

For Current and Prospective Company members

Goal: *To explore Dance as a form of Worship while Equipping members to become Ambassadors for Christ in all areas of our Community and beyond through the art of Dance.*

Please consider.... SDS Dance Company members need to exhibit TWO THINGS:

1. A proficient level of dance technique and performance (determined by Ms Stacey and your audition scores)

And...**MORE IMPORTANTLY**

2. A true desire to use this dance ability to **SERVE AND WORSHIP!**

This means your goals as a Company Member are NOT to have fun, make friends, feel prestigious or receive applause for your hard work (PROVERBS 16:18)

It means you always strive to exhibit a Christ-like attitude with your fellow Company members! (MATTHEW 22:39)

It means you work as part of a team, and set aside personal ambitions, jealousy and complaints, and going even further, place the needs, goals and ambitions of your fellow members above your own (JAMES 3:16)

It means you strive to make your dance skills the BEST that they can be so that you are pleasing in the eyes of Christ alone – this involves giving 100% effort, 100% of the time! (ECCLESIASTES 9:10, COLOSSIANS 3:23, 1 CORINTHIANS 10:31)

It means that Dance Company is your FIRST extra-curricular priority, other “activities” are secondary (GENESIS 4:4, EXOCUS 23:16)

It means you are willing to explore dance as a form of worship, not just as a means of “performing” for others. This way you will be able to “lead others into worship” as well as share the love of Christ through your dance. (PSALM 149:3, 150:4)

IF THIS IS SOMETHING YOU WANT TO CONTINUE OR EXPLORE, PLEASE READ THE “COMPANY POLICIES” INFORMATION CAREFULLY!

“EXPECTATIONS”

As an SDS Dance Company member you can EXPECT:

Long strenuous practices....Sacrificing some weekend activities...Rising early on Saturday morning...Some extra monetary expenses...

HOWEVER..You can ALSO EXPECT:

A great improvement in your dance skills/flexibility/discipline....Awesome “performance” opportunities...To grow in your understanding of Worship...To use your Dance as a worship tool, privately and in public.....Satisfaction in hard work and reaching your goals....Service in our community (sometimes not just with dance)....Developing true friendships based on Matt 22:39.....Support and accountability...Growth in Spiritual maturity that WILL impact those around you....Field trips, parties, Company outings....

And ...TO USE YOUR SKILLS IN THE WAY GOD INTENDED!

“DETAILS”

**COMPANY AUDITIONS:
AUGUST 23 – 27, 2018**

Auditions are by invitation. However, interested students AND parents need to READ this packet and then sign and RETURN the **AUDITION REQUEST FORM** ASAP -

NO LATER THAN THURSDAY, AUG 9th

Students who we feel are ready to audition will receive an
AUDITION INVITATION via email

(audition requests may also be signed, scanned and emailed to Ms Stacey at dumdeis@bellsouth.net)

Details of audition requirements and practices are in the invitation.

PRE-REQUISITES:

(NOTE: all decisions involving Dance Company readiness, placement and involvement are subject to the professional experience and discretion of Ms Stacey, age requirements and experience level are guidelines)

- 1. Summer Dance Company:** required for new and returning students who plan to audition.
- 2. Dance Experience:** Junior Company: Ages 10 – 13: 3 years dance experience
Junior Varsity (JV) Company: Ages 14 and up: 3-4 years dance experience
Senior Company: High School: 5 years dance experience, advanced level dancers
- 3. ALL STUDENTS must be versatile in Ballet, Tap & Jazz**

COMPANY REQUIREMENTS:

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- 1. DANCE SEASON:** Students are committed to the entire Dance Season which runs from September – mid- June’s Recital. Students and parents will be asked to sign a commitment contract for each season.
- 2. WEEKLY DANCE CLASSES:** Students are required to take BALLET, TAP, JAZZ and BALLET TECHNIQUE classes each week to participate in Company. HIP HOP & MOD/CONT are highly recommended, as we use those dance forms in Company numbers. Students who do not take hip hop or mod/cont are not guaranteed to be in those particular company dances.
*Your weekday classes will most likely require two days during the week.
* Monthly fees are based on regular studio dance fees for the classes you are taking.
- 3. COMPANY CLASS:** Dance Company Class is on **SATURDAY**. The time frame that needs to be kept available is on a regular basis **8 am – 2:30 pm**. The plan for this year is to try to stick to the basic schedule below, unless impending performances require extra time. Our extended practices are scheduled well in advance for students to have plenty of notice.

