Mission Statement

The Greek Folk Dance Ministry of the Metropolis of Pittsburgh is dedicated through Orthodox Christian Fellowship and committed leadership to: promoting, encouraging and perpetuating Greek heritage and culture among individuals, families and communities expressed in folk dance and is inclusive of anyone who wants to assist in the promotion and perpetuation of the Greek heritage and culture through Orthodox Christian Fellowship and love, creating greater communion and stronger ties through interaction with all who are committed to the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh Folk Dance Ministry’s goals. For these reasons, the Folk Dance Festival, established in 1986, has always been a non-competitive event.

Preface

These guidelines and regulations provide a general spirit and attitude, which all participants are to realize and accept. Each situation may not be identified in these guidelines and regulations; however, the intent is to facilitate proper Orthodox Christian conduct and attitude.

I. Eligibility

A. All participants must be at least 7 years of age. There is no maximum age limit.
B. Junior Division performers must be between the ages of 7 and 15. Senior Division performers must be at least 12 years of age.
C. In order to participate, a particular parish need not sponsor a person.
D. First preference for festival registration is given to parish sponsored groups from the Metropolis.
E. It is recommended that dance groups of the Metropolis be parish sponsored. Exceptions may be granted by the Metropolis of Pittsburgh Youth Commission upon recommendation by the Metropolis Folk Dance Committee.
F. Only groups are permitted to perform. There will be no individual performances.

II. Directors

A. Must be a responsible adult, age 21 or older.
B. Must be an active, participating member of his/her local Orthodox Church.
C. Should not be considered or counted as a Chaperone at the festival.
D. All Directors must abide by the Metropolis Youth Protection policies, which includes obtaining a background check. (For more information see: https://pittsburgh.goarch.org/youth-safety)

III. Conduct

A. Loss of temper, foul language, improper gestures, and improper conduct is prohibited.
B. Alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs or weapons are not permitted by all Festival Participants. (A Participant is anyone who attends: Director, Dancer, Chaperone, Instructors, Observers, Clergy, etc.) Liquor may not be served or brought into any event at the host venue, nor any facilities providing housing, be they hotels, motels or homes of host parishioners, during the weekend. Festival Participants who consume or are in possession of any type of alcoholic beverage of any form or illegal drug are subject to discipline by the Metropolis Youth Commission.
Participants who are in the presence of any type of alcoholic beverage or any form of illegal drugs should report it to one of the festival authorities, or they will be considered accessories and subject the same discipline.

C. No tobacco, cigarette or vape/e-cig use is permitted by minors under 19 years of age.

D. There will be no co-habitation of unmarried participants of the opposite sex in any hotel or motel room.

E. All minors (participants under 19 years of age) are to observe a 12:30 am curfew. Chaperones are to have their Participants who are minors in their assigned rooms by curfew at 12:30 am. All other Participants (those 19 and older), except Chaperones, must vacate the hotel lobby, hallways and any other public area by 2:00 am.

F. All Participants including Chaperones and Directors must attend the Sunday Divine Liturgy at the host parish unless a Metropolis Representative approves the absence. (Dance Directors will be required to sign in upon arrival, which must not be later than 15 minutes after the start of Divine Liturgy.) Those not complying will be subject to discipline.

G. Any Participant causing personal or property damage shall be held responsible and liable and is not permitted to continue participation in the festival or subsequent festivals until damages are paid in full.

H. All Participants must comply by the Social Networking and Blogging Policy provided to each Metropolis by the Archdiocese. This Policy is found in the Folk Dance Festival folder of the Youth Document section on the Metropolis website: pittsburgh.goarch.org.

I. Attention must be given at all times to Instructors. Those not complying will be asked to leave the lesson, and if the situation is severe, will be asked to leave the festival. No refunds will be provided.

J. Appropriate dress attire is required during all Folk Dance Festival events. Clothes deemed inappropriate include: pajamas, clothes with profane language, reference to drugs, alcohol or tobacco, and/or violent or anti-Christian propaganda. Midriffs must be covered at all times, tube tops, halter tops, tank tops, spaghetti straps, short/shorts, short mini-skirts, spandex (as primary clothing), overly tight fitting or low cut apparel are not allowed. Pants are not to be worn below the hips and boxers are not to be worn as outerwear. Leggings are permitted for females as long as a top/t-shirt is long enough to cover one’s bottom.

The Clergy and Youth Commission Representatives reserve the right to ask participants to change clothing or to cover up if they feel that what you are wearing is inappropriate.

K. The musical selection at folk dance festival events will be reviewed with the DJ and/or band by the Host Committee, for appropriateness of language, profanity, and sexual suggestiveness, prior to the event. Music, which promotes dancing in a sexual or suggestive manner, should not be played. It is asked that the DJ/band does not take CD’s from participants at events (DJ/band may not be familiar with the lyrics).

IV. Chaperones

A. Priority is given to the parents of participants who are 18 years of age or younger. Chaperones must be 21 years of age or older and must be responsible adults.

B. All Chaperones must abide by the Metropolis Youth Protection policies, which includes obtaining a background check. (See the Metropolis website for more information.)

C. Section III - Conduct applies to all Chaperones as well. Please review.

D. Each Chaperone will be responsible for no more than five (5) Participants. There is no registration fee for designated Chaperones.

