



2009 Frequently Asked Questions

What is Guidance Dance Company?

- Guidance Dance Company is a Christian dance ministry for female dancers ages 9 to 18.
- We use dance to worship God and share His love with others. We perform at local churches, retirement communities, schools, hospitals, workshops, and other events.
- Our ministry is non-denominational. We currently have dancers from 10 different churches.
- Guidance is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

Who can participate in Guidance Dance Company?

- To participate in Guidance Dance Company, you must complete an application and attend the annual audition. Once you have completed your audition, the Artistic Director will contact you regarding joining the Company.
- Applicants must be between the ages of 9-18.
- Applicants must turn 9 by June 13, 2009.
- At this time, Guidance Dance Company is for female dancers only.
- Applicants must review the Statement of Faith and Code of Conduct to ensure they agree with and can follow the established guidelines of the Company.

What kind(s) of dance does Guidance Dance Company practice and perform?

- Guidance Dance Company uses a blending of ballet, modern, and lyrical jazz to create contemporary worship dance. We attempt to use and highlight the skills of the dancers in the Company.
- As Guidance Dance Company is a Christian ministry, we strive to create dance that will give glory and honor to the Lord. We regularly practice worship dancing and prayer dancing in addition to studying classical dance techniques.

How much dance experience do I need to participate in Guidance Dance Company, and is prior ballet training and pointe required?

- Guidance uses a blending of ballet, modern, and lyrical jazz to create contemporary worship dance. We attempt to use and highlight the skills of the dancers in the Company.
- There is not a required level of dance experience; however, some dance training is necessary. Knowledge of basic dance technique and terminology is expected.
- Extensive ballet training is not required, but some ballet training is necessary. Dancers may be required to take additional ballet if they need to improve their technique.
- Ballet will be a part of the audition.
- Pointe is not required. However, if we have dancers with that skill, we may incorporate pointe into sections of the choreography.
- If you have questions about your dance experience, please contact the Artistic Director, and she will help you determine if Guidance Dance Company is a good fit for you.

Why do I have to participate in an audition for Guidance Dance Company?

- All dancers must audition annually (including returning dancers).
- The audition process allows the Artistic Director the opportunity to see the returning dancers dancing side-by-side with potential incoming dancers. It is important that there is continuity among the dancers and that the skill levels within the company do not vary significantly.



What is the time commitment for Guidance Dance Company?

- The Company rehearses on Sundays, twice a month, for 2-4 hours, currently 2:00-4:00 or 6:00 pm.
- The Company performs about 1 time a month. To include time for prayer, preparation and reflection, the time commitment for performances is about 3 hours. The actual show time is about 1 hour.
- Occasionally, additional rehearsals are added if necessary. There will not be additional charges for these supplemental rehearsals.
- All Company Dancers agree to maintain and improve dance technique by taking regular dance classes outside of the Company's rehearsal requirements.
- **Alpha** Company Dancers agree to take at least **one** ballet technique class per week. Additionally, a second ballet technique class may be required at the Director's discretion based on the Dancer's technique level.
- **Omega** Company Dancers must take **two** dance technique classes per week. Ballet may be required at the Director's discretion based on dancer's technique level.

What is the Alpha Company and the Omega Company?

- Guidance Dance Company is comprised of dancers of varying ages and technical levels. To successfully accommodate this, the girls are divided into two groups: the Alpha Company and the Omega Company.
- The Alpha Company is made up of our younger and less experienced dancers, typically ages 9-14.
- The Omega Company is made up of our older and more advanced dancers, typically ages 12-18.
- The two groups work both independently and collaboratively as we put our productions together.
- Having the two groups also allows us to create a mentoring partnership between the groups.

When does the Company perform?

- Guidance Dance Company performs locally about once a month, with additional performances around the Christmas and Easter holidays.
- We will also travel to some special events outside of the local area.
- We strive to schedule the performances based on dancer availability, but this is not always possible.
- We also strive to set the performance schedule months in advance.

Is there a charge to participate in Guidance Dance Company?

- Yes, there are fees associated with Guidance Dance Company:
 - \$25 Annual Registration Fee
 - \$150 Quarterly Participation Fee
 - \$250 Summer Dance Intensive Fee
 - Most costumes are purchased and owned by the Company. This is a significant cost savings to the dancers; however, dancers will have to purchase basic costume parts such as tights, nude leotards, dance shoes, and make-up.
 - Expenses associated with traveling will also be the responsibility of the dancer.
- We hope that the financial commitment associated with Guidance Dance Company is not a burden to our dancers or their families. We strive to reduce expenses and make accommodations for dancers who need assistance with the financial commitment. Each dancer will have the opportunity to participate in fundraising activities and scholarships will be available.
- Please contact the Artistic Director, Sarah Schatz for a confidential scholarship application.

Is Guidance Dance Company part of Mason Dance Center?

- No, Guidance is a separate entity from Mason Dance Center.
- Mason Dance Center is the location where Guidance Dance Company currently holds rehearsals.