

*EDGE*  
*(Extreme. Dancer. Glorifying. Expression.)*

THE COMPANY DANCE, TUMBLING & FINE ARTS  
COMPETITION DANCE TEAM  
~INFORMATIONAL PACKET~

**Mission Statement**

The EDGE Dance Team is a performance and competition company. Our goal is to advance technique and performance skills by performing at area venues and competitions. Dance is both athletic and an art form. It is important to us to create both the athlete as well as the artist. We aim to increase athleticism by doing technically advanced dance and increase our artistic ability by communicating through movement. The Experience we offer is one of dedication, hard work, grace, poise, self-confidence, and most of all teamwork. Competition does require special students and special parents. It demands sacrifice, time, talent, dedication, and respect for each other as team members. Being a company member is a financial investment in the pursuit of training and developing dancers.

**A note on competitions:** We use the environment of the competition to push ourselves a little further. Competition gives us the opportunity to explore many kinds of new dance styles, music and movements. We also find that we work harder when there is a little added competition. The EDGE does NOT compete to bring home a trophy or award. That would never determine whether a dance was successful or not. The choreographer and the dancers determine if the number was a “success” by the amount of work that has gone into it and how each child has advanced. We compete to push ourselves and also keep connected with a large dance community. After all, seeing other beautiful dancers inspires us to work a little harder when we come home.

**A note on performance:** Dance is communicating through movement. If we have no audience, the conversation is one-sided. The Co. looks for venues in our community to perform, giving our students an opportunity to dance as artists.

**Categories**

Tap, Jazz, Lyrical, Hip-Hop, Open, Musical Theater & Production  
Small groups (4-9 or 10 dancers) and large groups (10 or more).  
Solos, duets, trios, quads

**Education and Opportunities**

Outside teachers and choreographers may be brought in other than The Co. staff to enhance your performance. We should never forget that dance is an ART... “Widening our horizons” is very, very beneficial to all of our members. Our goal is to expose to you different choreographers... studios... professionals and educational venues.

**Placement**

Placements will be decided during the dancer’s yearly performance, participation in class, audition and summer technique classes. Dancers will be placed in the routines and age groups that are best suitable for that individual. If you feel you have been placed in too many dances,

please let us know and we will tell you what numbers can be eliminated. Unfortunately, you CANNOT tell us whom you want to dance with. This will be up to the choreography for a particular number.

### **Technique**

Technique will be incorporated during the rehearsal of the number you have been placed in. Ballet is mandatory 1 X a week, 2X's a week is recommended. The “reward” of taking ballet and additional technique class will result in being placed in more technical dances. The Company's schedule will determine when these classes are offered.

### **Rehearsal & Rules**

Summer technique classes will be encouraged by taking a 3-4 week break between the end of our season and summer is also VERY STRONGLY suggested and highly recommended! A summer schedule will always be available in May. Rehearsals will be up to the discretion of the choreographer. It is very possible that you will have EDGE rehearsals on Saturday and or Sunday. \*In August we will have “choreography days,” that would consist of a “block of time.” These rehearsals are mandatory, but you will be given plenty of time in advance to arrange your date and times.

### **What is expected of you as a dancer? NOTE: Each choreographer will explain their “personal rules, penalties etc.” the first day of class.**

- Be respectful and kind to all of your classmates. WE ARE A TEAM!!
- Come to class with a positive attitude and ready to work.
- Don't be “clicky” that gets “sticky.”
- Bring the correct shoes!! You will be on garbage duty, picking up, and sweeping dance room floors if you do not bring proper dance attire/equipment!! IF YOU PREFER TO DANCE “BAREFOOT” you must invest in either Dance Paws, Dance Undies, or Lyrical Sandals so that you can turn without problems.
- Wear dance clothes. You cannot make changes to the alignment of your body if you cannot see it. **YES: Tights, Leotards, small shorts, capris, jazz pants & skirts are allowed. NO: Boys gym shorts, baggy t-shirts, PJ pants, sweatshirts tied around the waist.**
- Keep hair up and out of your face.
- Water in dance room only.
- Excessive talking and acting up will not be tolerated.
- No playing on gym equipment.
- No running around the building or playing in the bathrooms.
- Pick up all garbage in the lobby area and dance rooms. The studio is your home as well as ours.
- No parent is allowed to protest or complain about dancer's placement in formations, number of dances someone is placed in or costuming.

