



P.O. BOX 388 • ELKINS, WV 26241 • OFFICE: (304) 636-1824 • WWW.FORESTFESTIVAL.COM

April 11, 2024

Dear Band Director:

Greetings from the Mountain State Forest Festival!

We hope this email finds you and your bands students doing well at the end of Ratings Festival. Plans are well underway for the 86th “Timeless Traditions” Mountain State Forest Festival Grand Feature Parade and the Jack Basil Field Competition.

Some highlights for this year include:

- “The Pride of West Virginia” performing in the Grand Feature Parade and Field Show
- Expanded Captions for Percussion and Field Commander
- The addition of a second class of competition
- Bus pickup at the end of the Grand Feature Parade for band convenience

We will be awarding a Mountain State Forest Festival Grand Champion from each of the two classes based on scores from the Grand Feature Parade and Jack Basil Band Field Competition.

As a high school band, optional participation is available in the following on **October 5, 2024**:

- Grand Feature Parade at 1:30 pm
- Jack Basil Field Competition at 5:00 pm
- Participation in the Grand Feature Parade **AND** the Jack Basil Field Competition allows eligibility for the Mountain State Forest Festival Grand Champion award for chosen class.

All details regarding the addition of our new class, group size information, and registration are in the General Information Packet attached to this letter. Score sheets will be available for review by the end of May 2024.

Registration will be live at www.forestfestival.com for the Grand Feature Parade and Jack Basil Band Competition in the first week of May 2024. The registration launch will be announced after this letter, but if you wish to register prior to the launch please mail the included application to:
PO Box 388
10 11th St Office F
Elkins, WV 26241

If you have any questions, or need more information, please contact one of us at the numbers below or via email at sgwamsley@k12.wv.us, derek.wetsch@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you in October, make plans to be a part of a new beginning with old traditions.

Deadline to register is Friday, September 20, 2024.

Sincerely,

Sarah Wamsley, Band Outreach Chair Mountain State Forest Festival (304) 642-8687
Derek Wetsch, Assistant Director Mountain State Forest Festival (304) 614-2752





P.O. BOX 388 • ELKINS, WV 26241 • OFFICE: (304) 636-1824 • WWW.FORESTFESTIVAL.COM

86th Mountain State Forest Festival
“Timeless Traditions”
Grand Feature Parade and Jack Basil Band Field Competition Entry Form

The band is applying for (check one)

Both Parade and Field Show Parade Only Field Show Only

The band is applying for (check one)

Maple Class Dogwood Class

Please Note: All information provided will be used for broadcast during the parade and for the Jack Basil Band Field Competition.

Full Name of School	
Band Name	
Band Nickname/Mascot (if applicable)	
School Colors	
City and State	
Director’s Work Phone Number	
Director’s Cell Number (contact day of)	
Assistant Directors (if applicable)	
Name of Drum Major(s)	
Name of Feature Twirler (if applicable)	
Number of Wind Musicians	
Number of Percussionists	
Total Number of Auxiliary	
Number of Paid Staff (for admission)	
Number of Pit Crew (for admission)	
Is a parking pass needed for equipment trailer?	
Number of Buses	
Is electricity needed on the field?	



Please list recent awards the band has received and special performances the band has participated in:

Please indicate the songs the band will play during the parade:

Title of Field Show:

Please indicate the songs the band will play during the field show:

RELEASE

By signing this form, I release the Mountain State Forest Festival from all personal property damage that may occur because of my participation in the Mountain State Forest Festival.

Director's Signature: _____ Date: _____





P.O. BOX 388 • ELKINS, WV 26241 • OFFICE: (304) 636-1824 • WWW.FORESTFESTIVAL.COM

86th Mountain State Forest Festival
“Timeless Traditions”
Grand Feature Parade
Saturday, October 5, 2024

GENERAL INFORMATION

Parade Registration & Line Up: 10:00 am – 12:30 pm
Parade Step-Off: 1:30 pm

Awards

All awards will take place at the end of the Jack Basil Band Field Competition. At the conclusion of awards, a packet containing score sheets and thumb drives for audio comments will be available for pickup from the track.

There will be two classes of competition at the Grand Feature Parade and Jack Basil Band Field Show this year. Each class will be kept separate at all times from the other class, so there will be two Mountain State Forest Festival Grand Champions. The classes are determined as follows:

- **Maple Class** is available for directors to determine if their band will be judged on a truly competitive scale.
- **Dogwood Class** is available for directors to determine if their band will be judged less competitively and is based on an educational opportunity to perform.