E. Participants 19 years of age and older do not need to be chaperoned.

F. Chaperones are to remain with their assigned Participants during the entire time the Participants are away from home.
G. Upon check-in and checkout times, Chaperones are to inspect the rooms for missing items or damages. When possible the inspection should be done with the hotel personnel.

H. The Festival Committee will notify the respective Parish Council and Parish Priest of any Chaperone who has not complied with or supported the Metropolis Festival Guidelines and Regulations during a festival in which he/she was present.

I. All Participants including Chaperones must attend all functions. Participants, under 19 years of age are not permitted to leave the social function. Chaperones are responsible for the enforcement of this regulation.

Sections V – VII are for Host Parish Instruction.

V. FESTIVALS - GENERAL REGULATIONS

A. The purpose of the Folk Dance Festival is to have an opportunity to practice Greek Folk Dance and learn more about Greek heritage. The Festival is meant to be an exhibition. There will not be any competition between participating groups/ranking the performing groups on a merit basis.

B. The Metropolis Youth Commission must sanction all festivals.

C. All Metropolis sanctioned festivals must offer a Junior and Senior Division.

D. Anyone may participate in the Festival; provided they meet eligibility requirements outlined in Section I.

E. The Metropolis Youth Office will keep a file of the roster for each dance troupe. (Copies of the rosters must be submitted after the Folk Dance Festival.)

F. Provisions for the registration of troupes and individual participants should be made by the Host Parish.

G. Festivals must offer both instruction and an opportunity to perform.

H. Performances for a given troupe are not to exceed ten (10) minutes, which includes entrance and exit dances.

I. Individual Participants not affiliated with a troupe may participate in all areas of the festival except performances.

VI. FESTIVALS - HOST PARISH

A. Any petition to host a Folk Dance Festival must be made by a parish of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh, and must be submitted and post-marked no later than March 31st. The petitions will be reviewed and the decision made at the next meeting of the Metropolis Youth Commission.

B. The Host Parish should send copies of all relevant Folk Dance Festival correspondence to the Metropolis Youth Office for approval. (Dance Festival Packet, Hotel & facilities contracts, etc.) The schedule of events for the festival and a list of committee people must be sent to the Youth Office at least two (2) months prior to the festival. The Host Parish should notify the Youth Office immediately if there are any subsequent changes in the information.

C. The Host Parish is to send an Invitation Packet (via email is acceptable) to all parishes within the Metropolis. The Invitation Packet is to include no less than a Schedule of Events, a copy of the Metropolis Regulations and Guidelines, the necessary hotel/motel accommodation information, the necessary waiver/permission forms, the Festival Chairperson with his/her telephone number and e-mail address and the host parish’s telephone number.

D. The Host Parish must register only those groups who have the proper number of chaperones. Those groups who do not meet the minimum standard may not participate.

E. Every participating group must submit a list of Participants to the host parish registration desk upon arrival.
F. The host parish is to have a Housing Advisory Committee. The responsibilities of this committee are:
   1. To coordinate the overnight accommodations and all social events.
   2. To develop a good working relationship with the hotel/motel with an explanation of the weekend program.
   3. To be present and to maintain curfew hours and proper conduct within the hotel/motel at all times.
   4. To oversee all social events. At least one (1) member is to be present at all times.
   5. To assure the safety of participants, hotels/motels with first floor outside room access are not permitted.

G. The host parish or the Housing Advisory Committee must see to it that all Participants who are not registered in the hotel/motel, must leave the premises by 2:00 am. (Under age 19: 12:30 curfew.)

H. The Host Parish will incur the hotel/motel expense of the Metropolis Youth & Young Adult Ministries Director and any designated members of the Youth Commission attending the festival.

I. The Host Parish must provide an audio engineer for the performances at the festival, and an audio engineer for each of the workshops.

J. The Host Parish must provide a videographer to record dance instructions and performances. A copy of each must be sent to the dance groups* that fully participate, this should include music of the dances that were taught. CDs, flash drives or other media are acceptable. (*Those who have paid Dance Group Registration.)

VII. FESTIVALS - FEE STRUCTURE
   A. Dance Group Registration - $200.00 first group and $100.00 for each additional group.
   B. Individual Registration - $75.00 per dancer. This covers Junior and Senior Division Dancers. It includes at a minimum all workshops, opportunity to perform, Saturday evening dance, Saturday Continental breakfast, lunch, Saturday dinner and Sunday brunch.
   C. Individual Registration (not with a group) - $85.00 per person. Individuals not able to bring an entire group may pay an individual non-group registration fee.
   D. One (1) Chaperone is needed for every five (5) participants under the age of 19 and there is no fee for these Chaperones.
   E. In order to encourage Dance Groups to come properly chaperoned, the fee for any additional Chaperones will be $50.00, which includes the three meals and entrance to the performances and dances. (See the Host Parish’s Fee Structure sheet for more information.)
   F. The fee structure is subject to review and alteration on a yearly basis by the Youth Commission.
   G. After all expenses have been paid, a financial report is to be submitted to the Youth Commission. If the festival has made a profit, a donation of 10% of the profits should be made to the Metropolis Youth and Young Adult Ministries Office.

MORE INFORMATION:
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Revised January 2019