

2012 HELLENIC DANCE MINISTRY OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION

We would like to welcome all of you to a new year of Greek Folk Dancing! We are pleased to have you and your child in this year's dance program and look forward to an exciting year. Below we have included the 2012 Hellenic Dance Ministry Rules & Regulations. We hope that the policies outlined below will help all of you to understand the dance ministry and meet the expectations of this year's program.

A 2012 DANCE PROGRAM

The Greek dance program of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church of Raleigh, North Carolina is an integral part of the ministry of our church. Greek folk dance is part of the Hellenic Culture & Dance Ministry of our metropolis. The primary purposes of this ministry are:

- To bring youth / adults together in Orthodox Christian fellowship
- To help our youth develop strong moral, ethical and leadership standards
- And to develop, promote and preserve our Greek heritage and culture

Each ministry of the church is guided by a set of rules and standards that are intended to help us all live and grow in a standard befitting the life of an Orthodox Christian.

2012 RULES & REGULATIONS

The goal of the Hellenic Dance Ministry is to establish a safe, organized and positive environment in which the Instructors can teach and the Dancers can learn. No disciplinary rules of this dance program are intended to supersede or replace the parenting responsibilities of a Dancer's Parent. All Parents are expected to be fully aware of their child(ren)'s behavior at all practices, performances and events and to take necessary disciplinary measures to ensure that their child(ren) comply with all rules and expectations of the dance program.

DANCE PROGRAM CODE OF CONDUCT

All Dancers are required to be active members of the church, respectful and responsible.

B Church

All Dancers, Instructors and Directors are expected to attend church regularly if they wish to participate in the dance program. Regular attendance means being in church each Sunday, whether it is in the Divine Liturgy or in Sunday School (*at the discretion of the Parish Priest*). We understand that there are times when someone cannot attend due to illness or other issues, but these must be the exception and not the rule. Attending church each Sunday demonstrates that each of our Dancers, Instructors and Directors understand and exemplify our purpose as a ministry of the church.

A Dancer's family must be a pledged steward of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Raleigh, North Carolina. Any exception to this condition will require discussion with and clearance from the Parish Priest.

C Respectful

All Dancers, Instructors, Directors and Parents are expected to be respectful of each other, the clergy and the church at all times. This includes:

- No bullying, name-calling, swearing or other disrespectful comments / actions.
- No vandalism / destruction of church property; any mess made during practice should be cleaned up before practice is dismissed.
- No cell phone use by a Dancer or Instructor will be allowed during practice until the Instructor has dismissed practice for the day. *Please note: If this rule is broken, the Instructor has the right to remove the cell phone from the Dancer's possession until practice has been dismissed (unless emergency or otherwise discussed prior to practice). The Instructor will not be responsible for any confiscated cell phones.*
- Parents will be asked to refrain from entering practice room / area until the Instructor has dismissed practice for the day (*unless emergency or otherwise discussed prior to practice*). *Please note: Adhering to the Metropolis "rule of 3", every practice will include 2 adults (preferably Instructors). In the event that there is only one Instructor, a Parent will be asked to serve as the 2nd adult until practice has been dismissed.*

D Responsible

All Dancers, Instructors, Directors and Parents are expected to arrive on time, dressed appropriately for all practices, performances, fundraisers and other events. In the absence of an emergency or illness, all Dancers / Parents are expected to advise the Instructor(s) of a planned absence no later than 48 hours prior to the practice, performance, fundraiser or other event.

All Dancers and Instructors are required to perform at this year's Greek Festival and International Festival. This is defined as follows:

- Greek Festival (Sept 14, 15, 16) – 80% of scheduled performances
- International Festival (Sept 28, 29, 30) – at least 1 performance

All Dancers will be required to attend at least 75% of all practices. There are a total of 20 practices; therefore, a dancer may only miss up to a maximum of 5 practices.

Absences due to any of the following are considered **excused** and will not count as a missed practice:

- St. Stephen's Summer Camp
- HDF Camp
- Oratorical Festival
- Greek School

Absences due to any of the following are considered **unexcused** and will count towards a missed absence:

- Vacations
- Athletics or other School events / teams
- Sickness (under certain circumstances, this may be excused)
- 3 tardies = 1 absence

Any other absence is considered unexcused, unless otherwise discussed with Dance Instructor / Dance Director and agreed upon 48 hours prior to missed practice.

