



Star Attraction in their new gym at the UM Community Center

& the Middle Atlantic District AAU

wish you the best of luck in search of your twirling happiness and hope you find it in your performances and in the joy of the music and the rewards you earn today!

Caribbeanfest & AAU Super Regional Championships

COMPETITION PROGRAM NOTES



Middle Atlantic AAU Athletes in the Miss America Parade

BE SURE TO READ THIS PROGRAM IN IT ENTIRETY FOR NEW INFORMATION UPDATED FOR EACH COMPETITION AND TO ANSWER MANY OF YOUR QUESTIONS. ALSO, FIND THE MYSTERY 'CARIBBEAN' WORD AND RECEIVE A FREE AAU PRIZE RAFFLE TICKET!

- **Today's Schedule:**
 - Groups and show events
 - AAU Groups & Show Events Awards Ceremony, Joyce Helsel & Vicki & Erica Brennan Awards announced
 - Modeling, Raffles [50/50, Mid-Atlantic District AAU* & for Mystery 'Caribbean' Word buried in this program (tix at trophy room)]
*MAD AAU adult members' names have been entered into this free raffle
 - Marching events
 - Solos
 - Parade of Athletes and AAU solo Awards Ceremony. AAU athletes - meet in the lobby in costume for the Parade of Athletes. Those who are 2016 Junior Olympic medalists will march at the front of the parade followed by the 2016 District and Super Regional gold medalists. Along with last year's Island and Caribbeanfest Cup Champions, they will present the Championship medals to the 2017 champions during the ceremony in the gym.
- **Photography:**
 - **Most Photogenic:** Photos are due at the front desk by 10:30 a.m.
 - **Videotaping and photographing (non-flash only)** is only allowed of your own child/student/group
 - **Contest Photographer:** will be on the floor during today's event
- **No Drop Paddles:** These will be raised by the Judge when a performer executes a no drop routine. All should recognize this athlete by applauding. There is a No Drop Prize at the front desk for these athletes to reward their accomplishment!
- **Teams & Show Events:** Labeled (name of performer and set number) music and a backup should be given to the music person at least two numbers before you are scheduled. It is highly recommended that you have a representative at the music table to stop the music when your routine is finished. An iPod/iPhone speaker will be available.
- **Lanes:** Lane changes are posted on the wall near the front desk. If you are on more than one lane at once, you must tell the judges on the conflicting lanes in advance, or the lane may close before you will have performed.
- **Two-sided signs on the Judges' tables will display the events.** Athletes will not be announced

SPECIAL AWARDS AT TODAY'S COMPETITION

~There is no charge for any of our special awards. We provide these to honor those who are deserving.~

- **AAU All Around Twirling Champions:** Challenger, Novice, Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, Elite, College
- **Reach for the Stars Award:** Judges submit their votes and reasons for selecting a particular athlete at each of our contests. The votes are counted and announced at the Caribbeanfest Awards Ceremony. Past winners are:

<i>Melissa March</i>	2012	<i>Brittany Pniewski</i>	2014	<i>Emily Schultz</i>	2015
<i>Helen Gassmann</i>	2016				

- **Island Cup Solo and Solo/Team Int/Adv/Elite Champions and Caribbean Cup (new this year) Nov/Beg Solo and Solo/Team Champions:** Points are compiled at our competitions each year for the novice/beginner and intermediate/advanced/elite traveling trophies.

Island Cup Solo Award

<i>Jasmine Smith</i>	2007	<i>Jasmine Smith</i>	2008	<i>Lizzie Mannino</i>	2009
<i>Elizabeth Pniewski</i>	2010	<i>Jasmine Smith</i>	2011	<i>Melissa March</i>	2012
<i>Jasmine Smith</i>	2013	<i>Kelsie Fowler</i>	2014	<i>Melissa March</i>	2015
<i>Ava Sulkowski</i>	2016				

Island Cup Solo/Team Award

<i>Annmarie Binsfeld</i>	2012	<i>Annmarie Binsfeld</i>	2013	<i>Kahlia Ficklin</i>	2015
<i>Melissa March</i>	2016				

- **Joyce Helsel Award:** Presented to an adult (or youth) who has shown Joyce's devotion to the sport as a volunteer, mother, mentor and cheerleader for twirling athletes.

<i>Melissa Reppert</i>	2004	<i>Sandi Barron</i>	2005	<i>Kristen McCoy</i>	2006
<i>Louise Gassmann</i>	2007	<i>Pat Metricarti</i>	2008	<i>Maura Bowe Buri</i>	2009
<i>Lisa Bonaquisti</i>	2010	<i>Marsha Traub</i>	2011	<i>Bonnie Burbank</i>	2012
<i>Steve & Sharon Balla</i>	2014	<i>Chris Yerger</i>	2015	<i>Anya Lafferty</i>	2016

- **Vicki & Erika Brennan Award:** Erika was a bubbly and energetic young twirler, who was a shining star when she entered a room. Her mom, Vicki was a twirling volunteer extraordinaire. We celebrate their time with us in the winners who have earned this award:

<i>Emily Beeghley</i>	2009	<i>Janie Seitz</i>	2010	<i>Melissa March</i>	2011
<i>Rappoldt Family</i>	2012	<i>Brittany Pniewski</i>	2014	<i>Krissy Otte</i>	2015
<i>Allie & Charlotte McClain</i>	2016				

- **Jane Fredericks Award:** Judge and teacher Sandy Drobeck has donated this award in honor of her Mom, who was a constant at competitions as *Clerk Extraordinaire!* She ALWAYS made the twirlers in front of her comfortable with her sweet and engaging smile. This traveling award will go to the highest scoring 2-baton twirler. Mrs. Fredericks always told her daughter, "Not every twirler can do more than one baton! The champion one baton twirler cannot always do multiple batons!"