Bands are welcome to participate in only the Grand Feature Parade or the Jack Basil Band Field Competition, but combined parade and Competition awards are the only awards with a payout. combined awards will combine parade and field competition scores of all bands in their class to determine the winners. Additionally, the band that places 1st in each group based on combined parade/show score will receive an award.



Combined Parade and Competition Cash Awards:

Maple Class

Grand Champion: \$500
 First Runner Up: \$300
 Second Runner Up: \$200
 Each Group Winner: \$150

Dogwood Class

Grand Champion: \$500
 First Runner Up: \$300
 Second Runner Up: \$200
 Each Group Winner: \$150

Group Size Classification based on playing members (winds and percussion):

Green 1-25 Yellow 26-50 Red 51-70 Orange 71-100

Band Awards:

Plaques will be awarded in each class for the following:

- Combined Grand Champion, 1st Runner Up, and 2nd Runner Up
- Grand Feature Parade Grand Champion, 1st Runner Up, 2nd Runner Up
- Jack Basil Band Field Competition Grand Champion, 1st Runner Up, 2nd Runner Up
- 1st Place Parade in each group
- 2nd Place Parade in each group
- 1st Place Show in each group
- 2nd Place Show in each group

Auxiliary Caption:

Plaques will be awarded for auxiliary in each class as follows:

- Combined Best Auxiliary, 1st Runner Up, 2nd Runner Up
- Overall Parade Best Auxiliary, 1st Runner Up, 2nd Runner Up
- Overall Show Best Auxiliary, 1st Runner Up, 2nd Runner Up
- 1st Place Best Auxiliary Parade in each group
- 2nd Place Best Auxiliary Parade in each group
- 1st Place Best Auxiliary Show in each group
- 2nd Place Best Auxiliary Show in each group

Percussion Caption:

Plaques will be awarded for percussion in each class as follows:

- Overall Show Best Percussion, 1st Runner Up, 2nd Runner Up
- 1st Place Best Percussion in each group
- 2nd Place Best Percussion in each group

Field Commander Caption:

Plaques will be awarded for field commander in each class as follows:

- Overall Show Best Field Commander, 1st Runner Up, 2nd Runner Up
- 1st Place Best Field Commander in each group
- 2nd Place Best Field Commander in each group

Middle/Junior High School:

Middle and Junior High School bands will be treated as two separate classes. No group size differentiation will be made for these classes. 1st and 2nd place plaques will be awarded for the top bands in each class.



GRAND FEATURE PARADE BAND RULES

1. To be officially entered, all groups must have submitted an entry application by September 20, 2024, to the MSFF by mail or through the website at www.forestfestival.com. Note: the online application will go live the first week of May 2024.
2. The Grand Feature Parade starts promptly at **1:30 pm**. You must be registered by **12:00 pm**. Registration will be in or near the "Orange Building" at Wimer Field.
3. Bands will lineup on **Taylor Avenue** in parade order (available at day of registration). All bands need to be in their staging area by 12:30 pm.
4. Units not in place and ready when their division moves will be placed at the end of the parade. Judging cannot be guaranteed.
5. Bands competing in the field show will be strategically placed in the parade to allow for adequate time to prepare for the field competition.
6. Entry in a class/group category is considered a commitment. Changes are not possible after September 20, 2024. **There will be no changes in Class designation on the day of the parade and band competition.**
7. Junior High and Middle School bands are two separate classes and will be judged accordingly, size is not a factor in these groups.
8. Bands that must withdraw from participating after they have registered, must notify Derek Wetsch at (304) 614-2752.
9. Parade winners will be announced at the beginning of the awards at the end of the field competition.
10. Score-sheets and recap sheets will be available to each band during the awards ceremony at the Jack Basil Band Field Competition.
11. We will have designated parking spaces for each band around or near Wimer Field for band drop off. Busses will be directed to the end of the parade route to pick up members post parade. Members will not have to walk back to Wimer Field. Please help students load buses as efficiently and expediently as possible so that the next band can have their buses ready.



