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# NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## EIU TO HOST MARCHING BAND CONTEST

CHARLESTON -- More than 10,000 participants and spectators are expected to attend the 22nd annual "Panther" Marching Festival Saturday, Oct. 4, in O'Brien Stadium on the Eastern Illinois University campus.

EIU's Department of Music sponsors this day-long festival attracting 30 of the best high school marching bands from Illinois.

Joseph Manfredo, director of bands at Eastern, serves as coordinator of the event -- one of the largest marching festivals in the state.

Nearly 4,000 high school musicians perform throughout the day in their respective bands. Local bands represented in this year's festival include Mattoon, Bethany and Effingham high schools.

Bands travel from nearly every region of the state coming from as far north as the Chicago suburbs, as far south as Marion High School, and as far west as the St. Louis area. Bands from the Danville, Kankakee and Peoria areas, as well as many other areas of the state, will perform.

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## MARCHING BANDS

Competition begins at 8:30 a.m. and continues until the EIU Panther Marching Band performs at 5:30 p.m. Nearly 250 buses and equipment trucks are used by the participating bands. General admission is \$4 for adults and \$3 for students ages 6-22.

The bands compete for awards and trophies in four classifications based upon school enrollment. In addition to top band honors, trophies are presented to the best drum majors, drumlines and auxiliary units.

A nine-member adjudication panel, comprised of some of the best marching experts in the Midwest, critiques each band's performance in the areas of music, marching and show design.

Last year's Grand Champions, Newton High School in class B/C/D and O'Fallon High School in class A/AA, will be defending their championships.

For further information, call the EIU Band Office at 581-2622.