### **What You Can Expect From Us**

A positive attitude and a classroom where each child succeeds. “Every Child's A Winner!” Teachers who enjoy dancing, creating dancers, and have a passion to choreograph, educate and build self-esteem. Opportunities for each dancer to grow as an athlete and artist.

### **Folder System**

Each dancer has a folder file located outside of Dance Room 1. You will receive all of your information throughout the year in these folders. It is the dancers' and parents' responsibility to check their folder after every class. Also, information is posted on the bulletin strip or door. Please read and make sure you are getting all of the information.

### **Competition**

If you make the commitment to be a part of **The Edge** competition dance team, you are making the **commitment** to attend all of the (*well in advance scheduled*) dance competitions with **The Edge**. We understand that there is an occasional exception or circumstance that will prevent you from doing so... but we want you to recognize that this is not an individual sport. When a dancer misses a competition it affects everyone. The choreographers have to re-block the entire dance and you are asking the other dancers to learn something different than the number that was originally choreographed. We will attend 3-4 regional competitions. They usually will begin sometime after the first of the year and end by May. (This is a "rule of thumb," but dates can be adjusted depending on opportunities and possible Nationals) We will always try and have a schedule out to you by the end of October, so please mark your calendars. However, each individual competitions time break down is not available until the week of competition. There will always be a staff member accompanying the dancers to the competitions, but not all choreographers/teacher will be attending all of the competitions. **Note:** If you are a student that competes a solo, duet, trio or quad, you may want to attend other available competitions. There are SO many available! We focus on 3-4 because of the overall cost. We will be happy to register you and send in the fee and form if you want to go. It is possible (?) that one of our staff members/choreographers would be interested in going too, depending on dates etc. Regardless of the competition whether it is scheduled on our master calendar or not the choreographer will always communicate to you if they will be unable to attend a competition, and make sure the parent is "prepared" with procedure and music etc.

### **Nationals OR Performance Trip Out of State**

A national trip or "performance" trip to perform (for example Disney) will always be considered **if the interest** is there.

### **Convention**

**\*Plan A:** One out of the 3-4 competitions that we attend we are hoping will be a convention/competition. We would like to attend as a group. There will be a variety of classes offered to the students all day on Saturday and Sunday. The competition portion is usually on Saturday night. Some conventions limit the amount of entries for the competition portion. In this case, not every routine will be competition. However, we would like to include everyone in the convention portion

**\*Plan B:** One out of the 3-4 competitions will be an optional convention/competition and those that are interested will attend. We will not compete groups.... We will compete solos, duets, trios, and quads

### **Hotels**

You may need to book and pay for your own hotel for any event that is more than one day. However, competitions do not release exact times until the week before. We suggest reserving your room for the entire weekend and canceling what you do not need once the times are released. Make sure you ask the hotel their cancellation policy.

### **Performances**

We may perform at local events. These may come up at the last minute. We will decide which routines will perform at each event.

### **Winter Show**

We may have a performance some time in the winter. It will either be a preview show or a Christmas show. Dates TBA.

### **The Company Dance Show**

Spring we will have an end of the year production. All EDGE dancers are required to perform at both shows. You may be invited to do extra numbers; these will be taught in the last half of your technique classes at the end of the year or during a schedule rehearsal.

### **Booster Club/Fund Raiser**

The opportunity to have/and be involved in a "Dance Team Booster Club" is available and encouraged. This will be completely run by the parents! This would definitely help to cover some of the expenses that occur throughout the year, involving our Dance Team.

