



DIRECTOR INFORMATION PACKET

Vista Ridge Marching Festival

October 4, 2025
John Gupton Stadium
Cedar Park, TX

Table of Contents

1 Director Information & Logistics	3
1.1 Location:	3
1.2 Documents:	3
1.3 Maps:	3
1.4 Band Check-in:	3
1.5 Band & Truck Parking:	3
1.6 Storage:	4
1.7 Uniforms:	4
1.8 Restrooms:	4
1.9 Onsite Food Options	4
1.10 Hospitality	4
1.11 Instrument Repairs	4
1.12 ACL Music Festival Traffic Impacts	4
2 Warm-up to Performance	5
2.1 Warm-up areas	5
2.2 Prop Staging:	5
2.3 Band Entrance	6
2.4 Band Exit	6
2.5 EMS and First Aid	6
2.6 Timing:	6
2.7 Script / Band Introduction:	7
2.8 Filming:	7
2.9 Finals Selection:	7
2.10 Exhibitions	7
3 Judging & Awards	8
3.1 Judging:	8
3.2 Prelim Awards	8
3.3 Finals Awards	8
3.4 Drum Major Retreat	8
4 Safety	9
4.1 First Aid	9
4.2 Heat-Related Illness Warning	9
5 Spectators	10
5.1 Location	10
5.2 Parking	10
5.3 Clear Bag policy	10
5.4 Admission	10

5.5 No outside food / drinks	10
5.6 During Performances	10
5.7 Souvenirs	10
5.8 Restrooms	11
5.9 Concessions:	11
5.10 Lost and Found	11
6 Refunds & Inclement Weather	12
6.1 Refunds	12
6.2 Weather Delays	12
6.3 Lightning Policy	12
7 Online Tickets	13
8 Better Than New	14

*****Please follow all parking and warm up area directives from Marching Festival leadership. Vista Ridge High School is undergoing a modernization project, therefore, there will be changes to the warm-up areas from previous years. Please ask a Marching Festival volunteer if you need assistance.***

1 Director Information & Logistics

1.1 Location:

Gupton Stadium, 200 Gupton Way, Cedar Park, TX 78613

1.2 Documents:

All needed documents can be found on the Vista Ridge Marching Festival website <https://vrmarchingfestival.org/> under the “Director Information” heading.

1.3 Maps:

Refer to the maps on our website to help you with bus/truck and director/support staff parking. **PLEASE NOTE THAT ONLY BUSES AND TRUCKS ARE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE STADIUM PARKING LOT OFF VISTA RIDGE BLVD. ALL OTHER VEHICLES WILL BE TURNED AWAY.**

1.4 Band Check-in:

At the Host Table, you will:

1.4.1 Receive your allotted passes. The quantities listed below are regardless of band size. The passes are good for both prelims and finals.

- Six (6) Director Passes – good for all areas of the stadium and press box
 - Additional passes are not available due to press box space limitations.
- Twenty-five (25) Field Passes – can be used for field access only.
 - Field passes will not permit entry into the home-side stands.
 - Up to five (5) additional Field Passes may be purchased for \$20 each. Please bring a check at band check-in.
 - Field passes are not transferable and must be visible to gain field access.
- Entry to the visitor’s side of the stadium is free to all bus drivers, chaperones, and volunteers. Restrooms and concessions will be open. (The concession will feature the same menu as the home side.)
- A general admissions ticket is required for entry into the home side of the stadium.

1.4.2 Draw for finals performance slot.

1.5 Band & Truck Parking:

1.5.1 Buses & Trucks: All buses and trucks must enter the stadium at the **Vista Ridge Blvd entrance**. A crew will be waiting to guide your bus and truck drivers to their designated location. This entrance is for buses and trucks only.

1.5.2 Prop trucks: Truck parking attendants will guide trucks carrying props to the designated “Prop Lot”. This will allow trucks & trailers carrying props to get much closer to the stadium, reducing congestion in the main truck lot and making it easier for instrument trucks to unload and set up.

1.5.3 Director & Support Staff:

Parking is available at the Park St entrance to the stadium.

