

CIRCUIT TALK

OCTOBER 2024

WWW.MCCGA.ORG

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REGISTRATION WILL OPEN AT NOON ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2024 FOR ALL UNITS.

MEMBERSHIP FEES:

FULL MEMBERSHIP \$650. \$600 IF PAYMENT IS RECEIVED BY NOVEMBER 11, 2024

\$75 ADDITIONAL FEE FOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

NON-MEMBER FEE: \$275 PER SHOW

COLOR GUARD UNITS MUST ATTEND 2 REGULAR SEASON FESTIVALS IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CHAMPIONSHIPS. THE MCCGA SPONSORED WGI REGIONAL DOES NOT COUNT AS A REGULAR SEASON SHOW.

RULES & REMINDERS

February

1st	Ozark HS (Critique) Belton HS (Critique)	G/P/W Guard	SPR KC
8th	Francis Howell HS (Critique) Blue Springs South HS	Guard Guard	STL KC
15th*	WGI Kansas City Color Guard Regional Blue Springs HS		
22nd	Nixa HS (Critique) Lee's Summit West HS (Critique)	G/P/W Guard	SPR KC

March

1st	Missouri State University Wentzville Liberty HS	G/P/W Guard	SPR STL
8th	O'Fallon Township HS (Critique) Oak Park HS	Guard Guard	STL KC
15th	Fayetteville HS Edwardsville HS	Guard Guard	SPR STL
29th	MCCGA CHAMPIONSHIPS Willard, Nixa, Ozark		

MID-CONTINENT
Color Guard
ASSOCIATION

2025 Championships Eligibility Performance Deadlines.

Each color guard unit must perform at an MCCGA Festival or WGI Regional by the weekend that unit's region has its second Festival. This shall not be construed to mean the unit must perform at a Festival in that unit's region. Each unit must also perform in at least two MCCGA Festivals throughout the course of the season.

Western Region Performance Deadline:
February 8th, 2025
Western half of Missouri, north of Camden County as well as all of Nebraska and Kansas.

Southern Region Performance Deadline:
February 22nd, 2025
Southern half of Missouri, south of Camden County as well as all of Oklahoma and Arkansas.

Eastern Region Performance Deadline:
March 1st, 2025
Eastern half of Missouri, north of Camden County as well as all of Illinois.

DIRECTOR TIPS AND TRICKS

CLEAR GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: ESTABLISH SPECIFIC, MEASURABLE, ACHIEVABLE, RELEVANT, AND TIME-BOUND (SMART) GOALS FOR THE SEASON. BEGIN WITH THE END IN MIND AND OUTLINE THE ACTION STEPS YOU WILL TAKE TO GET THERE. ENJOY THE JOURNEY!

- HAVE A QUESTION OR TIPS/TRICKS TO SHARE????? EMAIL PUBLICRELATIONS@MCCGA.ORG



EDUCATION CORNER

with Julie, Ashley & Liz

EDUCATION CORNER

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND WHEN PICKING AND DESIGNING A SHOW:

