

# The drum corps of Tacoma, Washington

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and Pacific Northwest Drum Corps.com, specializing in PNW drum corps of the 1960s and 1970s

*[Publisher's note: Carl's research of the Pacific Northwest drum and bugle corps scene is extensive and his contributions to Drum Corps World are appreciated. The feature a corner of the United States that once had dozens of corps. Pictured here are a variety of Tacoma organizations as well as a tribute to Dan Anderson.]*



Tacoma is located 34-miles directly south of Seattle and is the largest city between Seattle and Portland OR. Like Seattle, it too was built on the timber industry.

Tacoma was incorporated on November 12, 1875, following its selection in 1873 as the western terminus of the Northern Pacific Railroad. It has been the home to many drum corps, six of which we will cover today.

The Spanish-American War Veterans (SWV) John R. Thompson Camp #1 of Tacoma was the first camp

formed in Washington State on March 2, 1900. By 1909 the Washington State Association had added another 13 camps with approximately 1,500 Spanish War veterans. The SWV were an organization similar to the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the GAR (civil war



1921 Afifi Temple Drum & Bugle Corps, Tacoma WA

## ELKS!

Tacoma Lodge No. 271 needs you and every brother Elk in the city for the Washington's Birthday Parade, February 22.

Our order is a patriotic order and it is the duty of every true and loyal Elk to do his bit in commemorating the birthday of the Father of our country.

WE WANT A THOUSAND MEN IN LINE

The Elks Band of 50 Pieces and the Bugle Corps Will Lead the Column

Children Dinner From 5:00 to 7:00 in the Auditorium

Special Patriotic Program in Lodge Room Beginning at 8 o'clock

YOUR LODGE NEEDS YOU—BE A GOOD ELK

February 1922

veterans).

In 1917 the Thompson camp organized a drum and fife corps comprised of Sons of Spanish War veterans aged 12 to 14 years old. They performed locally for a decade. In 1933 the camp formed

a Daughters of the Spanish-American War Veterans drum and bugle corps. They went to Los Angeles for the national convention that year and were crowned Spanish-American War Veterans National Junior Champions. Pretty good for their first year out of the box. They continued entertaining and competing around the PNW for another seven years.

Moose Heart Legion of the World, AKA, "Moose" was another fraternal organization. The Tacoma Moose Legion D&BC were well-known in the 1920s and 1930s. Between 1924 and 1931 they were undefeated in the



1928 Tacoma Elks D&BC  
Washington State Champions



1931 Tacoma Moose DC



1934 Edward B. Rhodes AL Post #2, Tacoma WA

September 1936



Wild West VFW Post #91, Tacoma WA  
All-Girl DC top  
All-Boy DC bottom



July 1938  
Daughters of Spanish-American War Veterans D&BC

August 1950



Parade Rest !!  
Edward B. Rhodes  
AL Post #2  
Tacoma, WA



1941  
Phyllis Scott  
Disabled American Ve  
Majorette  
Tacoma WA

Pacific Northwest and they won the Moose National Drum Corps Championships in 1924, 1925 and 1927, 1928. In 1926 they came in second at nationals. That's a fine record for any drum corps!

Tacoma Elks Lodge #174 had a drum corps from 1915 through 1929. They were Washington State champions in 1927 and 1928 wearing white uniforms

similar to tuxedos with purple straw hats and were one of the best -dressed corps at the state convention in 1928.

Edward B. Rhodes American Legion Post #2 had a drum and bugle corps from 1927 through the early 1950s. They also had a ladies (AUX) drum corps and a SAL (Sons of the American Legion) corps. Legion posts across the nation formed a huge number of drum corps and this post certainly created their share.

Wild West VFW Post #91 had a senior corps from 1928 through 1949, winning the Washington State VFW

Championships in 1933 and both an all-girl/junior corps and an all-boy junior corps in 1936 through 1938.

There were other Tacoma drum corps like the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Tacoma Chapter #1 corps (1936 through 1942), the Afifi



1939

Daughters of  
Spanish-American  
War Veterans



senior(1921) and the Tacoma Eagles drum corps (1934 through 1961). As usual, there were more drum corps out there than we can document. It seems like every fraternal organization had one. The pinnacle of PNW drum corps was in 1939 with 58 individual corps identified existing in that year alone (see graph).

And lastly, we would like to acknowledge Dan Anderson's (a local legend) last gift to the Pacific

1939 Peak  
of SB Corps

# Pacific Northwest Drum Corps Population 1899 through 2022



Northwest drum corps scene by creating the Pierce Rivermen junior drum and bugle corps from Tacoma, with us from 1983 through 1985.

Tacoma, the third most populous city in Washington State behind Seattle and Spokane, has nurtured drum corps continuously from 1915 through 1961, then it saw a rebirth of the activity in 1983 thanks to Dan Anderson and his Rivermen.

Dan marched with the Tri-City Columbians and then the Seattle Shamrocks in the 1960s and formed the Auburn, WA, Black Watch (below) Highlanders in 1971 at the age of 22; an amazing feat at any age. Unfortunately, Dan left us in 1985 at the age of 36. He will always be remembered with a smile.

Rest in peace Dan.