JUDGING INFORMATION

1. This year we have chosen our own panel of judges that consist of current and former directors from around the state for both the parade and field competition.
2. All units are expected to play while passing the Judge's stand, radio stand, and television stand; these areas will be clearly marked. The judge's stand is located on the corner of Davis Avenue and First Street.
3. Up to five boosters or managers may march with the band, and should be dressed appropriately according to the home county board of education dress code.
4. Band boosters, marching or otherwise, should not communicate with the judges in any manner.
5. The number of all members in the line of march is counted in the judging area.

PARADE RULES AND GUIDELINES

1. Children under twelve (12) years of age will not be permitted to march.
2. All groups and organizations must be clearly identified. Name, locality, and state must be clearly stated on a banner or drumhead.
3. Spacing Guidelines:
 - A distance of no greater than 50 feet must be maintained between each entry. Within an entry, the interval between units may be no more than ten (10) feet. Example: Color guard is to be no more than ten (10) feet in front of the drum major; the drum major is to be no more than ten (10) feet in front of the band.
 - No counter marching or any activities that will impede the forward progression of the parade are allowed. Failure to abide will result in disqualification from parade judging. This regulation is necessary due to the length of the parade.
 - Musical groups are alternated with non-musical groups to avoid sound interference.
4. Entrants should use a normal marching step to reach the start of the parade and the staging area. "Taps" is recommended while proceeding to this area, as drum cadences tend to add confusion.
5. No members of any unit may march or walk back through the line of the parade.



PENALTIES

1. Violators of rules, guidelines and instructions are subject to loss of points or disqualification. This decision rests solely with the Head Judge and the Assistant Director in charge of bands.
2. Directors of disqualified groups will be notified following the parade and a letter of explanation will be sent to the appropriate school principal.
3. Disqualified groups will not receive judging points. These groups will receive judge's comments and recap sheets will reflect the group's disqualification.
4. Only **directors** of the disqualified groups may address questions regarding the disqualification to the following person in the order listed:
Assistant Director: Derek Wetsch (derek.wetsch@gmail.com)



86th Mountain State Forest Festival
“Timeless Traditions”
Jack Basil Band Field Competition
Saturday, October 5, 2024

Awards

All awards will take place at the end of the Jack Basil Band Field Competition. At the conclusion of awards, a packet containing score sheets and thumb drives for audio comments will be available for pickup from the track.

There will be two classes of competition at the Grand Feature Parade and Jack Basil Band Field Show this year. Each class will be kept separate at all times from the other class, so there will be two Mountain State Forest Festival Grand Champions. The classes are determined as follows:

- **Maple Class** is available for directors to determine if their band will be judged on a truly competitive scale.
- **Dogwood Class** is available for directors to determine if their band will be judged less competitively and is based on an educational opportunity to perform. This is a great option for bands who are building their program.

Bands are welcome to participate in only the Grand Feature Parade or the Jack Basil Band Field Competition, but Combined Parade and Competition awards are the only awards with a payout. Combined awards will combine parade and field competition scores of all bands in their class to determine the winners. Additionally, the band that places 1st in each group based on combined parade/show score will receive an award.

Combined Parade and Competition Cash Awards:

Maple Class

Grand Champion: \$500
 First Runner Up: \$300
 Second Runner Up: \$200
 Each Group Winner: \$150

Dogwood Class

Grand Champion: \$500
 First Runner Up: \$300
 Second Runner Up: \$200
 Each Group Winner: \$150

Group Size Classification based on playing members (winds and percussion):

Green 1-25

Yellow 26-50

Red 51-70

Orange 71-100



Band Awards:

Plaques will be awarded in each class for the following:

- Combined Grand Champion, 1st Runner Up, and 2nd Runner Up
- Grand Feature Parade Grand Champion, 1st Runner Up, 2nd Runner Up
- Jack Basil Band Field Competition Grand Champion, 1st Runner Up, 2nd Runner Up
- 1st Place Parade in each group
- 2nd Place Parade in each group
- 1st Place Show in each group
- 2nd Place Show in each group

Auxiliary Caption:

Plaques will be awarded for auxiliary in each class as follows:

- Combined Best Auxiliary, 1st Runner Up, 2nd Runner Up
- Overall Parade Best Auxiliary, 1st Runner Up, 2nd Runner Up
- Overall Show Best Auxiliary, 1st Runner Up, 2nd Runner Up
- 1st Place Best Auxiliary Parade in each group
- 2nd Place Best Auxiliary Parade in each group
- 1st Place Best Auxiliary Show in each group
- 2nd Place Best Auxiliary Show in each group

