

# The Dayton Times Magazine®

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# WGI Color Guard World Championships



## University of Dayton Arena, April 1st-6th 2019

WGI PERCUSSION & WINDS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS  
Expo will be held at the University of Dayton Arena on April 10-14, 2019.



### What is WGI

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What is WGI? Well, according to their website "WGI Sport of the Arts is the world's premier organization producing indoor color guard, percussion, and winds competitions. As a non-profit youth organization, WGI also serves as the governing body for the indoor color guard, percussion, and winds activities. It is called the Sport of the Arts because it brings music to life through performance in a competitive format. Even with over 40 years of history, the sport continues to evolve and grow. There were more than 33,000 participants at the regional level, and more than 16,000 participants at the Sport of the Arts World Championships this past April." The World Championships have always been hosted in Dayton, Oh Founded in 1977, WGI Sport of the Arts has grown to include nearly 1,000 color guards competing with WGI. Winter Guard now exists in Africa, Belgium, Canada, England, Germany, Holland, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, and Thailand and the United States. Dayton Times Magazine © will again be covering this year's competition with live photos and interviews. While the economic impact to the city of Dayton will be in excess of \$20 million, too our amazement, each year has been more exciting than the last. Year after year the performances have grown in scope, creativity and complexity. I would describe the experience as an "artistic expression combined with physical athleticism, skillfully executed to the sound of choreographed music."



Photo: Middle with sun glasses; Jordan Marchese

**Adriana Marchese**, One of my interviews was with Adriana Marchese, from Milton, Georgia, a Milton Indoor Drumline Parent from 2009-2017, this is her story.

"I mentioned to you that he was my 3rd kid to go through this and my 9th year". I am a mom of three percussionists. They all started playing when each entered middle school. When they went on to high school, they continued in band class, and did marching band. When marching season was over, my oldest, a daughter, said she wanted to try out for Indoor Drumline. Not knowing exactly what that was, I said sure, sounds like fun. Not until their first competition did, I have a grasp on exactly what Indoor Drumline really was. When I finally took my chin off the floor in utter disbelief of what it was my daughter and the entire ensemble was doing, did I understand the "Sport of the Arts". I have been in complete amazement and a proud parent groupie ever since. It was then that her younger siblings saw Indoor Drumline and they also wanted to be a part of this sport when they got to high school. This is where my nine-year journey began. My daughter played Marimba, and both my sons were Bass players. I have been to World Championships with my kids every year. This was my final year, and I will truly miss it. I will miss all the hard work, camaraderie, determination and perseverance of all the talented musicians. The pure creativity of drumlines from around the world, the pomp and circumstance of Finals Retreat, In the Lot, the white tent, the tunnel, and even the sweeper guy.

Thank you WGI, it's been a great ride!!

### WGI Volunteer, Steve Surina

I've been involved in the marching/pageantry activity since I graduated from high school (1983) and have been volunteering for WGI championships since 2006. A friend of mine, a previous volunteer himself, had mentioned it to me many times asking if I'd be interested. It never seemed like the time was right and I couldn't work out my schedule, but things finally came together in April of 2006 and I took the plunge. It was one of the best things I've ever done! Once a year, for two weekends in April, volunteers gather in Dayton Ohio for the WGI Winter Guard and Percussion World Championships. The championships run for 3 days, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Each year you must request to be part of the volunteer WGI staff, usually in January. About a month or so later, you are notified if you have been selected to be part of the WGI Championship volunteer staff for that season. Not long after that, you are given a job assignment for that weekend. On the week of championships, we arrive on Wednesday of that week to get settled in to our hotel, decompress from the trip and attend a meeting that lays out the entire weekend. Although a volunteer is given an assignment, it can very well be changed based on the needs of WGI. We all remain flexible. Once the championships begin, we work very long hours. Most times we arrive at the venues at 8am in the morning and don't leave until 11pm at night. We are there about 2 hours before performances begin and during this time, we'll make sure all preparations for a smooth flow are in place and guidance and information is readily available for all units performing. The time seems to pass quickly, at least for me. I've had the pleasure of being able to work the entrance/exit area for all the units competing at the venue I'm assigned. Having been a performer myself, I understand what it's like to be waiting to take the stage. What's great about this is that you get to see all the smiling faces and anticipation of each group as they prepare to give their all for the last few performances at the end of a season that, for many, began in January. All the hard work that has been put in for the year finally pays off for the all the performers and I have the privilege of witnessing this from unique vantage point near the performance floor. The gratification of seeing these young adults give their all is very high. Being part of a unique organization such as WGI, if only for a week, is hard to describe. It gives you a feeling of being part of something very special that many are not aware of. I've always felt that performing/marching arts is the best kept secret in the country and if people could see the caliber of young adults involved in the activity, there would be absolutely no worries for our future.