

# SACRED DANCE TROUPE



## STAR SEARCH STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Star Search Talent Display has been designed to:

- Encourage the development of soloists and groups in music and dramatic arts.
- Provide a goal that will help motivate soloists and groups to work towards becoming their best in their chosen artistic fields.
- Provide opportunity for performance, giving additional motivation for development of skills through participation on both local corps and divisional levels.
- Help soloists, groups and leaders to focus on doing their best to glorify God by developing the talents He has given them and then using their skills to bring a message and a blessing to those who listen.

It is hoped that corps officers and leaders will help the young people in their endeavors to develop their skills by providing them opportunities to share their talents throughout the year at the corps. The Star Search program is not meant to relate to one or two special weekends. Rather, it is meant to help in the development of the quality of the arts for worship at the corps on a regular basis.

It is further hoped that officers, leaders, parents and other adults involved with young people in Star Search will keep the goals of the program in proper perspective. Children love to excel and show that they are good at something. Because of this, a climate of friendly competition can motivate them to work towards a goal. It can also provide them with a safe arena in which to learn how to support one another, regardless of the outcome of a contest. Whether a child receives a high score or a lower score, they should still see and feel the positive support of those around him or her and receive encouragement from them to continue to work hard to develop their talents and gifts. Disappointment that is enveloped by sincere love, support and encouragement soon disappears. It is mostly when disappointment is surrounded by anger, bitterness and disparaging words, especially by the important adults in the child's life, that the child will want to focus on failure, place blame or stop trying. Of course, it is realized that a few children will be at a stage in their lives where the pressure of standing up and performing is too stressful for them. It is recommended that those children be allowed to avoid participation in Star Search until they get through that stage naturally or can be assisted through it by caring adults and peers.

It should also be noted that Star Search provides opportunities for other life lessons. Even if a child does not go into an artistic performance profession where they would be required to perform a solo, he or she will almost definitely have to stand before a group and present a paper or make a speech or give a presentation. Star Search can help in the development of self-assurance and confidence. It can help a child to understand the importance of proper preparation and of presenting themselves in a positive way. Those in groups can learn the importance of working together with others toward a common goal – that each part of a group can make a contribution to the overall presentation of the whole group. We are taking part in the development of our future leaders. These lessons can help to enhance their gifts and talents and give them extra possibilities for success. Too many of our children have too few opportunities to learn these lessons and receive positive reinforcement as they learn.

Whether it is against ourselves or another, competition is a part of our lives. Even in Salvation Army groups, not everyone can sit first chair in a section of the band or sing the solo in the songsters or win the Bible Bowl or earn a place in the Divisional Youth Band or Timbrelists. Not everyone can win a trophy at Men's Camp or become a General's Guard or be in the Century Club. Although our children cannot escape it, they can learn that their own worth does not ride upon their score in any contest. Rather, the contest allows them the opportunity to strive to do something well, to work at doing the best they can do and to see those around them showing an interest in their progress. Each person has something that they can develop and give as an offering to the Lord. Let's encourage participation in every opportunity that provides a way to find and develop the talents the Lord has given. Let's help our children to learn how to be gracious and supportive of each other, learning at an early age the proper response to the use of their own gifts and the gifts of others as taught by the Apostle Paul in Philippians 2:3 & 4:

*“Don't do anything from selfish ambition or from a cheap desire to boast; but be humble toward each other, never thinking you are better than others. And look out for each other's interests, not just for your own.”  
(Today's English Version)*

If our children can practice this teaching within the context of Star Search and other Salvation Army programming and then start to apply it to every area of their lives – at school, at home and when playing with their friends then their lives will be able to touch and make a positive impact on those around them. When Star Search results are given and score sheets are returned, the children will take their cues from the adults around them. May we not let them down as they try to learn from us.

## **SACRED DANCE TROUPE PARTICIPANT RULES**

In the hope that the Star Search program will help corps growth, prospective Junior & Soldiers are both allowed and encouraged to participate. However, it should be understood that these young people are not to be brought in just for this event. They should be attending the corps on a regular basis and tracked towards becoming a Junior and Senior Soldier.

It is not yet known how much space will be available for sacred dance performances at Territorial Star Search, but this is important information for the sacred dance troupes. As soon as each division knows where their Star Search will be taking place, they should let the participating troupes know the parameters of space that will be available for their performance. As soon as we have the territorial space parameters, we will let you know what they are.

### **PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS – GROUP & AGE RESTRICTIONS**

There are 2 levels of participation for Sacred Dance Troupes. Sacred Dance Troupes must consist of at least 4 members. Level A troupes are restricted to ages 6 to 14. Level B troupes are restricted to ages 6 to 21. If any member of the troupe is age 15 and up, that troupe may participate in Level B only.