### **Payments**

- Payments are due the first of the month. A \$5.00 late charge per week will be added if your tuition is late.
- All payments are made to The Company. A \$35.00 required and non-refundable yearly registration fee is due in August.
- FEES ARE DIVIDED INTO 10 MONTHLY PAYMENTS starting August 1<sup>st</sup> and the last payment is made May 1<sup>st</sup>, no matter how long or how much we hold rehearsal. Sliding fee per class for monthly tuition. 1 Class=\$40., 2=\$60., 3=\$75., 4=\$90., 5=\$105., \$6=\$120., 7 or more=\$125.
- Solo, Duet, Trios or quad privates are available to everyone, with any of our choreographers. There are separate prices and choreography fees that you pay directly to the instructor.
- Guest Choreographer- If a specific routine requires hiring a choreographer that is not a competition number that is planned by us for the season; there is a possibility of an additional choreography fee. Everyone involved would know exactly what that fee would be and have the choice of being in that number well in advance. No one would be "billed" or forced to partake in the extra choreography fee.
- Competition entry fees will be divided into 2 payments. The first payment would be for the first 2-scheduled competition/convention and will be due Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>. Payment for the spring competitions and will be by Feb 1<sup>st</sup>. Approx fees per dance per competition are: Groups \$20.00-\$25.00, Duet/Trios \$70.00-\$80.00, Solos \$60.00-\$70.00. There will be a \$2.00 processing fee added to each persons account per category, per number. If for some reason there are any changes or you cannot attend, there will be NO REFUNDS given by

- The Company of the competitions. If for some reason you are late turning in your competition fees and the group is charged a "late fee" from the competitions it will be the party that is late responsibility to pay the late fee.
- Costumes run anywhere from \$75.00-\$150.00 per costume per dance. Additional accessories may be added for an additional cost. A costume deposit of \$25.00, for each number you are in will be due August 1<sup>st</sup>. Costumes are selected & ordered in Oct. At this time or shortly after, costume fees are due. Costume alterations may need to be done; this is your responsibility.

### **Make-up**

Make-up is required for performances, competitions, pictures, etc.

### **SHOES & TIGHTS...**

**Note:** Flying D's will come to the studio in August and size everyone. This works out great before we start our season. They are located in Peoria @ 7501 University (309-692-8212) Hours are 10-6 Mon.-Fri. & 10-3 on SAT.

- TAP: TAN, (5068-LEOS)-
- JAZZ: CAR (Carmel) CAPEZIO
- TIGHTS: (CAR-capezio) will be worn with both tap & jazz shoes.

### **Attendance**

Attendance is required at all competitions, rehearsals technique classes and performances. The only reason you may be excused for any of these events would be serious illness, a mandatory school function, family vacation (out of town, family wedding, prom or a death in a family)> Advance excuse (school function, family vacation, wedding, and prom) date(s) must be in writing and turned into the choreographer of the class you are missing. Please do not verbally tell anyone if you are going to be absent. Illness or emergencies please call The Co. on or before the missed event @ 266-1USA. If you miss for any other reason than the above it will be considered and recorded unexcused, even if you call. Unexcused, repeated excused absences and delinquent payments can result in the member's dismissal. No refunds and all outstanding bills must be paid in full.

### **Contacting Choreographers**

Individual teacher's have their own personal preference. They will advise the best way to contact them if an emergency comes up. If you have a question regarding The Edge please 1<sup>st</sup> refer to the numerous informational notes we hand out with "everything you will need to know about anything!" If we have not answered all of your questions via newsletter and notes, please call The Co. receptionist (309-925-4005), they are updated with all information. If that still doesn't answer your question, please stop in AFTER class and talk to the instructor.

### **Disciplinary Actions Effective Immediately**

- Unexcused Absence will be handled in the following manner
  1. offense: Parent will be contacted
  2. Offense: Choreography may be re-blocked and may result in dancer having to sit out of the upcoming competition/performance with no refund for fees paid.
  3. Offence: May result I dismissal.

**MOST IMPORTANTLY!**

We understand that you will have excused and advanced excused absences... we're okay with that! BUT it is the dancer's responsibility to take the time to learn any new choreography or changes. If they do not take the responsibility of being prepared, the same action of an unexcused absence 2<sup>nd</sup> offence may result..." Choreography be re-blocked and may result in dancer having to sit out the upcoming competition/performance with no refund for fees paid."

- Disrupting The Class (Excessive talking, goofing around, distractions)
  1. offence; Warning
  2. Offense: Dismissed from the class for a "time-out".
  3. Offense: Asked to go home. Dancer will be responsible for anything missed, and possible reblocking of choreography.