as they arrive and write down the performer and floor crew counts. Also, they will stamp performer and floor crew hands. Any additional floor crew over 10 will be charged \$3 per person. Two transportation drivers may also be stamped. Students will be needed as guides to walk each group through the contest procedure.

**Music Runner:**

Take music cd from the sound table to the table to T&P table after a unit is done performing. NO music cd should be collected at check in. Unit directors must hand their music directly to the sound table (DJ).

**Warm up monitors:**

There are two official TIMED warm up rooms for guard--body and equipment. Stop watches are provided by TECA that allow the unit director to be notified at the two and one minute remaining time. When the unit's interval time is over the unit will exit the warm up area. The next unit will quietly enter the warm up room when there is one minute left on the clock for the preceding unit. Their time will start when the monitor starts the watch. The schedule of warm up times is a download from the TECA website and the Monitors should make sure they have several copies in the room.

**Open Warm up area monitors:**

This area is available to units on a first come, first serve basis. Monitors in this area need to tactfully insure that all units receive an equal opportunity to use this area.

**Prop & Equipment Monitor:**

This person must be very adamant about padding of props and equipment. They need to be near the performance entrance and/or prop entrance. Damage to gym floors can easily occur if props and equipment are not taped properly. Anything that could damage a floor, like a wooden box corner, etc., regardless if it will be sitting on a mat during a performance it must be taped. Most floor damage occurs as a unit is entering or exiting the performance gym. The Contest Director will have some tape and padding available for this person to assist units who need padding.

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**Concessions:**

Plan the menu and set prices, make sure equipment needed is obtained and returned, oversee operation and volunteers, and handle money.

**Judge host:**

Someone to plan and make or pick up judges meals and snacks as well as decorate and keep the judges' room stocked. All meals must be approved by the Contest Director one week in advance of show. Our judges are special guests, and we want them to be able to relax with a well thought out food plan and environment. The judges' room is restricted to judging personnel, Contest Director, Judge's Coordinator, Contest Staff, and Executive Board members. There are often discussions that need to take place in the judges' room of a sensitive nature that need to be addressed but should not be heard by additional individuals. Parents should always be discreet about giving the judges their privacy.

**Set-up Crew:**

Several volunteers will be needed to help set up the night before and the morning of the contest. All contest volunteers will need to be at the contest 2 hours before the first performance. A floor crew of at least 8 people will be needed during the set up time to put out the circuit floor and to help with the unloading of the circuit equipment. A floor crew also needs to be available at the end of the last performance, before retreat, to fold and reload the circuit floor covering.

**Sign Maker:**

Volunteers willing to make all signs needed for contest (parking lot, unit signs, etc.). They should be available the first part of the contest for any other signage needs.

**First Aid:**

Certified doctor and or nurse available at a First Aid station throughout the entire contest stocked with bandages, ice, etc. This station should be setup near the warm-up and performance gyms. The cell phone number of this person will be given to Contest Director prior to the start of the show.

**Trophy Presenter:**

This may be the booster president, band director, administrator, etc. This person will need to be available for each retreat or awards ceremony.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Contest Schedule: The Vice President - Colorguard will set the contest schedule which will usually become final the Tuesday of the contest week. It is best to wait until notification from the VP before printing any schedules. The Check in time is the time when the unit comes to Unit Check In to partner with a guide. Units are to be checked in no later than 30 minutes prior to their first official timed warm up. If a unit has not checked in by the scheduled check in time, the contest Director

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should be alerted ASAP. Units may be checked in as soon as they arrive.

**The Warm up Time** - is when the unit is scheduled to begin their official timed warm up, first body, then equipment. Time starts when the warm up monitor starts the clock. Percussion will either use the official equipment warm up time or they will warm up on their own outdoors.

**The transit time** - after timed warm up is when the unit leaves this warm up to go the performance Ready Line.

**The Ready Line time** - is the wait time at the ready line as the unit prepares to enter the floor.

**The Performance Time** - is when the unit actually takes the floor.

There is a 7 to 10 minute interval for each time slot dependent on classification.

**Sound Checks** may be placed during breaks.

**Percussion:**

Percussion units often are at the beginning or end of a contest, but not always. Percussion schedules are the same as the guard, but may have additional transit time built in to move equipment depending on the venue. They do not use the body warm up area, but may use the official equipment warm up or the outdoor general warm up.

**Possible Items Needed:**

Ask parents for ideas on companies volunteering or donating supplies (i.e. trophies, pencils, food for judges and concessions, wristbands, stamps & ink pads, poster board, markers/paint, duct & electrical tape, caution tape, extension cords, labels, large envelopes, batteries, nametags, etc.)