If a Dancer is unable to meet the attendance policy, as outlined above, they are eligible to perform at both Greek Festival and International Festival but will be assessed by their Instructor. In the event they have not sufficiently mastered a specific dance, they will be asked to step out for that dance during the performance.

Any costumes or other materials loaned to Dancers are expected to be kept clean and returned in original condition after use. (Please see Costume section for further details.)

E DANCE GROUP ELIGIBILITY

All Dancers will be divided into the following dance groups based on Dancer's age as of September 14, 2012:

- **YOUTH A** – Ages 5 through 8
- **YOUTH B** – Ages 9 through 12
- **TEENS** – Ages 13 through 18
- **ADULTS** – Ages 18 and over

Any Dancer who was a member of a group last year will be grandfathered and may remain in that group if they choose too. **No other exceptions to the above will be made**; all Dancers are expected to provide date of birth during registration.

F DANCE GROUP PARTICIPATION FEES

Participation fees have been established for all dance groups. We have put a tremendous amount of thought and consideration into these fees but feel they are necessary in order to continue to grow the Dance Group Program here in Raleigh. Money collected will be kept separated by group and used for each group's respective costs associated with costume creation / maintenance, transportation, etc.

Participation fees will be collected beginning at the 1st dance practice (March 4, 2012) and are due no later than the 4th dance practice (April 1, 2012). (*This will allow most families to pay less than \$8 - \$10 per child, per Sunday for those first 4 practices.*) Participation fees are non-refundable.

Participation fees are as follows:

- **YOUTH A** – \$30 1st child, \$20 each additional child within YOUTH A
- **YOUTH B** – \$30 1st child, \$20 each additional child within YOUTH B
- **TEENS** – \$40 1st child, \$30 each additional child within TEENS
- **ADULTS** – \$50 per adult

If you have any concerns about the participation fees, please feel free to contact the Dance Director and / or Parish Priest prior to the 1st dance practice. We do not want to discourage anyone from participating in the Hellenic Dance Ministry and are more than willing to work with each family on a case-by-case basis if necessary.

COMMUNICATION

Communication is vital to ensure that the dance program functions smoothly. Directors and Instructors are required to communicate with Dancers and Parents in a regular, frequent and timely manner. Directors and Instructors will communicate to the Dancers and Parents via email, as it is the quickest method for widespread communication. Topics addressed via email will include practice information, performances, fundraisers, other events, costumes, etc. If you do not currently have an email setup, there are several available options free of cost (Gmail, Yahoo, etc.).

In addition, you can refer to the church website at <http://www.holytrinityraleigh.org/Ministries/HellenicDance.dsp> for general information such as practice schedules, upcoming performances / events / fundraisers, contact information, group breakdown, etc.

COSTUMES

As we work our way to having a collection of traditional Greek folk dance costumes it is important that we make sure to take proper care in maintaining such costumes.

YOUTH, TEENS & ADULTS may be provided with traditional handmade costumes at the time of a performance. Dancers will be required to check out a costume prior to each performance and check in a costume after each performance. Costumes are expected to be returned in clean, original condition. Dancers / Parents will be responsible for the cost to clean any stains (with the exception of normal sweat and dirt) and / or the cost to repair any damages to costumes. If any part of a costume is returned in a state of disrepair, the Dancer / Parent will be responsible for covering the total cost to replace that part of the costume.

FUNDRAISING

The primary purposes of dance program fundraisers are:

- To raise money for costumes and HDF expenses
- To develop fellowship
- And to instill in our Dancers and Parents a sense of responsibility for the dance program

All Parents and Dancers are required to participate in at least 2 fundraisers per year. TEEN Dancers planning on participating in 2012 HDF and their Parents will be required to participate in at least 1 HDF fundraisers.

We have organized a Greek Dance Parents (GDP) Committee who will meet regularly and will be responsible for planning at least 1 fundraiser per year. If you are interested in joining the GDP Committee, please sign up on the appropriate sheet following this meeting.

2013 HELLENIC DANCE FESTIVAL (HDF)

The 2013 HDF will be held in Winston-Salem, NC on January 18, 19, 20 and 21 (MLK Holiday Weekend). HDF is intended to be an event that promotes, encourages and perpetuates the Orthodox faith and Greek heritage among individuals, families and communities by expressing it through folk dance, music and language. HDF is made up of a dance and choral competition and talent show.