NEITHER LISD NOR VISTA RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY LOSSES OR DAMAGES

1.6 Storage:

Please arrange to store cases and all equipment, during the performance and afterward, on or up against your equipment truck/trailer. Space will be limited.

1.7 Uniforms:

Dressing facilities are very limited. Please have your students wear uniforms or change on the buses.

1.8 Restrooms:

1.8.1 Visitor Side: Available to students, chaperones & bus/truck drivers near the visitor's side concession stands. A ticket to enter the visitor's side of the stadium is NOT required.

1.8.2 Vista Ridge High School: Reasonably close to the Band Warm Up areas.

1.9 Onsite Food Options

1.9.1 Concessions available on both sides of the stadium.

1.9.2 Food delivery - Food deliveries to the parking lot are permitted. Please ensure that drivers enter through the Park Street entrance and follow the provided map to the designated delivery spots. A Vista volunteer in a golf cart will be available to assist with transporting the food to its final destination. Important: Do not use the bus entrance off Vista Blvd.



1.9.3 The option to purchase prepaid meals will be available. An email has been sent out detailing how to purchase meal tickets.

1.9.4 Per LISD policy, grilling is prohibited in the parking lot or surrounding areas.

1.10 Hospitality

1.10.1 Director refreshments will be available in the press box which can be accessed via an elevator underneath the home stands with a director pass.

