

Dancers Edge Company Handout

Edge Kids, EDGE, Cutting Edge

Welcome to the 2009-2010 D.E. Dance Company season! We are very excited about the upcoming year with the greatest staff, talented dancers and supportive parents to make this a very successful year. We believe that our success comes as a result of providing solid training and quality service, along with an underlying belief in the strength of our organization. Congratulations on being accepted into the prestigious Dancers Edge Company.

This handbook was designed to outline our upcoming competition year and answer any questions you may have throughout the year. Please read this handbook with your dancer.

Rules and Guidelines

Performances and competitions are your opportunity to show the world the results of your dedication and hard work. To make the most of this opportunity:

- Arrive at performances at least 90 minutes prior to scheduled performance time. Please arrive ready to go! (i.e.- wearing costume, hair & make-up done) Competitions often run 1 hour ahead. We need time for warm-up, mental preparation and to make sure all dancers are in attendance and ready to perform.
- Dancers should present themselves in a professional manner, with costumes pressed, hair done, make-up applied, clean shoes and all other accessories accounted for.
- Dancers and Parents should not talk negatively about the competition, team members or other dance studios. This is not good sportsmanship and does not represent our studio well.
- Please respect all teachers and choreographers at all times. Mutual respect between the faculty, dancers and families provide the children with the ultimate care and education.
- If at any time you have questions or concerns, please direct them to the Dancers Edge staff during regular office hours. Please do not text or call the directors at home or on cell phones for a work related question.
- Keep absences to a minimum.
- Additional rehearsals may be scheduled at the discretion of the teacher/choreographer. All dancers are required to participate.
- Dancers may not compete in any competitions as an independent entry without permission of the Directors.
- If a company member leaves the program before the end of the dance season, they will be required to turn in all costumes to the studio office; they will be returned to the student after the last performance of the season. These costumes will be used by the understudy.
- Do not approach the judges or choreographers to discuss business matters. Please see the Directors for any issues.
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What constitutes an excused absence?

- Dancers with a serious family emergency.
- Dancers who are extremely ill or in the hospital. (Anything contagious)
- Dancers who are receiving a grade for a High School Dance Recital.
- Dancers who are receiving Holy Communion.
- 7th & 8th Grade trips to New York or Washington D.C.
- The dancer's own Senior Prom

Any other reason will not be accepted. This is a team commitment. When a dancer misses the competition, the entire routine is put in jeopardy. The choreography, formations, and team morale suffers. Dancers who do not show up at competition without notifying the Directors will be removed from that routine for the rest of the season. Dancers and Parents are not allowed to pick and choose which competition/routines they wish to attend.

What happens if you are excused from attending a competition?

- An understudy will be put in your dancer's place.
- You will be responsible for getting the understudy your dancer's costume/accessories for them to wear.
- You will be financially responsible for paying the entry fee for each routine the understudy does for your dancer.

True progress is made when you look at each class, rehearsal or performance as an opportunity to become better at what you love to do!

Financial Responsibilities

Part of the commitment to the DE Company is keeping your account balances current. We understand that competitive dance can be a very expensive sport; however, we have strict deadlines for payments on choreography fees, costumes, competition fees, etc.

Choreography

Choreography fees are a one time fee for an instructor/choreographer to choreograph a dance. Please see the separate price sheet for the 2009-2010 fees.

Competition Fee's

Please see the handout attached for prices and due dates. All entry fees will include a \$10 per dancer charge to cover expenses associated with the studio's participation in competitions, including mailings, entry processing, office staff, and expenses for teachers and music editing.

Rhinestones

Rhinestones are considered an adornment for your costume, which improves the quality and look on stage. Exact prices are not yet available; however, charges will not exceed \$70.00 per costume. We order rhinestones separate from the costumes to save on expenses. Parents must apply their own rhinestones with E-6000 glue to their dancer's costume (again, this is to save expense). We have experienced dance moms that can assist with the direction on how to apply. Some parents are willing to apply the rhinestones for a small fee. Personal rhinestones may not be used on group costumes.

Costumes

Each routine will have a professional custom made costume, unique to Dancer's Edge only. Contours is the costume design company who manufactures our one of a kind costumes. It is hard to determine the exact amount of each costume until the material has been purchased and design has been completed. However, it is wise to assume that each costume will be approximately \$200-250. As soon as we receive a final price, we will post it on the bulletin board and send out an email. \$100 deposit per costume will be charged to your account on October 1st, 2009. Remainder of costume balance will be due when the costume is complete. Costumes will be completed anywhere starting in November and up to the week of our first competition. Please be prepared for the remaining balance. Costumes will not be distributed to parents if costumes are not paid in full.

Prop Fee

Any routine using a prop will be required to pay a prop fee, which is divided equally between the dancers in the routine. The money will go towards labor and supplies needed to make the props. Parents may be asked to help transport props to and from competitions.

Handling Fee

If a U-haul is needed to transport props a handling fee may also be added to your account to help pay for part of the gas and rental fee. The handling fee will be applied at each competition if necessary. If anyone has a trailer, this will help keep costs to a minimum.

Tuition

Monthly tuition is due the first of each month. A \$25.00 late fee will be applied on the 7th of each month if your tuition is not paid.

Cash Scholarships

Any soloist, duo/trio or group dancer that wins cash scholarships at competitions will have the money equally divided among those in that routine and applied to their account. That money will go to lessons, costumes, entry fees or other expenses related to dance training.

Other Information

- **All company member accounts must have a current email address on file.** This will be our fastest way of communication with you.
- DE Company Staff may not be able to attend every award ceremony or competition. We will do our very best but it is not always possible.
- Each dancer will pay a \$64 recital fee for the end of the year show. The recital fee includes 4 show tickets and 2 dress rehearsal tickets.
- Edge Kids and Edge dancers will need to sell extra 5 tickets per family for the showcase performance. Since the cast is so small extra ticket sales will help cover the expenses of insurance, facility rental and technicians needed to run a show.

We look forward to an exciting year full of wonderful memories and lots of successes for our dancers!

-DE Dance Company Directors