We intend to register Dancers from the TEEN dance group and possibly the YOUTH B dance group for HDF '13. Dancers are not required to participate in HDF.

Requirements for participation in HDF will include the following:

- At least a group of 10 Dancers in order to guarantee participation in HDF
- Participation at Greek Festival (Sept 14, 15, 16) – 80% of scheduled performances
- Participation at International Festival (Sept 28, 29, 30) – at least 1 performance

2012 DANCER & PARENT AGREEMENT

Please print the following information:

DANCER NAME: _____ DATE: _____

PARENT(S) NAME: _____ DATE: _____

_____ DATE: _____

Each Dancer and their Parent(s) should initial next to each section confirming that you have read the section, fully understand all details within the section and agree to abide by any rules / expectations set forth in each section.

SECTION A

DANCER

PARENT(S)

2011 Dance Program Overview: By initialing above, you confirm that you have read, understand and agree with the dance program overview as outlined.

SECTION B

DANCER

PARENT(S)

Dance Program Code of Conduct – Church: By initialing above, you confirm that you have read, understand and agree to abide by the rules and regulations outlined in this section.

SECTION C

DANCER

PARENT(S)

Dance Program Code of Conduct – Respectful: By initialing above, you confirm that you have read, understand and agree to abide by the rules and regulations outlined in this section.

SECTION D

DANCER

PARENT(S)

Dance Program Code of Conduct – Responsible: By initialing above, you confirm that you have read, understand and agree to abide by the rules and regulations outlined in this section.

SECTION E

DANCER

PARENT(S)

Dance Group Eligibility: By initialing above, you confirm that you have read, understand and agree to abide by all policies regarding dance group eligibility, including providing Dancer's date of birth for registration.

SECTION F

DANCER

PARENT(S)

Dance Group Participation Fees: By initialing above, you confirm that you have read, understand and agree to A) pay all participation fees by April 1, 2012, B) contact the Dance Director / Parish Priest with concerns prior to March 4, 2011.

SECTION G

DANCER

PARENT(S)

Communication: By initialing above, you confirm that you have read and understand all communication policies. You also agree to provide an email address and maintain this email account, regularly checking for emails pertaining to the dance program.

SECTION H

_____ DANCER

_____ PARENT(S)

Costumes: By initialing above, you confirm that you have read, understand and agree to abide by all policies outlined concerning costume purchase, maintenance and damage / replacement costs.

SECTION I

_____ DANCER

_____ PARENT(S)

Fundraising: By initialing above, you confirm that you have read, understand and agree to abide by all policies outlined concerning fundraising.

SECTION J

_____ DANCER

_____ PARENT(S)

2013 HDF: By initialing above, you confirm that you have read, understand and agree to abide by all policies outlined concerning 2013 HDF participation.

POLICY REGARDING CONSEQUENCES

In the event that a Dancer does not abide by the rules and regulations outlined in the **2012 Hellenic Dance Ministry Overview**, the following consequences will apply:

- 1st Offense: Verbal warning / statement / explanation given by Instructor
- 2nd Offense: Meeting with Dancer, Parent(s), Instructor, Director, Parish Priest
- 3rd Offense: Dancer suspension – Right to participate in performances / events will be revoked. Dancer will still be required to attend practices. If Dancer has repented and shown a respectful and a cooperative attitude, suspension may be lifted. (Meeting will be held with Dancer, Parent(s), Instructor, Director and Parish Priest to discuss and determine suspension details.)

If a Dancer continues to break dance program rules and regulations after suspension, a meeting will be held with Dancer, Parent(s), Instructor, Director and Parish Priest and expulsion from the Greek Dance Program may be applied.

By signing below, you confirm that you have read, understand and agree to all rules and regulations as outlined in the **2012 Hellenic Dance Ministry Overview** document. By signing below, you also confirm that you have read and understand the above statement concerning the policy around consequences for Dancer's who do not abide by the rules and regulations as outlined in the **2012 Hellenic Dance Ministry Overview** document.

PRINT DANCER NAME: _____

DANCER SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

PRINT PARENT NAME: _____

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

PRINT PARENT NAME: _____

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____