1.10.2 Bus driver refreshment tent. Details provided at band check-in.

1.11 Instrument Repairs

Better Than New Band Repair on-site 9am – 5pm near the visitor-side concessions

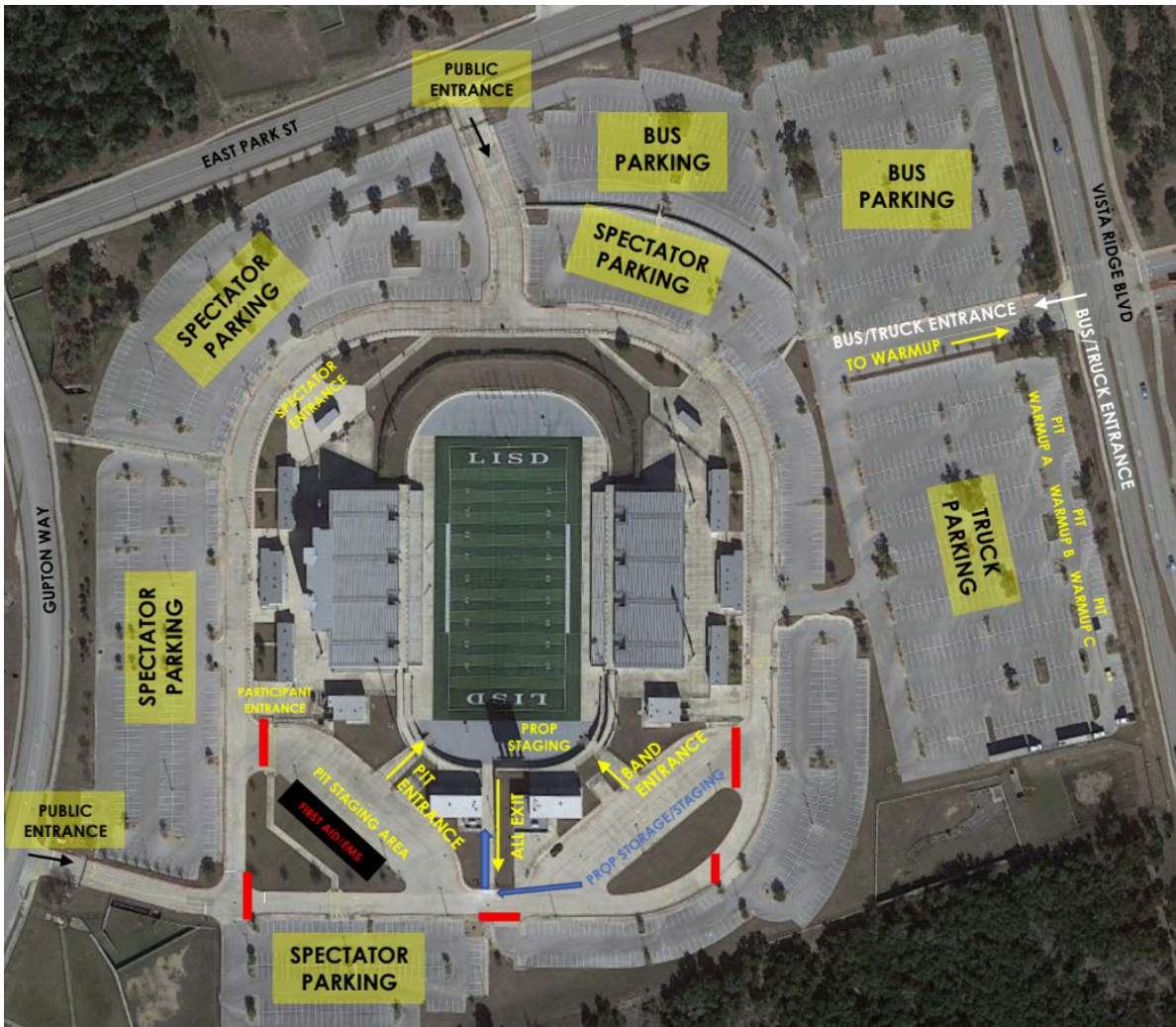
1.12 ACL Music Festival Traffic Impacts

The Austin City Limits Music Festival is also occurring on the event day. Bands traveling from or through South Austin have experienced traffic issues in previous years. Please plan accordingly.

2 Warm-up to Performance

2.1 Warm-up areas

- Bands, batteries, and color guards will warm-up at Vista Ridge High School. An escort and traffic monitor will help your band cross Vista Ridge Blvd. to its assigned area.
- Front ensemble warm-up is in the truck parking lot, directly adjacent to Vista Ridge Blvd. An escort will guide your ensemble to its assigned area.
- 2.1.1 During prelims, escorts will guide your band to the appropriate warm-up areas. Do not proceed to warm up without your escort. Escorts are not available during finals.
- 2.1.2 Out of respect for the other participants, report to warm-up at your designated time.
- 2.1.3 Bands will have a 45-minute warm-up time. This time includes entering and exiting the warm-up area. At the 40 minute mark, the monitor will notify you it is time to stop playing and begin moving your band out of the warm-up area.
- 2.1.4 Do not play instruments enroute to warm-up, nor outside of the warm-up area.
- 2.1.5 A map of the warm-up areas is included on page 7.
 - Wind Instruments/Battery warm-up is located behind Vista Highschool.
 - Color guard warm-up is located inside Ranger Stadium.
 - FE warm-up is located at the Gupton parking lot closest to Vista Blvd.
- 2.1.6 Transmitter / Metronomes
 - Use of wireless transmitters (metronomes or PA's) is strictly prohibited!
 - Amplified metronomes must be hardwired and kept behind the band (school side) and facing South or East (away from Gupton Stadium). Doing so will ensure that all performing bands are the only thing the judges hear in the stadium.
- 2.1.7 Water
 - Bring water jugs/bottles to warm-up.
 - Do NOT return water to your buses after warm-up.
 - There will be an area near the stadium to place jugs during your performance.
- 2.1.8 After warm-up
 - Do not return to your buses after warm-up.
 - Follow your escorts directly to the stadium.