Plan for this year is to keep the same weekly schedule below

Seniors: 8am – 12:30 pm, JV/Juniors: 10:30am – 2:30 pm

PLEASE NOTE the following info on rehearsals:

- A. Switching JV/JR and SR practice times occasionally may occur with advanced notice.
 - B. Extended practices tend to be needed in December, March and May, plenty of notice will be given
 - C. We may have occasional Sunday afternoon practices (that will NOT interfere with church times) IF NEEDED. This is usually due to a Saturday performance that interferes with regular class time or excessive Saturday absences from students.
- **D. The month of MAY through recital in June are VERY IMPORTANT practices.**
There will be extra practices on the weekends before recital:
*May 17-21
*May 24-26
*As well as the entire week BEFORE recital: May 27-June 2.

Students who want to participate in the Company’s annual Production for recital must be available for rehearsals during these dates...please do not schedule vacations or doctor’s appointments during this time.

COMPANY CLASS FEE is \$45 per month (in addition to regular weekday dance class fees)

CLASS includes: Performance pieces (individual and combined JR/JV and SR company dances)

Stretch/Worship (prayer, Bible study, worshipping with dance as well as time for discussion and communication between student and spiritual instruction)

Technique (conditioning and technique, when time allows)

****Extra practice time is voluntary on the part of the Company teachers, we DO NOT charge for the extra time, but do expect members to be able to be committed and flexible.**

4. **ANNUAL TRIPS** for continuing Spiritual, Physical and Educational Growth: 4

Dance Revolution Convention – November 16-18, Orlando

Required for ALL Company members/alternates/trainees, open to anyone! Parents highly encouraged to attend. New company members will participate in everything but Showcase.

Project Dance Orlando Dance Outreach – April or May 2018 – dates TBA

Required for ALL SENIOR Company members

Summer Mission Trip # 7 (if God calls?)

Voluntary

FINANCIAL MATTERS:

1. Monthly Company fee (\$45) and Regular lesson fees (due first of the month)
- *2. Company Dance Supplies (leotards, dance bag, jazz pants, make- up, etc)
- *3. Company Jacket/pants/shirt (\$125 ish)
4. Company Costumes: Due 2x a year, estimated \$200 for the year.
*We will make and borrow as much as possible...the more parental help
I can get in sewing and making costumes, the less money required!!*
****PLEASE SEE NEW BORROWED COSTUME POLICY INFO****

Christmas costume money will be due in DEC.

Spring costume money will be due in MAY

(Spring costumes will include spring AND recital performance costumes for COMPANY dances ONLY).

THESE costume costs are SEPARATE from your recital costumes for your weekday classes

(Please refer to the studio RECITAL COSTUMES COSTS policy for that information and payment schedule).

*#5. Dance Revolution (all Company members): \$350

#6. Project Dance (Senior Company): \$335 (ish)

* *First year costs, usually these items last for several years! After the first year, fundraising opportunities are available to help with Dance Revolution.*

Fundraising for annual Company trips can continue, IF parents are available to coordinate these fundraisers.

ATTENDANCE:

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SATURDAY COMPANY TIME MUST BE A PRIORITY!

You cannot expect to participate in other extra- curricular activities that interfere with Company time.

*Because missing Company classes slows down our ability to learn and perfect performance pieces, the attendance policies will be **strictly enforced**. Remember that securing a spot on our Company is a privilege, and therefore, should be treated as such in regard to attendance. Students can be replaced in dances, performances and/or their place on the Company if they are unable to meet their responsibilities.

ATTENDANCE POLICIES:

SATURDAY COMPANY CLASS

1. No more than **2 UNEXCUSED** or **4 TOTAL** absences for the year are allowed. Students who exceed these absences could lose their spot as a Company member
2. All absences require a WRITTEN (not emailed) note to Ms Stacey as far in advance as possible, including partial absences. Please call the same day if there is an unexpected illness or circumstance.
3. Any student who “*does not show up*” for class without informing the teacher ahead of time, may be suspended from future performances

PERFORMANCE/TRIP ATTENDANCE:

SICKNESS OR INJURY is the only excuse for missing a performance or annual Company trip.

Performance and trip dates are given out in advance and should be put on your family calendar.