<i>Melissa March</i>	2015	<i>Megan Rosenberger</i>	2016		
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- **Coach of the Year:** Tabulation will count all of the points earned by teams and soloists. Our illustrious winners through the years have been:

<i>Chris Yerger</i>	2002	<i>Darlene Pniewski</i>	2003	<i>Judy Lawrence</i>	2004
<i>Chris Yerger</i>	2005	<i>Alysha Depp</i>	2006	<i>Elaine Russell</i>	2007
<i>Darlene Pniewski</i>	2008	<i>Kristen McCoy</i>	2009	<i>Darlene Pniewski</i>	2010
<i>Darlene Pniewski</i>	2011	<i>Diane George</i>	2012	<i>Darlene Pniewski</i>	2013
<i>Brittany Pniewski</i>	2014	<i>Diane George</i>	2015	<i>Carley Lesinski</i>	2016

AAU NOTES

- **Middle Atlantic District All American Recognition:** Are you a middle or high school high achiever? Info at the concession stand area
- **Rules:** This competition will follow AAU rules. Most NBTA, USTA and DMA routines are allowed under AAU rules, which can be found online at www.aausports.org. Modeling events follow NBTA rules, except that a costume, dress or gown may be worn for Pageant in any division.
- **Competition Age:** This year, the AAU competition age is determined by the athlete's age on December 31, 2017.
- **The Junior Olympic Games / National Championships** flyers are available at the Concession Stand. Don't miss out on the largest national multi-sport event for youth in the United States. Join 20 other sports and 16,000 participants competing for gold July 30 – August 3, at the Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi, Michigan – driving distance from our District.
- **AAU Soloists:** The top 10 baton twirlers qualify for the Junior Olympic Games, but only the top 3 receive awards at Districts and Super Regionals. **All** athletes who qualify for the Junior Olympic Games should stand behind the award sign or on the steps in their announced positions after receiving their medals. Parents are welcome to take photos.

THE AAU COMMUNITY IS ABOUT GIVING & CARING

- **Middle Atlantic District Volunteer of the Year:** Baton Twirling is proud to have one of our own as the winner of this amazing \$1000 award, as Chris Yerger has been passed the baton, so to speak, by 2016 winner, Mark Pniewski. Along with the District Scholarship winners (\$25,000 in awards ranging from \$5000-\$1500 for AAU member athletes). Along with National and Junior Olympic Games gold medalists, she will receive her award at the annual banquet, featuring a former Olympics Gold Medalist as speaker. YOU may nominate a deserving member of our District AAU for the Volunteer and Coach Volunteer Awards. Forms are available at <http://middleatlanticaau.org/>.
- **Twirlers are Giving:** Every year, we dedicate our competitions to a special cause, which has a close twirling tie to us. This year we are raising funds to support Autism Speaks, for a medical condition that touches many lives. After today's competition, we will have reached \$10,000 in giving due to your generosity in donating and selecting used trophies and coconuts medals as your awards at our competitions! *This year we are very thankful to AAU volunteers Chris Yerger and Louise Gassmann, for all of their time and energy in all of the hours given in the AAU spirit of volunteering to help make this competition the best it could be for you.* Thanks also goes out to Star Attraction, Dorothy Trumpler, Darlene & Mark Pniewski, Wendy Wise Borg of the Boyertown H.S. Alumni Twirlers and Villanova Twirlers alumna, Dorothy Trumpler, Sarah Martinelli and Cindy and Jenna Martorana for all of their help behind the scenes.
- **Every move that a parent makes:** Parenting itself is giving, and that is why you are here today with your child. You have many opportunities to teach while here: from your help in volunteering to move tables and chairs to your conversation with your child about the value of choosing a donated trophy or medal for the sake of those less fortunate than your family. The suggestions below offer you the chance to set the example of what you want your child to become. We thank you for that opportunity.
- **Trophy and medal donations** may be left at the trophy table at any of our competitions. They **MUST** be clean, in good condition, well-wrapped and packed lying down in closed boxes. Many trophies we have received have not been delivered that way. Not only have they arrived broken, but **MANY** days have to be spent in cleaning and replacing stained or damaged parts by members of Star Attraction and AAU volunteers. (Thank you for doubling your generosity by taking this extra step.) Deliver a trophy the way you would want to receive it!
- **Twirlers are considerate:** DO purchase your food from our concession stand. Support for our baton twirling booster club shows how you appreciate all they do to make this a wonderful event for you. **NO FOOD OR DRINK IS ALLOWED FROM THE OUTSIDE or in the gym.** Please be especially tidy when using this facility (including the locker room and ladies room). We are lucky to have a great staff of custodians and want them to know how wonderful baton twirlers are too!
- **Safety first: Do not pass in front of the competitors.** AAU rules state that only coaches should be on the floor with their athletes. (Think Olympic Games!) Remain behind the sidelines and end lines unless performing. Do not walk on the competition floor. This is very distracting to the athletes and could cause drops, fumbles or injury. Stay around the perimeter, as you would for other sporting events. Parents may not approach the judges.
- **Twirlers are patient: Allow judges to the front of all lines**, which will inevitably help to make the contest go faster. Please be patient when picking up awards and scoresheets. Wait in line. **DO NOT wait until the end of the day to pick up your awards**, as this causes a terrible traffic jam at a time when all are in a hurry to go home. Find your score sheet at the score sheet table. If it is marked that you have won an award, bring the score sheet to the awards table.
- **AAU is proud of you:** 'Like' the Middle Atlantic District AAU Facebook page and fill it with your successes!



**All Middle Atlantic and Guest AAU Twirlers are wished the very best as you prepare for the Junior Olympic Games.
We are confident that you will represent us well!**