Percussion Caption:

Plaques will be awarded for percussion in each class as follows:

- Overall Show Best Percussion, 1st Runner Up, 2nd Runner Up
- 1st Place Best Percussion in each group
- 2nd Place Best Percussion in each group

Field Commander Caption:

Plaques will be awarded for field commander in each class as follows:

- Overall Show Best Field Commander, 1st Runner Up, 2nd Runner Up
- 1st Place Best Field Commander in each group
- 2nd Place Best Field Commander in each group

Middle/Junior High School:

Middle and Junior High School bands will be treated as two separate classes. No group size differentiation will be made for these classes. 1st and 2nd place plaques will be awarded for the top bands in each class.



LOGISTICAL INFORMATION

1. To be officially entered, all groups must have submitted an entry application by September 20, 2024, to the MSFF by mail or through the website at www.forestfestival.com. Note: the online application will go live the first week of May 2024.
2. The Band Field Competition is held at Elkins High School, 100 Kennedy Dr. Elkins, WV. Buses must enter the Elkins High School campus from Country Club Road, which is the first right hand exit from the Beverly 5-Lane after the main Elkins High School entrance.
3. The Band Field Competition is scheduled in a single performance format beginning at 5:00 pm.
4. The press box will be off limits to all persons. No special announcements. Any deliberate infraction of this rule will result in band disqualification. Electricity is not available from the press box.
5. A complimentary room in Elkins High School, with refreshments for band directors and assistant directors, will be provided by the Elkins Area Band Auxiliary.
6. All registered bands will have the opportunity on the registration form to declare their number of paid band staff members and “pit crew” helpers. All bands will receive complimentary admission for them. Additionally, for every ten total students, the band will receive one complimentary admission for chaperone use. If this amount of complimentary admission is not enough due to county policy, please contact the Outreach Chair or Assistant Director to make compliant arrangements.
7. A golf cart or four-wheeler that is in safe, mechanically sound condition (not leaking fluids, etc....) to assist with equipment transport on/off the track may be used. Additionally, “pit crew” members may help move equipment. Please indicate on the application how many crew members will need complimentary admission.
8. Equipment trailers may be parked behind the stadium in the square parking lot beside Elkins High School to make transport distance as short as possible. Please indicate on the application if you will have a trailer so they may receive a parking pass.
9. No pyrotechnical, incendiary, or equipment with open flames may be used at the field competition.
10. Questions concerning rules, policies and/or procedures should be directed to the Outreach Chair Sarah Wamsley or Mountain State Forest Festival Assistant Director Derek Wetsch.



PERFORMANCE / REHEARSAL INFORMATION

1. Do not begin performance until the band has been introduced and the field commander has saluted the judging panel to indicate the beginning of performance. The band will move to its starting position as the preceding band leaves the field (performance area). As the new band enters the performance area, they will be announced.
2. Each band will have 15 minutes total to enter, perform, and exit the field. The time will begin upon entrance to the gate of the field for competition.
3. There will be two warm-up areas available near the competition to allow for a 30-minute warm-up.
4. Bands are required to provide their own “pit crew” and method of transportation of pit equipment. If using own transportation, we always suggest a band representative be with equipment, as the Mountain State Forest Festival will not be held liable for lost, stolen or damaged equipment.
5. Utility vehicles such as equipment buses or trailers can park with buses, however parent vehicles cannot be parked with buses due to limited space.
6. Bands will have access to electricity on the field of competition. Please indicate on the registration form if you will need electricity.

PENALTIES

1. Violators of rules, guidelines and instructions are subject to loss of points or disqualification. This decision rests solely with the Head Judge and the Mountain State Forest Festival Assistant Director in charge of the event.
2. Directors of disqualified groups will be notified following the parade and a letter of explanation will be sent to the appropriate school principal.
3. Disqualified groups will not receive judging points. These groups will receive judge’s comments and recap sheets will reflect the group’s disqualification.
4. Only **directors** of the disqualified groups may address questions regarding the disqualification to the following person in the order listed:
Assistant Director: Derek Wetsch (derek.wetsch@gmail.com)

We hope you enjoy the 2024 Mountain State Forest Festival!

