

Welcome To The Colt Cadets!

Membership in the Colt Cadets is an amazing experience for you and your entire family. It requires tremendous dedication, hard work, and personal responsibility, but the rewards can be life-changing.

We invite you to attend one of our upcoming open rehearsals!

There is no formal audition process for the Colt Cadets, but attendance, attitude, responsibility, and parental support are incredibly important!

Colt Cadets rehearsals will start in February. Plan to attend one of our events! **You'll find the most current rehearsal info at www.colts.org.**

THERE IS NO OBLIGATION BY ATTENDING A REHEARSAL.

Even if you don't become a Colt Cadet, you will learn a great deal. You will participate in your section and perform as a member of the Colt Cadets. We will assess your skills, answer your questions, and make you familiar with the Colts family.

Following your second rehearsal, you will receive a letter that will be: 1) an offer of Colt Cadets membership or 2) a recommendation to continue to attend so we can evaluate your growth as a performer.

Colt Cadets rehearsals are on Sunday afternoons from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Dubuque. There are also three overnight camps that run from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon. **ALWAYS double-check the Colts website (www.colts.org) before traveling** to a Colts event for any last minute changes or information.

Your next step is to submit an Info Request on the website. Email any other questions you may have. I look forward to meeting you!



Rich Waddington
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Director, Colt Cadets
Drum & Bugle Corps

Drum Corps FAQs

What is drum corps? Who or what is Drum Corps International (DCI)?

Drum corps is like marching band except only brass instruments are used along with marching percussion, a front ensemble (pit), and color guard. Drum Corps International is comprised of groups throughout the U.S. and Canada who compete throughout the summer. In 2020, DCI will host its World Championships at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, IN (*Home of the NFL Colts*).

What do I need to become a member?

Determination and a desire to be great! We teach the rest. You will also need the summer available since we travel together, rehearse, and compete from mid-June through August 10th.



What do I need to know before I attend an audition event?

Fill out an Information Request on the Colts website (www.colts.org) and materials will be emailed to you. You should come to the rehearsal excited to play with the group! There are also specific instructions for each section.

How much does it cost to audition? How much for summer membership?

All Sunday afternoon rehearsals are FREE to attend! Weekend camps charge a fee to cover the cost of food and housing. The cost for summer tour is around \$30 per day, which includes all of your meals, housing, transportation, the use of new Yamaha instruments or color guard equipment, and your uniform for the summer. Many members find sponsors to help fund at least a portion of their summer costs.



How do I get to a rehearsal and audition? Where will I stay while I'm there?

Most people drive to our rehearsals. We can help you find others driving from your area, and know that your parents are welcome to attend with you. For three-day events, you will sleep at the facility where we rehearse for the weekend. Your parents are also welcome to stay with us!

How many members are in the Colt Cadets? Where do they all come from?

The Colt Cadets typically have between 70 and 90 members and range in age from 12 – 18. Colt Cadets have a great base of membership throughout the Midwest, but we sometimes have members come from all over the U.S. and as far away as The Netherlands!

What if I don't know anyone? None of my other friends are interested.

You'll hear when you arrive to an event, "Some of your best friends in life are in this room. You just haven't met them yet." This is so true of Colt Cadets members who grow incredibly close as a family throughout the summer.

What if I'm not good enough?

Your job is to come to the Colt Cadets with a great attitude, and the determination and drive to be great. Our job is to make the most of your potential as a performer. We always have a place for students with persistence, determination, grit, and a desire to learn and improve.



When will I find out if I've made it? Will I get a second chance?

We send letters a few days after the conclusion of each rehearsal. Most will receive a call back so we can assess your growth, communication, and your passion to be a member of the Colt Cadets. Membership agreements are mailed after your second rehearsal.

OK...I really want to do this. How do I convince my parents?

Membership in the Colt Cadets provides opportunities to develop leadership, responsibility, perseverance, and musical and performance education that cannot be found anywhere else. We teach you what it's like to be highly successful in a team environment...working together to achieve a common goal. You will return from summer tour with more drive and determination than you've ever had. And it will become a part of everything you do in life...*for the rest of your life.*