- KEEP IT SIMPLE WITH AN OVERALL THEME.
- IF YOU ARE STUCK PICKING A THEME, UTILIZE WHAT YOU ALREADY HAVE OR CAN EASILY BORROW FROM OTHER SCHOOLS/GROUPS CLOSE TO YOU, THEN BUILD FROM THERE.
- BE SURE TO PICK MUSIC WITH A VARIETY OF HIGH AND LOW POINTS – NOT ALL THE SAME TEMPO/VOLUME. LISTEN TO YOUR MUSIC AND MAKE SURE YOU KNOW WHERE THE EFFECT MOMENTS CAN HAPPEN (E.G., SOLO FEATURES, ENSEMBLE FLAG, ETC.)
- KEEP YOUR STUDENT'S SKILL LEVEL AND PERSONALITIES IN MIND. LYRICAL PIECES WORK GREAT FOR STRONG DANCERS; POP SONGS FOR SUPER UPBEAT KIDS; MOODY MUSIC FOR THOSE THAT ARE MORE SERIOUS.
- UTILIZE YOUR THEATER DEPARTMENT FOR BORROWING AND BUILDING PROPS.
- KNOWING THE TIMING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CLASS YOU ARE COMPETING IN. IN THE YOUNGER CLASSES, KEEPING YOUR TIME CLOSER TO THE MINIMUM WILL GIVE YOU MORE OPPORTUNITY TO FOCUS ON TECHNIQUE AS OPPOSED TO TRYING TO FINISH A LONGER SHOW.
- MCCGA FOLLOWS THE WGI POLICY FOR MUSIC COPYRIGHT WHICH CAN BE FOUND AT [HTTPS://WWW.WGI.ORG/COPYRIGHT/](https://www.wgi.org/copyright/)
- PRINT OFF THE JUDGES' SHEETS FOR YOUR CLASSIFICATION TO HAVE HANDY TO USE AS A GUIDE ALL SEASON. THESE CAN BE FOUND IN THE WGI RULEBOOK, WHICH IS IN THE DIRECTOR'S ONLY AREA OF THE MCCGA WEBSITE ([HTTPS://MCCGA.ORG/DIRECTOR-PRIVATE/](https://mccga.org/director-private/)). HEAD OVER TO THE VOCAB CORNER FOR SOME EXPLANATIONS OF THE MORE CONFUSING TERMS THAT YOU'LL ENCOUNTER ON THE SHEETS.



EDUCATION CORNER

with Julie, Ashley & Liz

VOCAB CORNER

MOST JUDGING SHEETS TALK ABOUT DYNAMIC RANGE/EFFORT. THIS CONCEPT IS IMPORTANT IN EVERY MOVEMENT AND INCLUDES FOUR MAIN ASPECTS: SPACE, TIME, WEIGHT, AND FLOW. THE DIFFERENT WAYS YOU USE THESE ASPECTS CAN MAKE YOUR PERFORMANCE MORE DYNAMIC. HERE'S WHAT EACH TERM MEANS:

SPACE

- IN MOVEMENT AND EQUIPMENT, SPACE REFERS TO MOVING YOUR EQUIPMENT AROUND YOUR BODY RANGING FROM DIRECT MOVEMENTS TO INDIRECT MOVEMENTS. DIRECT MOVEMENTS ARE THOSE WHERE THE PERFORMERS' BODY IS CENTERED, AND EQUIPMENT IS MOVING THROUGH THE 27 POINTS OF SPACE*. INDIRECT MOVEMENTS TAKE THE BODY OFF-CENTER AND SPIN OR MOVE IN THAT SENSE OF SPACE.
- IN DESIGN, SPACE REFERS TO WHERE PEOPLE AND OBJECTS ARE (POSITIVE SPACE) VERSUS WHERE THEY AREN'T (NEGATIVE SPACE). THE SHEETS ENCOURAGE YOU TO COMPLEMENT AND ENHANCE YOUR AUDIO TRACK BY USING POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE SPACE.
- IT'S GOOD TO HAVE A MIX OF DIRECT AND INDIRECT MOVEMENTS AND A BALANCE OF POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE SPACE IN YOUR PERFORMANCE.

TIME

- THIS IS ABOUT HOW FAST OR SLOW YOU MOVE OR SPIN. YOU SHOULD INCLUDE A RANGE FROM VERY SLOW TO VERY FAST ACTIONS.
- JUDGES WILL OFTEN NOTE THIS WITHIN A SINGLE PHRASE, AS A TEAM MOVES FROM SLOW TO QUICK. IT DOES NOT HAVE TO HAPPEN IN A SINGLE PHRASE, THOUGH - THROUGHOUT THE PROGRAM IS FINE.

WEIGHT

- IN MOVEMENT AND EQUIPMENT, WEIGHT REFERS TO HOW HEAVY OR LIGHT YOUR ACTIONS FEEL, FROM GENTLE TO STRONG. GENTLE WEIGHT CAN ALSO BE REFERRED TO AS LYRICAL OR SOFT. STRONG WEIGHT CAN BE REFERRED TO AS BOUND OR AGGRESSIVE.
- IF YOU HAVE A VERY "BOUND" SHOW, JUDGES MAY ASK FOR A MOMENT OF RELEASE, TO ALLOW FOR THE CONTRAST TO SHOW.
- IN DESIGN, IT RELATES TO HOW ELEMENTS ARE ARRANGED ON THE FLOOR. USING A MIX OF BALANCED (SYMMETRICAL) AND UNBALANCED (ASYMMETRICAL) ARRANGEMENTS IS ENCOURAGED.

FLOW

- FLOW DESCRIBES HOW FREE OR RESTRICTED YOUR MOVEMENTS ARE. IF MOVEMENTS FEEL NATURAL AND EASY, THAT'S CALLED FREE FLOW. IF THEY FEEL MORE CONTROLLED OR LIMITED, THAT'S CALLED BOUND FLOW.
- FLOW ALSO STEMS FROM THE USE OF BREATH WITHIN A PHRASE - A PHRASE "WITH" BREATH MOVES FLUIDLY AND SEAMLESSLY, A PHRASE "WITHOUT" BREATH IS NOT AS FLUID, CAN BE READ AS ABRUPT AND CHOPPY.

*IF YOU AREN'T FAMILIAR WITH THE 27 POINTS OF SPACE, CLICK BELOW FOR A VIDEO THAT SHOWS IT. THERE ARE LOTS OF GREAT VIDEO TUTORIALS OUT ON YOUTUBE AS WELL! YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO FAST LIKE THE VIDEO. THE IDEA IS TO TEACH YOUR STUDENTS THE PLACES THEIR EQUIPMENT CAN MOVE AND GIVE THEM REFERENCE POINTS FOR CHOREOGRAPHY.

[VIDEO LINK- 27 POINTS OF SPACE](#)



MCCGA

JUDGES CORNER

with Cheryl Myers

HELLO ALL!

THE 2025 SEASON IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER, AND I KNOW THE JUDGING COMMUNITY IS RAPIDLY FILLING DATES, SCHEDULING FLIGHTS AND GETTING READY TO OBSERVE ALL OF YOUR AND YOUR STUDENTS' HARD WORK. FOR MY INITIAL INSTALLMENT OF JUDGES CORNER, I THOUGHT I WOULD SHARE WITH YOU ALL JUST HOW I GO ABOUT SCHEDULING PANELS FOR THE SEASON. AS MCCGA CONTINUES TO GROW, WE ARE ABLE TO ATTRACT GREAT JUDGES, BOTH CURRENT AND FORMER WGI, ALONG WITH (THIS YEAR IN PARTICULAR) WGI ACADEMY CANDIDATES. THE SURVEYS YOU FILL OUT AFTER EACH CONTEST ARE INVALUABLE RESOURCES FOR ME TO CULL THROUGH AND DETERMINE WHICH JUDGES REALLY "WORK" IN OUR CIRCUIT; PROVIDING CONSISTENT AND HELPFUL INFORMATION, FEEDBACK AND SUGGESTIONS (WHEN CALLED FOR). I ALSO LISTEN TO FILES FROM EACH AND EVERY JUDGE WE USE, IN ORDER TO ASSESS THEIR DELIVERY. THE PROCESS STARTS EARLIER AND EARLIER EACH YEAR, (JULY THIS YEAR!) AND THE COMPETITION FOR JUDGES IS FIERCE. IT ACTS SOMEWHAT LIKE A JIGSAW PUZZLE OF MATCHING AVAILABILITY WITH SHOW DATES AND LOCATIONS. IN ADDITION, WAITING FOR WGI TO RELEASE ASSIGNMENTS PLAYS A ROLE. AFTER THOSE DROP, IT'S A RACE TO SNAG ANY ROSTERED JUDGES WITH OPEN DATES, AND THAT NUMBER GETS SMALLER AND SMALLER EACH YEAR. YOU HAVE MY WORD THAT I AM CONTINUING TO WORK ON FACILITATING RELATIONSHIPS WITH ROSTERED JUDGES! THIS COMING SEASON WILL CONTINUE TO HIGHLIGHT NEW FACES TO OUR CIRCUIT, ALONG WITH SOME VETERAN JUDGES WHO HAVE BEEN THOROUGHLY VETTED AND APPROVED BY THE SURVEY RESULTS WE HAVE COMPILED. IT'S MY JOB TO MAKE SURE YOU ARE RECEIVING QUALITY ADJUDICATION EACH WEEKEND, AND PLEASE KNOW THAT I AM OPEN TO ANY AND ALL FEEDBACK FROM YOU ~ DON'T EVER HESITATE TO REACH OUT TO ME AT: CHIEFJUDGE@MCCGA.NET.

