2026 Gahr High School Invitational Field Tournament

Saturday, November 7, 2026

Gahr High School
11111 Artesia Blvd.
Cerritos, CA 90703

We are excited to welcome you to the 12th Annual Gahr Invitational Field Tournament! Please take a moment to read through the following information.

In case of any problems or emergencies, please call:

Darren Loney, Director of Bands
(949) 433-8342

Jeffrey Varney, Director Liaison
(562) 371-4188

Ida Barcelos, Co-Tournament Chair
(562) 754-0740

Dee Dee Varney, Co-Tournament Chair
(562) 413-3068

1. PARKING

Free guest/spectator parking is available in the Gahr High School stadium parking lot and the small front office parking lot on the east side of campus. Please tell your families to arrive early to find a parking spot. **Overflow parking is available at the Avanti Business Center,** located on the northwest corner of Artesia Blvd and Studebaker Rd. If all lots are full, spectators may park on residential streets. **Please remind families to use crosswalks** to safely cross the street.

Bus and trailer parking is located on the blacktop through the gated entrance adjacent to the gym. Booster parents wearing reflective vests will be on hand to provide direction. Look for the signs that say “BUS AND TRAILER PARKING.” Please drive carefully through gates and watch for basketball poles. *We ask that personal vehicles/cars not be parked on the blacktop.*

IF YOU ARE PLANNING ON LEAVING BEFORE AWARDS, PLEASE LET US KNOW ASAP SO WE CAN MAKE SURE YOUR BUSES ARE PARKED CLOSEST TO THE EXIT.

Handicapped parking is available in designated spots in the stadium parking lot. Additional handicap spaces will be marked along the fence near the stadium.

2. ADMISSION

General Admission: $20.00
Seniors (65+): $18.00
Military (with I.D.): $18.00
Students (with I.D.): $18.00
Children 5 and under: Free

We accept cash, credit cards, Venmo, and Apple Pay.

3. UPON ARRIVAL

The check-in table is at the gate where the buses and trailers enter. Look for an EZ-UP and a sign that says "GROUP CHECK-IN."

Please pick up your Director's Packet and double-check the schedule and designated warm up zone. Your packet includes:

★ **Orange/Blue Zebra** wristbands for student performers. Students must have a wristband on to enter the stadium.

★ **Yellow/Blue Cheetah** wristbands for parent volunteers. **YOU WILL RECEIVE ONE (1) CHAPERONE WRISTBAND PER EVERY TEN (10) STUDENTS IN YOUR BAND.** Additional wristbands can be purchased at band check-in or the main stadium gate.

ALL PARENT HELPERS MUST HAVE A WRISTBAND ON TO ENTER THE STADIUM — EVEN IF THEY'RE ONLY ASSISTING WITH EQUIPMENT/PROPS. STAFF MEMBERS MUST WEAR THEIR CSBC BADGE TO ENTER THE STADIUM AND HOSPITALITY.

4. RESTROOMS

Restrooms are marked and available near the warm up areas and in the stadium. We will also have the boys' and girls' locker room restrooms open on the blacktop near the bus/trailer parking. **Please do not use the restrooms as changing areas.**

5. GROUP ESCORTS

Each band is assigned escorts who will remain with the group through your performance to lead you back to your buses. While they can help answer questions and guide your group, **it is ultimately your responsibility to keep track of time.**

6. WARM UP AREAS

<u>You will have a designated warm up zone and time</u>. Out of courtesy for the other bands, please wait until the zone is empty before moving in**. DO NOT USE ANOTHER SCHOOL'S WARM UP ZONE!** Doing so creates a chain reaction that affects the entire tournament and subsequent performances.

Please **be cautious when walking through dimly lit areas.**

Leave enough time to be at the gate at least ten (10) minutes prior to your scheduled performance time. Bands warming up on the athletic fields should allow additional time to reach the stadium. Any group responsible for delaying the competition will receive the maximum timing penalty.

QUIET ZONES: No playing is permitted in the designated quiet zones or the bus & trailer parking areas. Bands warming up on the athletic fields should face away from the stadium to minimize disruptions to performing groups. Please be considerate of volume levels when using Long Rangers or PA systems.

7. STAGING / PIT EQUIPMENT / PROP PRE-STAGING

Please arrive at the Band Entrance/Staging Area at least ten (10) minutes before your performance. <u>YOU WILL ENTER FROM THE SIDE 2 BACK CORNER</u> (visitor's side). This is a silent area — do not play or interfere while another group is performing.

All bands will enter and exit the field through the same gate, using the stadium track. **THE BAND ENTERING THE FIELD FOR COMPETITION ALWAYS HAS THE RIGHT OF WAY.** Bands exiting the field must yield to incoming groups to ensure a smooth and efficient transition between performances.

