

# A Committed Performer

In one sense, Mesa Ridge senior Jericho Cabrera is a world class performer. He engages his audience with high energy and performs jaw-dropping skills with his flag. In another, more literal, sense, Jericho is *actually* a world-class performer as a member of the color guard with The Cadets Drum and Bugle Corps. The Cadets compete on the top-level World Class circuit of Drum Corps International, which is commonly known as “marching band’s major league.”

As a member of the color guard, Jericho spun, tossed, and caught flags on the field alongside the world’s foremost marching band performers and musicians this last summer. He performed for thousands of spectators in over 50 performances across 23 states between the months of June and August, culminating in the championships at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis on August 13, 2022.

Surprisingly, Jericho didn’t have much experience performing with a marching band prior to his audition for The Cadets. Living in Hawaii, he did color guard with his high school’s marching band as a freshman, but the season was canceled his sophomore year due to COVID. He moved to Colorado with his family in the fall of his junior year but arrived too late to join the award-winning Pride of Mesa Ridge marching band. However, Jericho excelled with the state champion Mesa Ridge winter guard and confidently applied to join The Cadets. He is currently a member of the color guard with Mesa Ridge’s marching band.

Jericho credits the tremendous band and color guard staff at Mesa Ridge for helping him along his journey.

*“The staff here is very caring. They push us to our limits but I know they want the best for us. They want to see how far we can go.”*

Much credit should go to Jericho himself, too, considering how his relatively little color guard experience didn’t hold him back from making it into such a prestigious group as The Cadets. Much of his skill is self-taught from color guard videos he found online. He also regularly records himself doing flag routines and jots down his observations in a notebook, noting what he’s done well and also how he can improve.

Jericho’s future includes more color guard as he plans to audition for multiple drum corps groups for the 2023 competitive season. He also hopes to defend the championship trophy for the Mesa Ridge winter guard this upcoming season. As both a talented world class performer and as a kind, humble student, Jericho Cabrera hopes to translate his Grizzly Greatness into many more banner years of color guard to come!

