

VENTURING MAGAZINE

Parade of Bands at the Indianapolis 500

July 2015



It was the 99th Running of the Indianapolis 500 Race, May 24, 2015. Scouts and Scouters numbering over 100 traveled from Michigan, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and remote areas of Indiana to participate with us in this huge event. A few spent the night in cabins but most were in tents.



Wake up call was 3:30 A.M. (yes, oh dark thirty!). We loaded our equipment truck, boarded our buses, and were on the road before 5:30 A.M. The sun wasn't even up yet! Most of our eyes weren't focusing yet, either! Thank goodness for bus drivers that were focused on the road. We met Purdue University and the other Parade of Bands participants on the west side of town for a police escort into the Track..



As we lined up and prepared for the parade, we watched the sun rise and the clouds gather. A typical spring day, it was a bit nippy when we left Camp Belzer. And as is also typical of Indiana, we got wet while we were waiting



to step-off for the parade. But unlike other years in the past, we were dry on the track and were able to complete the parade without incident.



We are very excited about the addition of our two youth drum majors accompanying our adult drum major. What a trio!



The rains came and went and 7:45 A.M. finally came — step off time. Out onto the track we went to start our 2½ mile hike. The sun came out, the asphalt warmed up, and so did we. Thank goodness for water bottle carriers. It is a 2½ mile parade with four turns at steep angles. Afterwards, marchers feel like they have been marching on the side of a mountain and one leg is shorter than the other.



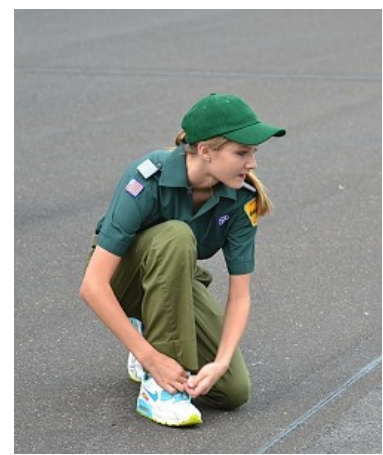
This young man could barely be seen over the banner but he was determined to carry it!



While we are on the subject of small, check out the size of this pocket trumpet!



Compare the small trumpet to this regular size one.



Those shoe laces just will not stay tied.



The stands are still mostly empty because the Race doesn't start for another four hours. This is Pre-Race Entertainment while the fans gather. Building up excitement for the famous statement

"Gentlemen, start your engines." This, too, has been modified to fit the times to ladies and gentlemen.



Our guests comprise the Flag Corps part of the Band and Flag Corps. Nearly 50 American flag carriers made for a "Star Spangled Spectacular."

The sun is up, the parade is over, the equipment has been put away, lunch has been eaten, short naps have been taken, Star Spangled Banner has been sung, the Fly Over has come and gone in a split second. Straight No Chaser, a group of Indiana University students, sang "Back Home Again in Indiana" and the balloons were released. The stands are now full. We hear the famous statement: "Gentlemen start your engines." The roar of the engines begins.



Purdue University has the "World's Largest Drum." Crew 559 has the "World's Largest Scout Drum." There is a "little" bit of difference.

The Scout Band has been invited to march in the Parade of Bands since its inception and it is an honor to accept this invitation each year. Next year will be very special — the 100th consecutive running of the Indianapolis 500 Mile Race. We hope to be invited again next year.



Article provided by: Carol Wiker, Unit Commissioner