



Contact:
Nick Kleva
574.400.4021
nkleva@visitsouthbend.com

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AMERICA'S YOUTH ON PARADE RETURNS TO NOTRE DAME

South Bend, Ind. — Visit South Bend Mishawaka (VSBM) is excited to welcome America's Youth on Parade (AYOP), the national baton twirling championships, back to the community this week for its annual event.

AYOP will draw approximately 3,000 participants from the youth to college level and 8,000 total attendees from around the country. Competitions begin today on the University of Notre Dame's campus and go through Thursday.

"It's always great to have the visitors associated with AYOP back in South Bend for another year," said VSBM Director of Sports Development Nick Kleva. "We know the competitors look forward to their time in our community and we are thrilled to host."

This year's event will take place in the North Dome of Purcell Pavilion. For a complete schedule, visit <http://www.batontwirling.com/AYOP/Schedule.htm>.

AYOP is traditionally a significant driver of activity for local hotels and restaurants. The 2022 competition generated an estimated \$1.3 million in economic impact.

VSBM promotes tourism and develops the visitor experience in St. Joseph County as the lead destination organization.

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