**When Contest Director arrives:**

The Contest Director will arrive at least 2 hours prior to the start of the first performance (or the night before). Have a designated parking/unloading spot for the circuit. Have 8 student/adult helpers available to assist unloading contest equipment and to put out the circuit floor. The floor will be swept if needed and taped down. The Contest Director or TECA Board Member will walk the facility and make any changes or additions as necessary with the host representative. The stop watches will be distributed at this time to the warm up areas. Warm up monitors will need to be available to learn how to work the watches. Contest Director will meet with Check In desk volunteers for any last minute information. Check In must be ready to run 2 hours ahead of the first performance time. The stands will then need to be taped for the judges' area upon Contest Director Recommendation. Caution tape will be provided for the stands. **Keep your steering committee small and your volunteer list large, someone always has to cancel.** The contest host's #1 priority, while keeping the contest running on time and smoothly, is helping to make the contest a positive experience for the

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performers, directors and other involved participants. The TECA Contest Director will make any and all adjustments if needed at the contest and during the contest day. **No** changes to the contest flow or schedule can be made without Contest Director's approval.

## **Preparing for Your Contest**

### **6-8 Weeks Prior**

Double check your availability of site. Have parent meeting and decide on volunteer positions. With contest Director, confirm contest route. Begin discussing concession items. Start getting donations for supplies. Begin to sell ads for program (if needed)

### **4-5 Weeks Prior**

Confirm donations or keep collecting supplies. Have another volunteer meeting. Discuss signage needed. Finalize menu and prices for concessions. Continue to sell ads for program (if needed).

### **2-3 Weeks Prior:**

Obtain tentative schedule from the website — schedule is not final until the Tuesday of the contest week. Continue to sell ads for program (if needed) and send to printer. Order trophies (1st, 2nd, 3rd for all classes/divisions represented at contest.

### **The Week of contest:**

Pick up program (or print copy of the contest schedule for spectators to be placed at the spectator entrance). Wait for go ahead on schedule from Contest Director. Acquire cash boxes with start-up cash for spectator entrance, unit check in and concessions supplies. Make all signs.

### **Day of Contest:**

As Judges arrive greet them and show them to judge's room.  
Check all stations and make sure all staff and supplies are ready for the day  
Have loading crew ready to assist the Contest Director.

### **During Contest:**

Have the host available for any questions. Offer the judges drinks/snacks during the show. Check on each station periodically.

### **Following the Contest:**

Have a crew ready to fold circuit floor before the final retreat and help load after the retreat.

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## **TECA CONTEST CHECKLIST DAY OF CONTEST**

(Evening before when possible)

### **VOLUNTEERS:**

Arrive at the contest 2 hours prior to the first performance.

Put up signage in school, parking lots, streets, intersections.

PERFORMANCE GYM: Raise basketball goals pull out stands Set up 1 table and 2 chairs for sound person, 1 table 2 chairs for tabulations, 1 table 2 chairs for T&P, 1 table 3 chairs staff near T&P table, up 1 table for awards.

When Contest Director arrives, tape off judges and sound area. Sweep and tape down circuit floor covering. Assist sound person in setting up sound system if needed. Center bars taken out of all doors possible and duct tape the metal plate where the bars were removed.

### **CONCESSIONS:**

Posters with lists of all prices, prep area with cash box and supplies Volunteer work schedule and program set up tables for patrons start up food that needs heating

### **GUARD CHECK IN:**

Table/chairs for volunteers Hand stamps/Pads Director's Packets (suggest Clasp envelopes)

Director's packet includes:

Schedules

Maps of the school

Additional handouts, list of concession items and information or handout supplied by Contest Director

Label each packet with unit names. Allow up to 30 performing members+10 floor crew and 3 Directors, 2 Bus Drivers free. Any additional crew \$3

Supplies needed:

Monies Cash box,

Receipt book

Pens/Pencils/Markers

Schedule

Hand stamp

Runners (at least 4 at a time)

### **JUDGES' ROOM:**

Set up tables and chairs, set up tables for food. Make room comfortable and inviting. Confirm food preparations (Check with Contest Director PRIOR TO CONTEST START for times food needs to be ready.) Check restrooms to ensure they are clean and supplied.

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**CRITIQUE ROOM:**

Set up 3 tables and ample chairs.

**PERFORMERS' MEETING AREA:**

Check that it is clean, clear and set up

**SPECTATOR TICKET TABLE OR BOOTH:**

Set up a table with cash box with change, programs, chairs, and hand stamp Have copies of the performance schedule posted and/or ready to pass out

**INSPECTION:**

Provide duct tape, electrical tape, etc.

**TABULATION:**

1 copy of the schedule

Electric power

**SOUND TABLE:**

1 copy of the schedule

Electric power

**WARMUP GYMS OR AREA:**

Put up signs and have copies of the detailed warm up and performance schedule posted.

Stop watches (provided day of contest by TECA)

Sound system with a CD, MP3 dock or auxiliary plug in, available for both rooms.

**VENDOR AREA:**

Vendor area should be marked off for every expected vendor and a table provided.

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