As with all Star Search categories, a group that receives a 1<sup>st</sup> place rating for two consecutive years must take a year off from participating.

### **PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS – UNIFORM**

Standard Junior Soldier uniform is required for all Junior Soldier participants. Senior soldiers may wear senior soldier uniform. They may substitute epaulet shirts with epaulets instead of tunics if they prefer. Official Army hats/caps are not required for any participants.

Prospective junior and senior soldiers may wear the standard junior soldier uniform with the exception of the official "S" which is not permitted until enrollment.

Sacred dance participants will not be required to wear uniform **WHILE** performing. However, it is expected that they will be in uniform when they are not performing or waiting to perform. It is not necessary that they be dressed in black. Adjudicators will be looking for clothing to be neat, becoming, modest and not distracting.

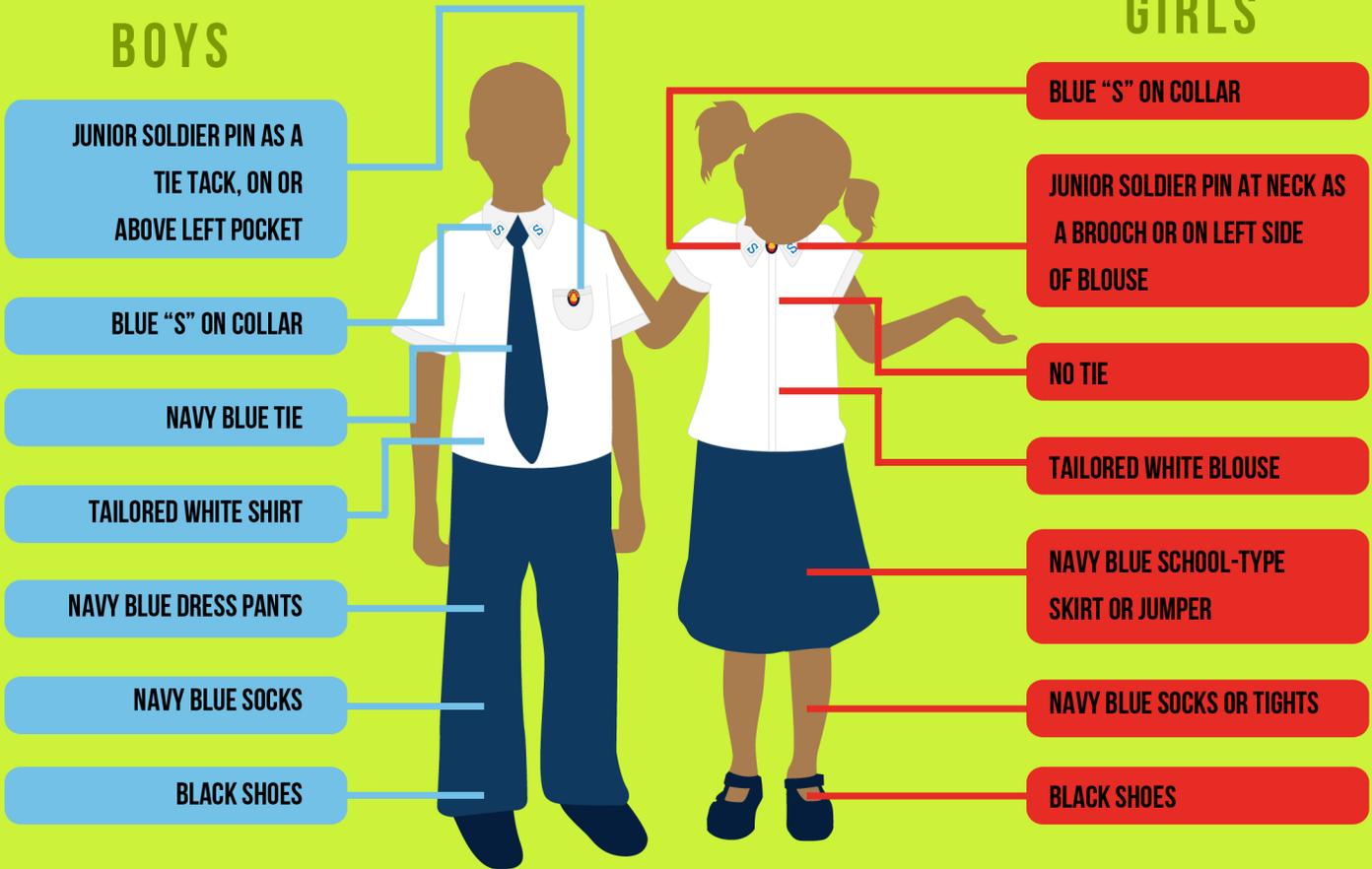
Participants will be required to return to proper uniform following their performance and will be in uniform for the Awards Ceremony.