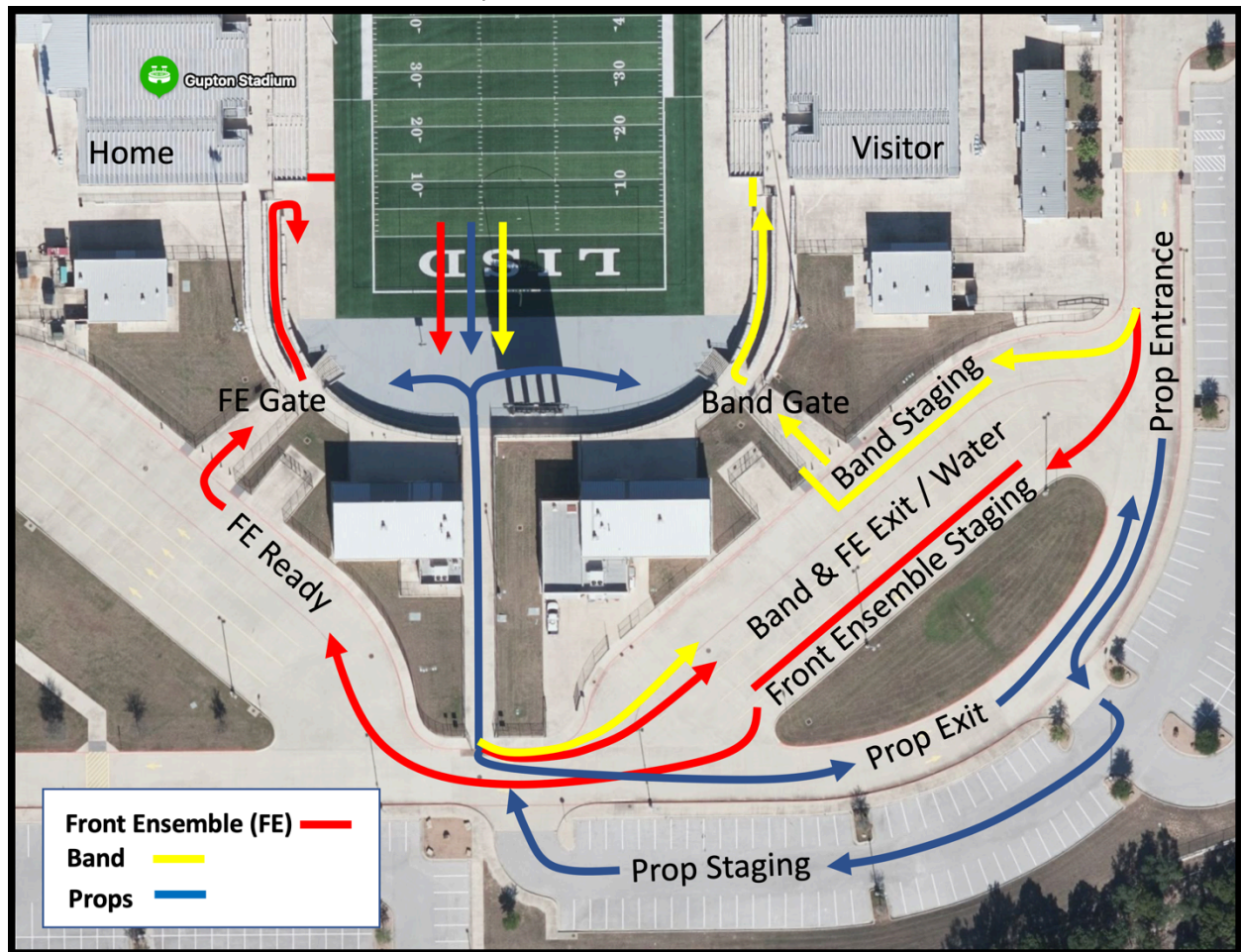
2.2 Prop Staging:

Prop staging will begin in the driveway highlighted in blue on the Gupton map. All props will then be moved to the large stone wall 2 performances before your band's performance time.

2.3 Band Entrance

2.3.1 Winds/Battery Entrance: All bands (winds and batteries) will enter the stadium through the Southeast gate and down the visitor side ramp.

2.3.2 Front Ensemble ("Pit"): Pit equipment will enter through the Southwest gate and down the home side ramp.



2.4 Band Exit

2.4.1 All Bands, including the Front Ensemble and Props, will exit the stadium via the main ramp between fieldhouses as indicated on the map.

2.4.2 Water on exit: Cups of water will be waiting for your group as you exit the ramp to your left.

2.5 EMS and First Aid

EMS and First Aid station will be set up behind the water station.

2.6 Timing:

The Vista Ridge Marching Festival follows standard UIL competition timing guidelines. The scoreboard clock will be the official time. If a band does not adhere to UIL timing rules, a warning will be issued. The warning is not a penalty and is only provided to help you plan for future UIL competitions.

2.7 Script / Band Introduction:

We follow the UIL Marching Band Script format. The script will be created from the information you provided in the survey form.

