



FESTIVAL REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES

**“Let them praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with timbrel and lyre!”
Psalm 149:3**

MISSION STATEMENT

To foster Orthodox Christian fellowship and enhance appreciation of Hellenic arts and history through folk dance.

VALUES

The Metropolis of Detroit Hellenic Dance Festival (Detroit HDF) is established as a family ministry that focuses on Orthodox Youth and Young Adults from parishes in the Metropolis of Detroit. Through instruction, participation and presentation, Metropolis Youth and young Adults learn not only dance steps and dance etiquette, but also the foundational footsteps of self-confidence, team work and the concept of offering time and talent to the Church. The program is a means by which Orthodox Christian Youth and Young Adults bond with each other, with their parishes, and with the Metropolis in a safe, non-threatening, inclusive, wholesome Christian environment.

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. It is the recommendation of the Detroit HDF that parishes/groups be mindful of the youngest dancers, making groups that are accommodating to their physical and developmental capabilities. It is also recommended that an age span, from youngest and oldest dancer, not exceed five (5) years.
- C. In order to participate, a particular parish need not sponsor a person.
- D. It is recommended that dance troupes of the Metropolis of Detroit be parish-sponsored. Greek societies/clubs in the Detroit metropolitan area may also request to participate. Any other exceptions may be granted by the Metropolis of Detroit Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries upon recommendation by the Metropolis Dance Committee.
- E. Dance troupes must have their roster (director, chaperones, and dancers) approved by the clergy to affirm their good standing, as well as to affirm their compliance with the Youth Protection Policies of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.
- F. Only groups are permitted to perform. There will be no individual performances. Smaller parishes who do not have enough dancers to make their own group may combine with other parishes to make one group. That combined group must be sponsored by one of the parishes represented and have one (1) person named as the main director (See II DIRECTORS – A). All parishes represented must make sure they provide enough Chaperones for their Participants.



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II. DIRECTORS

- A. Must be a responsible adult, at least 21 years of age. If a group has more than one director, one individual should be listed as the main director and responsible for the group. Any other directors can be listed as co-directors or assistant directors.
- B. Must be an active, participating member in good standing of their local Orthodox Church. This should be affirmed by the parish priest.
- C. It is suggested that the main director (see letter A) are NOT considered or counted as one of the chaperones at the Festival.
- D. All directors must abide by the current Youth Protection Policies of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and the Metropolis of Detroit. This includes obtaining a background check. For more information, please contact youth@detroit.goarch.org.

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 of Detroit Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. Participants who are in the presence of any type of alcoholic beverage or any form of illegal drugs or prohibited substances 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 12:30 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 Youth Protection Policies of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and the Metropolis of Detroit. This policy includes the Social Networking and Social Media Policy contained therein. A copy of this Policy will be distributed to groups upon registration and can also be found on the Metropolis of Detroit website. www.detroit.goarch.org/DetroitHDF.



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III. CONDUCT (cont.)

- I. Attention must be given at all times to Instructors. Those not complying or being disruptive will be asked to leave the lesson. If the situation is severe, participants 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.
- K. The Clergy and Festival Dance Committee reserve the right to ask participants to change clothing or to cover up if they feel that what you are wearing is inappropriate.
- L. 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 responsible adults at least 21 years of age.
- B. All Chaperones must abide by the Youth Protection Policies of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and the Metropolis of Detroit, which includes obtaining a background check. Please visit www.detroit.goarch.org 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. If your group has male and female Participants, it is recommended that there be at least one male Chaperone and one female Chaperone for the group.
- 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 check-out 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 Priest and Parish Council President of any Chaperone who is not in compliance with or supporting these guidelines OR the Youth Protection Policies of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and the Metropolis of Detroit during a festival in which they were 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.



FESTIVAL REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES

SECTIONS V-VII ARE INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE HOST PARISH

V. FESTIVALS – GENERAL REGULATIONS

- A. The purpose of the Detroit HDF is to have an opportunity to practice Greek Folk Dance and to learn more about Hellenic heritage. The Festival is meant to be an exhibition. There will not be any competition between participation groups or ranking of the performing groups on a merit basis.
- B. The Metropolis of Detroit Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries 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 the eligibility requirements outlined in SECTION 1.
- E. The Metropolis Youth Office will keep a file of the roster for each dance troupe. (Copies of the rosters must be submitted immediately following the 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 any given dance troupe are not to exceed ten (10) minutes, which includes entrance and exit dances.
- I. Individual Participants not affiliated with a dance troupe may participate in all areas of the Festival except performances.

VI. FESTIVALS – HOST PARISH

- A. Any petition to host the Detroit HDF must be made to the Metropolis of Detroit Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries by a parish of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit, and must be submitted and postmarked no later than March 31st for the following year. The petitions will be reviewed and the decision made at the next meeting of the Detroit HDF Committee.
- B. The Host Parish should send copies of all relevant 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 Host Parish Committee members must be sent to the Metropolis Youth Office at least two (2) months prior to the Festival. The Host Parish should notify the Metropolis Youth Office immediately if there are any subsequent changes to any of 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 Detroit HDF Regulations and Guidelines, a Copy of the Youth Protection Policies of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, Hotel/Motel Accommodation Information, any Required Waiver/Permission Forms, and the Contact Information of the Festival Chairperson (Chairperson's Phone Number and Email, and the Parish Phone Number and Email). This should be ready for distribution 6-8 months in advance.
- 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.



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SECTIONS V-VII ARE INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE HOST PARISH

VI. FESTIVALS – HOST PARISH (cont.)

- F. The Host Parish is to have a member(s) on their Festival Committee whose responsibilities are to:
 - a. Coordinate the overnight accommodations and all social events.
 - b. Develop a good working relationship with the hotel/motel and to provide a thorough explanation of the weekend program.
 - c. Be present and to maintain curfew hours and proper conduct within the hotel/motel at all times.
 - d. Oversee all social events. At least one (1) member of the Festival Committee is to be present at all times.
 - e. Hotels/motels with first floor outside room access are strictly prohibited for the hotel's security and for the safety of all of the Festival Participants.
- G. The Host Parish must see to it that all Participants who are not registered in the hotel/motel must leave the premises by no later than 12:30am. The curfew for any Participants under 19 years of age is 12:30am.
- H. The Host Parish will incur the hotel/motel expense of the Hierarch and the Metropolis Youth and Young Adult Ministries Director. All other hotel/motel expenses are the responsibility of the attending Participants.
- 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 all performances. A copy of each must be sent to the Registered Groups* (*those who paid Dance Group Registration) that fully participated. This should include music of the dances that were taught. CDs, Flash Drives, or other media are acceptable.

VII. FESTIVALS – FEE STRUCTURE

- A. DANCE GROUP REGISTRATION - \$200 first group/\$150 each additional group.
- B. INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION - \$85.00 per person
 - a. This price includes, at minimum, the following: All workshops, opportunity to perform with group, Saturday evening dance, and meals (Saturday Continental breakfast, Saturday lunch, Saturday dinner, Sunday brunch.)
- C. A LA CARTE EVENT OPTIONS – For those who cannot attend all of the events, there will be individual prices set for each event. Please see the Festival Registration Packet for individual event prices and reservation directions.
- D. The Fee Structure is subject to review and alteration on a yearly basis by the Metropolis Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries.
- E. After all expenses have been paid, a financial report is to be submitted to the Metropolis Office of Young And Young Adult Ministries. If the Festival has made a profit, a donation of 10% of the profits should be made to the Metropolis Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries.