

Survey Reflects Music Groups' Travel Preferences

A survey by School Band and Orchestra Magazine (SBO) asked directors of marching bands and indoor ensembles what types of travel they prefer for student performance and education.

Adjudicated festivals placed first with both marching bands and indoor ensemble directors. Other categories were parades, theme parks, educational/nonperformance and historical. For marching band directors, adjudicated festivals ranked first at 34 percent. Next were parades at 30 percent, theme parks 14 percent, educational/nonperformance 10 percent and international festivals 6 percent.

Fifty-nine percent of indoor ensemble directors chose adjudicated festivals, which was dramatically higher than any of the other categories. Theme parks came in second at 25 percent, then concert halls/performance venues at 6 percent. Next were international festivals at 5 percent and non-adjudicated at 3 percent.

Educational/nonperformance and historical commemorative events were tied last at 1 percent.

According to the survey, school music groups are likely to be catering to a smaller budget by not traveling as far and making the trips selective by bringing smaller groups. Forty-seven percent of music directors surveyed said their bands will not be traveling too far, while 45 percent will go as far as needed. Eight percent of directors said their bands will travel to exotic destinations.

Sixty-two percent of bands will allow everyone in the band to attend the trip, while 18 percent will only allow those who can financially afford the trip. Twenty percent of other bands allow only an advanced group allowed to go.

Band directors also have to cater to the budget allotted for their musical trips. Sixty percent of band directors surveyed said their travel budget will stay the same, while 24 percent said their budget will decrease and 16 percent said it will increase.

-By Becky Neems