These dates include:

2-3 Fall performances

Dance Revolution in November

Christmas performances

5-6 spring performances (Feb- May)

Project Dance (April or May)

SDS Showcase/Spirit Rally (May) and Recital (June)

Any “extra” dates that arise AFTER the Fall and Spring performance schedules are given out will be considered for those who are available, but not required.

Performances are usually on weekends, as well as *Sunday morning/evening* church services in our community. Since we are a dance MINISTRY, much of our ministry will involve local churches whose services will be on Sunday mornings/ evenings and/or possible *Wednesday* evenings. You will need be available for these types of performances to be involved in this dance ministry.

Alternate/ Trainee Positions:

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Dance Company Alternate and/or Trainee positions are sometimes available in certain circumstances. Please read the requirements for each carefully. If you are interested in auditioning as an Alternate or a Trainee, you need to speak to Ms Stacey about whether these positions are needed and/or available for this year.

COMPANY ALTERNATE:

Alternate Positions are designed to create a “back-up” situation for regular Company members due to illness, injury or extenuating circumstances. The function of the alternate is to be able to fill in for a current Company member in an unexpected situation. As such, alternates must have the same dance skills as current company members, as well as have learned the choreography and must be available to participate in all performances if called upon.

The Alternate position may be appealing to those who would like to continue with their technique and worship training, but cannot commit to regular SATURDAY company class attendance, usually due to other outside commitments. ALTERNATES will fill in for company members when needed, or fill spots in dances they have previously held in past seasons. They will not usually be cast in the new Seasons pieces, however, they will need to learn the new pieces to be able to fulfill the alternate role if necessary.

Alternates are expected to attend regular Company class as much as their schedule allows, but will not be subject to the attendance policy restrictions for Saturday Company class. ALTERNATES must be available for performances and company trips.

ALTERNATES must have an overall audition score of 85% (alternates who are past company members may be exempt from this rule in certain circumstances)

ALL COMPANY POLICIES, requirements, fees, pre-requisites, etc are the same as for regular company members, with the exception of more flexibility in the attendance policy and less performance opportunities.

COMPANY TRAINEE:

TRAINEE positions may also be available for those who are not yet ready for the performance level.

TRAINEES will participate in regular company classes, learn the choreography, but will not perform throughout the majority of their first year. Evaluations will be made in the spring to see if TRAINEES can be used in the recital performance at the end of the year.

TRAINEES will still need to participate in Company AUDITIONS and score 70% to be asked into the training program. All COMPANY POLICIES, attendance rules, monthly fees, etc WILL apply to trainees.

TRAINEES will also need to attend DANCE REVOLUTION and COMPANY PERFORMANCES.

TRAINEES will NOT occur any costume fees, with the exception of the recital costume if they are ready to participate, supply fees will be more limited.

After a year of training, students will be re- evaluated for consideration in next year’s Company.

COSTUME POLICY:

Although there are costume costs for company twice a year, those prices take into consideration that 75 percent of the costumes a student uses are borrowed from the studio or from other students. That is how we can keep the costs down to \$200 a year for 8-10 costumes as opposed to \$80 per costume if we have to purchase them. However, the logistics of getting costumes returned - cleaned and on time – has been very inefficient and time-consuming. Therefore, as we move forward to making our costume closet more organized, we will also be instigating a new policy that will involve strict return timelines as well as fees for returning costumes late, uncleaned or damaged.

COMMUNICATION POLICY:

Communication about company practices, performances, events etc are sent out once a week by EMAIL. Students and parents are responsible for checking their emails from Ms Stacey each week to find out what is going on for the Dance Company. RESPONDING to these emails (when it is required) is ESSENTIAL for the Company to continue to be effective and run smoothly. In addition, TIMELY communication about excused ABSENCES for practices (only 4 allowed!!) will also be addressed in the communication policy.

*****Please look for the Borrowed Costume and Communication/Absence Policy Contract with your Dance Company Acceptance Contract after auditions***

STUDENT/PARENT ORIENTATION MEETING:

All students who are offered a position in the dance company must attend the student/parent orientation meeting. Students and least one parent need to be present at the meeting – parents and students will sign the Company contract, including the Communication policy and Borrowed Costume policy at that time.

If both students and parents are unable to attend the meeting – please contact me asap to set up an individual time to meet with me.

*****STUDENTS may not attend company class without attending an orientation with a parent.***

**DANCE COMPANY STUDENT/PARENT
ORIENTATION MEETING:
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 – 3:30 PM**

