Pacific Northwest drum corps population by state

by Carl Latchaw, Drum Corps World (latchman44@yahoo.com) © Pacific Northwest Drum Corps.com 2024 and Pacific Northwest Drum Corps.com -- specializing in PNW drum corps of the 1960s and 1970s

Number

of Corps

62

37

12

34

25

Us Washingtonians have always prided ourselves that our state has produced many drum corps through the decades. Per our site data, between 1899 and 2023, the current count is 158 drum corps in Washington, 78 in Oregon, 22 in Western Canada and 18 in Montana. Any guy will tell you that more is better, but is it really?



Oregon produced some fine junior drum corps -- the Royal Lancers (Portland), Hawks (Portland) and the Flamingos/Argonauts (Salem). In the senior division, we mustn't forget the Capital Post #9 American Legion corps from Salem that came in second place at the 1928 Legion Nationals in San Antonio, TX, and won the American Legion National title in 1932

Corps Per Capita

(Corps/Pop)

0.00003760

0.00001799

0.00001453

0.00001086

0.00000638

Oregon State

Population in Mill

1.021

1.305

1.644

1.929

2.362

when it was held in Portland, OR. All of that being

said, Washington State had more corps

State had more corps than Oregon did. From 1930 through 1979, Washington had 129 vs. Oregon's 69. The generally-accepted explanation for this was that since Washington had a larger population, they had more people involved in drum corps. Is this true? Let's find out.



1932 American Legion National Champion AL Capital Post #9 from Salem Oregon Charles Whittemore - Capital Post DH, Winner - Best Drum Major Award

If you look at the provided chart, you can see that we selected five decades to analyze. In three out of five decades, Oregon had more drum corps per capita (per person) than Washington. This is a little surprising given the total number of corps per state. [State population was derived from the U.S. census, which is taken every decade in years ending in zero. We have calculated the average population mid-decade for our analysis]. Our supposition was that a larger

Washington State

Population in Mill

1.649

2.057

2.515

3.131

3.920

Decade

1930's

1940's

1950's

1960's

1970's

population gave rise to more drum corps which is accurate in this case, but truth be



Number

of Corps

35

30

26

21

15

Corps Per Capita

(Corps/Pop)

0.00003428

0.00002299

0.00001582

0.00001089

0.00000535

told, Oregon had more drum corps relative to their population size than Washington did. Oregon's numbers are surprising.

The data is too close in the 1960s and 1970', so we'll call it a "push," as the numbers could have gone either way with deeper digging on our part. Washington had more raw numbers of people involved in drum corps, but Oregon takes the cake

as far as drum corps per person.

Sometimes things aren't necessarily what they seem at first glance. Every now and again life throws us a curve ball. As long as we don't get hit in the noggin with it, we'll live to enjoy another day.



Hearty congratulations to our drum and bugle corps brothers and sisters south of the Columbia! We Washingtonians salute you. Long live drum corps! -- ©Pacific Northwest Drum Corps.com 2024 ■



1968 Cascade Cadets (Seattle Cascades) Color Guard

The 1959 CVO Squires. Renamed in 1963 as the "Seattle Shemrecks". The young gentleman on the right-front is the future dram major of the Seattle Thanderbelets Jerry Leann





1974 Flamingos - Salem Oregon



1976 Seattle Cascades American Legion National Champion Color Guard



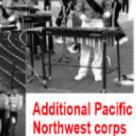


















(Top to bottom) Thunder, Spokane, WA, 2007 (Harry Heidelmark); Black Watch Highlanders, Federal Way, WA, 1975 (Jane Boulen); Marksmen, Seattle, WA, 1975 (Jane Boulen) Grenadiers, Bremerton, WA (unknown); Renaissance, Spokane, WA, 1977 (unknown);

Oregon Crusaders. Portland, OR, 2007 (Raymond Fudge): Imperials, Seattle, WA, 1980 (Onin Wagner); Mauraders, Vancouver, WA, 1985 ((Donald Mathis); Titans, Bremerton, WA, 1976 (unknown); Columbians, Pasto, WA, 2013 (Karen Sunmark)