- The opening script will be read with 45 seconds remaining on the 5-minute clock.
- With 20 seconds remaining on the 5-minute clock, the announcer will read the next statement, which begins with "Drum Majors."
- The 8-minute clock will begin when the full 5-minute clock expires. Warm-up or pre-show is permitted during the 5-minute set-up time.
- Postscript will be read at the beginning of the 2-minute field exit.

2.8 Filming:

- 2.8.1 Video: A HighCam video (HD) recording of your band's performances will be recorded from the press box. Directors can access this recording via Competition Suite.
- 2.8.2 Photos: Still photos captured of your band by the Vista Ridge Media Team will be shared a few weeks after the event. Watch the scoreboard to see highlights throughout the day.
- 2.8.3 **Pressbox access is not permitted.** Parents are welcome to record videos from the stands. Note: Judges will be stationed at the top of the stands below the press box.

2.9 Finals Selection:

- 2.9.1 Top ten scores regardless of class will advance to Finals.
- 2.9.2 Performance order will be drawn during check-in.
- 2.9.3 Finalist bands will be separated into top five and bottom five groups. The performance order within the two groups is based on the draw at check-in.
- 2.9.4 The finals competition will begin promptly at 7:15 PM.

2.10 Exhibitions

- 2.10.1 Best in Class groups not in top ten will have the option to perform in exhibition at the beginning of finals.
- 2.10.2 The Vista Ridge Ranger Band and Color Guard will perform in exhibition at the beginning of the Finals round performances.

3 Judging & Awards

3.1 Judging:

3.1.1 2025 Judging Panel Includes:

- Chris Alexander
- David Bertman
- Albert Lo
- DR. T. Andre Feagin
- Taylor Smith

3.1.2 UIL Rules & procedures:

Current UIL rules and procedures will be observed. All judges will be giving a numerical score. Rankings within classifications will be announced at the conclusion of each CLASS during the awards ceremony. Actual scores will only be announced during the Finals Award Ceremony.

3.1.3 Judging Format

Scoring is based on a modified UIL scoring rubric and will be used by 2 music judges (40%), 2 visual judges (40%), and one general effect (20%).

3.1.4 Competition Suite

Competition Suite: Will be used to deliver all judge commentary and video. The email you provided on your entry form has been used for Competition Suite entry. Please notify vrfestival@gmail.com if this information has changed and if you would like to add additional addresses to your account. More information will be provided in an email the week of the competition.

3.2 Prelim Awards

3.2.1 Best in class, 2nd, and 3rd place will be awarded to each classification.

3.2.2 Caption Awards (Music, Visual, and General Effect) are presented for each classification.

3.3 Finals Awards

3.3.1 Scores of each finalist will be announced during the awards ceremony.

3.3.2 All participating bands in finals will receive a trophy for 1st-10th places.

3.3.3 Caption Awards will be presented for Music, Visual, and General Effect

3.4 Drum Major Retreat

3.4.1 Please have all Drum Majors and Guard/Dance Captains in full uniform, at the FE entrance and ready to take the field, following the last band's performance. All trophies will be presented to the Drum Majors & Color Guard/Dance Captains at this time.

3.4.2 Only Drum Major & Guard/Dance Captains will be included in the retreat.

No other students will be allowed on the field during the awards ceremony.

4 Safety

4.1 First Aid

A first aid station and EMS unit are located at the SE corner of the stadium, near the water station.

- 4.1.1 If a student cannot walk, please ask a contest worker for transportation to the First Aid station. If the case is more emergent, ask for EMS assistance or call 911.
- 4.1.2 The first aid station will include access to an air-conditioned locker room to assist anyone experiencing a heat-related illness.
- 4.1.3 TO AVOID DELAYS, PLEASE BRING MEDICAL RELEASE FORMS WITH YOU.

4.2 Heat-Related Illness Warning

- 4.2.1 Central Texas temperatures in October can reach into the upper 90's, with 90% humidity and heat indexes into the 100's.
- 4.2.2 Bring full water bottles, and lighter-weight clothing to change into, after your performance.

A staging area for your water jugs is provided at the Stadium during performance. Each band is responsible for their own water.

