

DANCE TEAM AUDITIONS

“The Director’s Guide to Successful Try Outs.”

ORIENTATION AGENDA

FAMILY INVESTMENT

Prepare a list of due dates for installment payments for practice wear, performance costumes, camps/conventions, and contests. This will require a lot of careful decision making. Set aside plenty of time to look through costume catalogs or visit with costume designers, to compare and contrast curriculums for camp, and to choose the contest that best fits your team’s philosophy. All of these decisions, will greatly impact your team, from not only an instructional and performance end, but also from a financial end. This preparation will help the family budget their income to meet the dance deadlines, and will be appreciated.

Not only do both parties need to be made aware of the benefits (healthy image, self-discipline, team work, goal setting and performances), but also they need to understand the sacrifices. If performing for a dance team were easy everyone would do it. Relay the message that the program is seeking potential members exhibiting quality in character, academics, and dance. In addition, parent help will be needed throughout the year to support the team’s performance and social activities.

PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

Share all performance expectations with the parents and candidates. A sign-up team might perform at all community events, but try outs may be held for contest and special events. A competitive college dance team may have its members try out for all performances. If directing a team with try outs for the majority of the performances, state very clearly that even though the dancer may be required to pay for individual purchases and fees, there is no guarantee that the member will perform at all events. Again, communicate the competitiveness or recreational benefits of team membership.

Do make it clear to parents and students that dance team membership is considered a privilege and a choice. No student is required to be a member of the organization. If a parent and student disagree with the founding principles of the team’s philosophy, then suggest that they may benefit by acquiring membership at another organization that better suits their needs.