**REFER TO THE FOLLOWING PAGE OF THIS DOCUMENT FOR DETAILS ABOUT THE JUNIOR SOLDIER UNIFORM STANDARD.**

# JUNIOR SOLDIER UNIFORMS

## BOYS

## GIRLS



## **PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS – MUSIC**

The listing of test piece for all musical participants will be provided from the Territorial Music Department on the Star Search page of the website at <http://www.music.use-salvationarmy.org/starsearch/index.html>. Participants will be required to purchase the music and CD that contains their test piece through the Trade Department. If the music and/or CD accompaniment for a particular category is not available from Trade, it will be placed on the Star Search website and will be available to download.

The music for the Sacred Dance categories will be provided for them. They will not need to bring their own recordings or sound system.

## **TAM CONSERVATORY SCHOLARSHIPS**

One participant who is 14 years of age or older in a group who receives the highest score in the Sacred Dance Troupe Level B category will receive a scholarship to the current year's TAM Conservatory. This individual will be chosen by their corps officer and group leader to represent their group at the TAM Conservatory.

## **ADJUDICATION**

Every effort should be made to make sure that adjudicators are not related to, or instructors of, any of the young people participating in their performance category. It is recommended that Salvationists from neighboring divisions, other Divisional Music Directors, Territorial Music Department Staff, local school band directors and teachers, etc. be used whenever possible. We recommend that the DYS or spouse not be used and that corps officers be avoided, particularly when they have groups participating.

Adjudicators are asked to give helpful critique. Hopefully, this will provide some useful tips for improving performance and developing technique. Adjudication will be based upon the specific points listed for each category.

## **SACRED DANCE TROUPE ADJUDICATION – SCORING**

### **ORIGINALITY/ CREATIVITY (10 points possible):**

- Does the troupe show that they worked hard to develop creative, original and innovative moves?
- Do you find yourself reacting with excitement because of something that was included in the sacred dance?
- Does the sacred dance make sense, or do you find yourself wondering, “Where did that come from?”

### **CHOREOGRAPHY (20 points possible):**

- Are the movements varied?
- Does movement compliment and work with the rhythms and moods of the music?
- Is the troupe ahead of or behind the music?
- Do the movements of the group give a unified or cohesive overall appearance?
- Are the members of the troupe sharp and precise in their presentation?

### **INTERPRETATION (20 points possible)**

- Is the overall message of the song effectively conveyed through the dancers’ movements, as well as their emotional demeanor?
- Does the dancers’ movement creatively and effectively follow the dynamics and shape of the song?
- Does the journey of the dance clearly portray the "story" of the song?

### **PRESENTATION (25 points possible):**

- Is the presentation exciting, enjoyable and meaningful?
- Does the troupe look comfortable with the music, or are they stiff and wooden in their presentation?
- Is there confidence and certainty of movement and flow?
- Do the members of the troupe look as though they are working with intensity and concentration throughout the entire performance?
- Do the members of the troupe hold their form when they reach a pause in the music, or do they drop their hands and seem to finish one section and stand there waiting for the next section to begin?
- Is there continuity in form throughout the troupe?
- Is poise and self-control present in all members at all times?
- Do the members of the troupe relate to the audience?
- Does the performance leave you wanting more?

### **OVERALL DIFFICULTY (20 points possible):**

- Does the sacred dance push the members of the troupe or is it too easy?
- Does the sacred dance seem to show the extent of the skills of the group?

### **APPEARANCE (5 points possible):**

- Do all members of the troupe look neat in their appearance?
- Is clothing becoming and modest but not distracting?
- Did the troupe present themselves well as they came on-stage and got ready to perform?

This point system is established only to make it easier for the judges to establish their scores. The final score will not be greater than 100. Score sheets with adjudicators’ remarks and signatures will be collected by the controller at the end of the competition so that they can be made available to the participating groups. **ADUJICATORS ARE ASKED TO COMMENT ON ANY SCORES THAT ARE LOWER THAN 98.** Participants need to know why they were penalized so that they may work on improving those areas.

**EASTERN TERRITORY, USA**  
**2012 SALVATIONIST STAR SEARCH TALENT DISPLAY – SACRED DANCE TROUPE**

LEVEL:

CORPS:

DIVISION:

	Compulsory Piece	Adjudicator's Comments
<b>ORIGINALITY/CREATIVITY</b> 10 PTS.		
<b>CHOREOGRAPHY</b> 20 PTS.		
<b>INTERPRETATION</b> 20 PTS.		
<b>PRESENTATION</b> 25 PTS.		
<b>OVERALL DIFFICULTY</b> 20 PTS.		
<b>APPEARANCE/STAGE PRESENCE</b> 5 PTS.		
<b>TOTALS</b> 100 possible PTS.		

TOTAL POINTS: \_\_\_\_\_

ADJUDICATOR: \_\_\_\_\_