ALSO! PLEASE EMAIL ME A LIST OF ANY OTHER TOPICS YOU WOULD LIKE ME TO DISCUSS IN THE FORUM!

Region Highlights

Southern Region- Marionville

DIRECTOR: JAIMEE BURGESS
 CLASS: REGIONAL A
 MARIONVILLE HAS COMPLETED IN MCCGA FOR THE PAST 4 SEASONS. THIS YEAR WE ARE ALSO RETURNING TO FIELD IN THE FALL FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 10 YEARS! 2024-2025 IS GOING TO BE A FUN YEAR FOR OUR PROGRAM.
 PRE PERFORMANCE, WE ALWAYS CIRCLE UP, BREATHE TOGETHER AND HAVE SOME AFFIRMATIONS. THINGS WE ARE GOING TO PERSONALLY APPLY IN THE RUN. IT'S ALWAYS A FUN WAY TO CENTER BEFORE GOING OUT.



Eastern Region- Francis Howell Winter Guard

DIRECTOR: DALE ROBISON
 CLASSIFICATION FOR 2025 SEASON:
 SCHOLASTIC AA
 FRANCIS HOWELL HAS BEEN IN THE CIRCUIT FOR 30 YEARS. 2024 REGIONAL A ROUND 2 MCCGA CHAMPION. 2024 BELLEVUE NE WGI REGIONAL CLASS CHAMPION. PREVIOUS WGI REGIONAL FINALIST. PREVIOUS WGI WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SEMI-FINALIST.
 FUN FACT-
 WE EAT STARBURST BEFORE EVERY COMPETITIVE PERFORMANCE.



Region Highlights

Western Region- Blue Springs South JV

DIRECTOR NAME- LYNDSLEY WARD

CLASS: SCH. A

BSS JV HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN THE MCCGA CIRCUIT SINCE 2017. WE PLACED FIRST PLACE IN AA 2023 CIRCUIT CHAMPIONSHIPS WITH THEIR SHOW "TURNING PAGE". FROM THERE ,THEY WERE PROMOTED TO SCHOLASTIC A FOR THE 2024 SEASON. TO OUR EXCITEMENT THE TEAM WITH OUR SHOW "UPHILL BATTLE" ADVANCED THROUGH PRELIMS AND MADE SEMI-FINALS. THIS WAS NOT ONLY THEIR FIRST TIME GOING TO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS AS A GROUP BUT THE FIRST TIME THE JV GROUP HAS EVER GONE IN SCHOOL HISTORY



Meet your Region Reps & CG Education Team

DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION- REACH OUT TO YOUR REGION REP FOR HELP AND ADVICE!



Elizabeth Keune
Western Region

(Kansas City, Nebraska, Kansas)
Contact: west@mccga.org



Ashley Garoutte
Southern Region

(Springfield, Arkansas, Oklahoma)
Contact: south@mccga.org



Julie Bunkley
Eastern Region

(Saint Louis, Columbia, Illinois)
Contact: east@mccga.org