

What Exactly Is A Band Scramble?

A Band Scramble is like a “mixer” at a dance – it’s where you get to know some of the other participants in the festival and learn to play music with them.

In a nutshell, it’s ad hoc performing groups. The groups meet and organize themselves, pick a name, tune, practice, and then perform their tunes the next day for Festival attendees. All levels of players will be participate—from beginner through advanced and you may play any instrument.

It’s not a contest. It’s a great opportunity to make friends, play music with different people, and to stretch your skills. It’s likely the time when you will laugh the most of the whole weekend.

How it Works

On your name-tag which you get in your registration packet there is a number – this is your band scramble group number, as well as the number of the room where you’ll practice with your group.

On Friday from 1230-130, just after lunch, you’ll go to your rooms and get to know each other musically—your instruments, etc.—and select a tune you all know. Beginners will get easier parts, more advanced players will have more difficult parts—there will be a place for everyone.

Take advantage of whatever people in the group have to offer: singers, different instruments, knowledge of a tune, how to play backup, etc. Try to find something different for each person to do. Stretch yourselves to do something you’ve never done before, give it your all!

- 1- Everyone will be assigned a Band Scramble Group.
- 2- Each group will perform two (2) songs On-Stage on Sat.
- 3- Each group will select a catchy NAME for their Band Scramble group (the name will be announced at the On-Stage performance)
- 4- Each group is urged to use all types of acoustical Instruments... dulcimer, guitar, banjo, fiddle, psaltery, hammered dulcimer, Ukulele, rhythm, penny whistles etc. The only non acoustical instrument that will be allowed will be a bass guitar or bass dulcimer.
- 5- Singers, Dancers, are also welcomed to enhance the group performance.
- 6- A group can dress alike or wear hats, or anything that might add to their performance.
- 7- LAUGHING & having FUN is required!

No advance preparation is necessary. If you have a list of songs you know, it might be useful. Bring your dulcimer and any other instrument(s) you play, and your sense of adventure. Be ready to play music with people you may have only had a chance to chat with at dinner at previous Festivals.

And did we mention, laugh!

On Saturday morning from 10:30 – 11:50, you will go back to your respective band scramble rooms and do your last run-through of your tune.

Band Scramble On-Stage performances of all four groups will be in the Auditorium from 1:15 – 2:45 after Saturday lunch. (The Dulcimer Orchestra will also perform during this time frame).

Beth Johnson is the coordinator of the band scramble. For more information, email Beth: bethjohnem@msn.com