

FIELD SHOW ETIQUETE

By Mike Berg

For those who are new to attending field show competitions and as a reminder to all; I felt this was a good time to outline some basic guidelines, common sense and simple etiquette, practiced by more savvy field show attendees.

- Map out your drive and know where you are going before you leave home. Allow extra time for traffic, especially as you get closer to your destination. What...? You thought you were the ONLY one going to the show?
- Bring blankets, stadium seats and jackets. High school stadiums are usually not very comfortable and it will get cold at night.
- Arrive early - seating at field show venues is limited and the best seats go quickly. Those "best seats" are located between the 45 yard markers and as high in the stadium as possible. The same holds true for parking. Remember, high school bands will typically travel in 3-5 busses and have at least 2-3 large support vehicles. If the average show has 15 bands, that's as many as 120 very large vehicles which will get the best parking spaces.
- Standing, moving around and leaving your seats during a performance will definitely raise the ire and eyebrows of field show fans around you. Wait until the performance is over to stretch your legs, head for the restroom or grab a hot dog.
- Keep talking to an absolute minimum during performances (unless cheering for a soloist or particular show attribute). You might not be very interested in the performance on the field, but you may be sitting next to, behind or in front of someone who's child is on the field performing. On that note let me add, "...if you don't have something good to say, don't say anything!"
- Turn cell phones on "SILENT" mode and don't answer it during a performance. You can check to see who called between shows and if you need to call back, leave the stadium seating area. No one wants to listen to your phone conversation while a band is on the field performing.
- Flash photography is a BIG NO, NO!!! Besides, even the best flash unit will not do a darn thing at the distance you will be from the field. Flashes are intended and designed to work at distances between 3-12 feet. If you have a point and shoot digital camera with adjustable ISO settings (check you owner's manual), set the ISO between 400-1000. Your results at most high school football stadiums should be fine. Perhaps a bit grainy, but a flash will not change that.
- Last, but not least... *ENJOY THE SHOWS!!!* Every student taking the field to perform has put in just as much time, effort and dedication as any other, including our own. Recognize that effort at the end of each and every performance by showing your enthusiastic appreciation.