Long live drum corps! -- ©Pacific Northwest Drum Corps.com 2025. n

## Pacific Northwest National Champion Drum Corps

© Pacific Northwest Drum Corps.com. Some members used drum corps websites.

1952	Great Falls City	Great Falls, MT	1952	Northwest Drum Corps (Discontinued in 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960)
1953	Missoula Drum Corps of the World	Missoula, MT	1953	Northwest Drum Corps of the World (Discontinued in 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960)
1954	Capital Drum Corps of the World	Seattle, WA	1954	Northwest Drum Corps of the World (Discontinued in 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960)
1955	Daughters of the American Revolution	Seattle, WA	1955	Northwest Drum Corps of the World (Discontinued in 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960)
1956	Daughters of the American Revolution	Seattle, WA	1956	Northwest Drum Corps of the World (Discontinued in 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960)
1957	Daughters of the American Revolution	Seattle, WA	1957	Northwest Drum Corps of the World (Discontinued in 1958, 1959, 1960)
1958	Daughters of the American Revolution	Seattle, WA	1958	Northwest Drum Corps of the World (Discontinued in 1959, 1960)
1959	Daughters of the American Revolution	Seattle, WA	1959	Northwest Drum Corps of the World (Discontinued in 1960)
1960	Daughters of the American Revolution	Seattle, WA	1960	Northwest Drum Corps of the World (Discontinued in 1961)
1961	Daughters of the American Revolution	Seattle, WA	1961	Northwest Drum Corps of the World (Discontinued in 1962)
1962	Daughters of the American Revolution	Seattle, WA	1962	Northwest Drum Corps of the World (Discontinued in 1963)
1963	Daughters of the American Revolution	Seattle, WA	1963	Northwest Drum Corps of the World (Discontinued in 1964)
1964	Daughters of the American Revolution	Seattle, WA	1964	Northwest Drum Corps of the World (Discontinued in 1965)
1965	Daughters of the American Revolution	Seattle, WA	1965	Northwest Drum Corps of the World (Discontinued in 1966)
1966	Daughters of the American Revolution	Seattle, WA	1966	Northwest Drum Corps of the World (Discontinued in 1967)
1967	Daughters of the American Revolution	Seattle, WA	1967	Northwest Drum Corps of the World (Discontinued in 1968)
1968	Daughters of the American Revolution	Seattle, WA	1968	Northwest Drum Corps of the World (Discontinued in 1969)
1969	Daughters of the American Revolution	Seattle, WA	1969	Northwest Drum Corps of the World (Discontinued in 1970)
1970	Daughters of the American Revolution	Seattle, WA	1970	Northwest Drum Corps of the World (Discontinued in 1971)
1971	Daughters of the American Revolution	Seattle, WA	1971	Northwest Drum Corps of the World (Discontinued in 1972)
1972	Daughters of the American Revolution	Seattle, WA	1972	Northwest Drum Corps of the World (Discontinued in 1973)
1973	Daughters of the American Revolution	Seattle, WA	1973	Northwest Drum Corps of the World (Discontinued in 1974)
1974	Daughters of the American Revolution	Seattle, WA	1974	Northwest Drum Corps of the World (Discontinued in 1975)
1975	Daughters of the American Revolution	Seattle, WA	1975	Northwest Drum Corps of the World (Discontinued in 1976)
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1981	Daughters of the American Revolution	Seattle, WA	1981	Northwest Drum Corps of the World (Discontinued in 1982)
1982	Daughters of the American Revolution	Seattle, WA	1982	Northwest Drum Corps of the World (Discontinued in 1983)
1983	Daughters of the American Revolution	Seattle, WA	1983	Northwest Drum Corps of the World (Discontinued in 1984)
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2010	Daughters of the American Revolution	Seattle, WA	2010	Northwest Drum Corps of the World (Discontinued in 2011)
2011	Daughters of the American Revolution	Seattle, WA	2011	Northwest Drum Corps of the World (Discontinued in 2012)
2012	Daughters of the American Revolution	Seattle, WA	2012	Northwest Drum Corps of the World (Discontinued in 2013)
2013	Daughters of the American Revolution	Seattle, WA	2013	Northwest Drum Corps of the World (Discontinued in 2014)
2014	Daughters of the American Revolution	Seattle, WA	2014	Northwest Drum Corps of the World (Discontinued in 2015)
2015	Daughters of the American Revolution	Seattle, WA	2015	Northwest Drum Corps of the World (Discontinued in 2016)
2016	Daughters of the American Revolution	Seattle, WA	2016	Northwest Drum Corps of the World (Discontinued in 2017)
2017	Daughters of the American Revolution	Seattle, WA	2017	Northwest Drum Corps of the World (Discontinued in 2018)
2018	Daughters of the American Revolution	Seattle, WA	2018	Northwest Drum Corps of the World (Discontinued in 2019)
2019	Daughters of the American Revolution	Seattle, WA	2019	Northwest Drum Corps of the World (Discontinued in 2020)
2020	Daughters of the American Revolution	Seattle, WA	2020	Northwest Drum Corps of the World (Discontinued in 2021)
2021	Daughters of the American Revolution	Seattle, WA	2021	Northwest Drum Corps of the World (Discontinued in 2022)
2022	Daughters of the American Revolution	Seattle, WA	2022	Northwest Drum Corps of the World (Discontinued in 2023)

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