5 Spectators

5.1 Location

John Gupton Stadium
Home Entrance
200 Gupton Way Drive
Cedar Park, TX 78613

5.2 Parking

- 5.2.1 Free parking
- 5.2.2 Spectator entrances from Gupton Way or East Park Street only.

5.3 Clear Bag policy

Gupton Stadium has a clear bag policy. Please plan accordingly.

5.4 Admission

- 5.4.1 Digital ticketing will be used via GoFan.
- 5.4.2 Spectators are encouraged to buy tickets online prior to reaching the facility at [Vista Ridge Marching Festival Tickets](#)
- 5.4.3 For your convenience, signage will also be set up at Gupton Stadium to navigate an online purchase quickly and easily.
- 5.4.4 On-site tickets may also be purchased at the home-side ticket window at the NE corner of the stadium.

5.5 No outside food / drinks

- 5.5.1 Ice chests and outside food/drink (except water) are not allowed in the stadium.
- 5.5.2 Per LISD policy, grilling is prohibited in the parking lot or surrounding areas.

5.6 During Performances

To ensure minimal distractions for the audience and the band.:

- 5.6.1 Access to the stadium seating/stands will be restricted just before the beginning and through the completion of a band's performance.
- 5.6.2 All Umbrellas MUST BE lowered for the duration of the performance.
- 5.6.3 Be mindful of seat selection if audio commentary during a performance will be distracting. Each judge will capture their audio commentary.

5.7 Souvenirs

Vista Ridge Marching Festival T-shirts, and other Festival merchandise will be available on the home side, outside the entrance gates. Look for the PepWear Tent!

5.8 Restrooms

- 5.8.1 Home: Restrooms are available on the west side of the stadium. Tickets must be purchased to enter the home side of the stadium. Note: Field Passes alone will not allow entry to the stadium's west side.
- 5.8.2 Visitor: Restrooms are available on the east side of the stadium. While tickets are not required, Gupton Stadium has a clear bag policy.

5.9 Concessions:

- 5.9.1 Our concession stands offer a wide selection of food options for your students and their families.
- 5.9.2 Cash and credit cards are accepted.
- 5.9.3 See the website for menu options on the day of the event.
- 5.9.4 Meal tickets for students are available for purchase.

5.10 Lost and Found

- 5.10.1 All lost items can be retrieved from the home-side ticket booth.
- 5.10.2 Any items found can be turned into either the home side ticket window or at the press box elevator lobby.

6 Refunds & Inclement Weather

6.1 Refunds

6.1.1 Entry fees: Given at the discretion of the VRHS Director of Bands and Booster Executive Board.

6.1.2 Ticket purchases: All ticket purchases are non-refundable.

6.2 Weather Delays

Safety is our number one priority!

6.2.1 We follow UIL guidelines regarding inclement weather & lightning for outdoor events, as outlined on the last page of this packet.

6.2.2 Gupton Stadium is equipped with a lightning warning system.

6.2.3 If rain is in the forecast, we will set up a group message to keep you informed of any delays.

6.3 Lightning Policy

Please view the Leander ISD Inclement Weather policy here:

<https://www.leanderisd.org/inclementweatherprotocol/>

7 Online Tickets

[Vista Ridge Marching Festival Tickets](#)



**BUY TICKETS
ONLINE**

OCTOBER 4, 2025 • 8:30AM

Use the QR Code OR
visit GOFAN.CO and search
Vista Ridge Band Boosters



Better Than New

BETTER THAN NEW BAND REPAIR

1402-D CHISHOLM TRAIL RD, ROUND ROCK TX 78681

Betterthannewbandrepair@gmail.com

512-388-7774

btnbandrepair.com

For All Your Band Instrument Needs

Our Services include:

- **Pick-Up and Delivery:** Convenient and efficient
- **Free Estimates:** Accessible via our online shared spreadsheet
- **Discounts:** 20% off labor for on-time payments
- **Quality Workmanship:** Ensuring your repairs are handled with the utmost care
- **Supplies:** Reeds and other accessories, available for delivery
- **Instrument Rentals:** Rent-to-own program including maintenance plan
- **Used Instrument Sales:** Affordable used instruments ready-to-play