The main gate is five (5) feet wide. If you have larger props or equipment, alternative gates or pre-staging can be arranged. Please **let us know upon arrival, and we'll be happy to assist!**

8. SET UP TIME

You will have three (3) minutes to set up on the field with an additional one (1) minute until final call. **DO NOT ENTER THE FIELD UNTIL YOU HEAR THE ANNOUNCEMENT, "YOU MAY NOW TAKE THE FIELD."**

9. PERFORMER EXIT

After your performance, you will exit through the SIDE 2 BACK CORNER GATE (visitor's side). Front ensembles must continue around the stadium track to keep traffic flowing in one direction. There is a sidewalk (adjacent to the tennis courts) that will take you to the blacktop/buses/trailers.

10. ELECTRICAL POWER

Electrical power is available at the field level at the front of the field near the 50-yard-line.

11. ANNOUNCER

We have a fantastic announcer for the tournament. If you need to make any changes to the information submitted through Competition Suite, please notify the press box **at least one (1) hour prior to your performance time.** Our announcer will make every effort to accommodate last-minute changes.

12. JUDGING

Judges are provided by the California State Band Championships (CSBC). This is a qualifying tournament for the California State Band Championships. Please refer to their website for rules: https://calstatebandchamps.org/resources/adjudication/

13. FIRST AID

The main First Aid tent is located on the south side of the visitor's bleachers (by the tree). We will have a second first aid by the locker rooms near the warm up areas. A registered nurse will be on-site throughout the tournament. **In the event of a serious medical emergency, please call 9-1-1 immediately.**

14. VIDEO

You may have your own designated video person near the press box to record your performance. You cannot be on top of the press box, but can get a great angle next to the press box.

15. PERFORMER RE-ENTRY & SEATING

Students may re-enter through the main entrance gate. **All students must wear their Orange/Blue Zebra wristband to enter.** Please remind students to remain quiet and respectful during other performances.

16. CONCESSION STAND

Our concession stand will offer a variety of food options, including burgers, hot dogs, baked potatoes, nachos, chow mein, teriyaki chicken bowls, quesadillas, and more! Please encourage your families to support our music program by purchasing food and refreshments from our concessions.

Per ABCUSD district policy, outside food is not permitted inside the stadium, and food preparation is prohibited anywhere on campus.

Menu

FOOD

Hamburger	$6.00
Cheeseburger	$7.00
Hot Dog	$4.00
Chili Cheese Dog	$5.00
Pizza (slice Pepperoni or Cheese)	$3.00
Pretzel w/ Cheese	$3.00
Quesadilla	$5.00
Chow Mein	$7.00
Chicken Teriyaki Bowl	$7.00
Cup O Noodles	$3.00
Baked Potato (butter/sour cream)	$5.00
Nachos	$4.00
Chips	$2.00
Candy	$2.00
Add chili to any item	$1.00
Add cheese to any item	$1.00

DRINKS

SODAS OR WATER	$2.00
GATORADE	$3.00

3.00

17. STADIUM RULES

No dogs or other pets are permitted inside the stadium, with the exception of trained service animals.

18. HOSPITALITY

Directors and instructional staff are invited to enjoy complimentary food, beverages, and desserts provided by our boosters! We will also have special gift bags for each director. The Hospitality Tent is located at the SIDE 2 END ZONE. **Only directors and instructors wearing CSBC credentials will be admitted.**

19. PROGRAMS

Official field show tournament programs will be available to purchase for just $10.00 each. Please encourage your band and color guard families to purchase one!

20. CASH, CREDIT CARDS, VENMO, AND APPLE PAY

We accept **cash, all major credit cards, Venmo, and Apple Pay** at our concession stands and ticket booths.

21. AWARDS CEREMONY

Please have no more than seven (7) leaders (drum majors, captains, lieutenants) to the Side 2 End Zone for the afternoon and evening awards following the last performance. We will start the awards as soon as possible.

IMPORTANT: PLEASE NOTIFY US ASAP IF YOUR BAND PLANS TO DEPART <u>BEFORE</u> THE AWARDS CEREMONY. This will allow us to coordinate bus parking near the exit and facilitate a smooth departure.

22. INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the event of inclement weather, I will contact you during the day with any updates or changes. We will try to find a way to make this event happen (such as a standstill performance) as your kids deserve to be heard.

Please note that standstill performances may not qualify for the California State Band Championships.

Thank you for your participation and support! We look forward to hosting your students, staff, and families for a fantastic tournament!

Darren Loney
Director of Bands
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