

BLUE CREW DANCE COMPANY

Blue Crew Dance is the *Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation's* youth Dance Company and was founded and is co-directed by community dancers and instructors Cynthia and Jimmy Marafino (both current instructors of dance at the Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Department). The company is composed of dancers ages 12 through 18 and is designed for students who are enrolled in dance classes at the recreation center and meet skilled requirements.



Blue Crew Dance offers free live performances to school groups, public festivals, residential facilities, churches, and special event programs. **Blue Crew Dance** has a goal to serve as an educational establishment for the community and young dancers who want to excel in their technical ability, performance skill, and their enjoyment of dance.

Blue Crew Dance Company and Parks and Recreation hosted and participated in a dance workshop with the global educational organization *Up with People*. **Blue Crew** has had the opportunity to participate in a workshop with VCU alumni and professional Emily Todd, artists of the Liz Lerman Dance Exchange, JMU dance alumni, Rockingham Ballet Theatre, JMU theatre alumni Tyler Edwards, and local PT specialist and Harrisonburg Dance Cooperative artist, Sarah Gosselin. **Blue Crew** participated in a choreographic intensive with Harrisonburg Dance Cooperative's co-founder and Texas Christian University alumni, Jerusha (Ellie) de Waal, JMU dance professor Shane O'Hara, JMU dance alumni and Bridgewater College Dance Team director Zilda Baker, and Shenandoah University's Cheryl Donald.

Several members of **Blue Crew** performed in The New Dance Festival at the Forbes center, collaborating with the JMU School of Theatre and Dance (2010) and collaborated with the Harrisonburg Dance Cooperative in a First Friday event. **Blue Crew** has had the opportunity to perform at several venues including Burg's Got Talent, Dayton Church of the Brethren, Bridgewater College, Children's Museum, First Night, First Friday, Smithland, Waterman, and Spotswood Elementary, and Elon Rhodes Early Learning Center.

If you would like to host **Blue Crew Dance** please contact:

Cynthia or Jimmy Marafino

Email: clm_280@yahoo.com

Parks & Recreation: (540) 433-2474

Criteria for Blue Crew

Blue Crew Dance Company is the recreation center's youth dance company. It is reserved for those who take classes in the fall and spring semesters. Students must be enrolled in two dance classes per-week at the recreation center, one of which must be in advanced jazz or ballet. Students must meet advanced skill requirements, must be 12 years of age (stipulations are made based on maturity, years, and dedication to our program) and must have permission of **both** directors. Students must also take 2-3 consecutive years of dance (either in ballet or jazz) taught by one of the directors at Parks and Recreation and show physical and behavioral progress. Students are expected to participate in and pay for classes, rehearsals, performances, workshops, and all other company requirements (t-shirts, costume fees, dues, etc.) Blue Crew focuses on the foundations of modern, jazz, ballet, and contemporary dance; Irish-step and tap are **not** foundational dance forms. Any questions about the company and the company's requirements need to be addressed to the directors.

A student is invited by the directors based on the following:

1. The student and parents' dedication to our dance program.
2. The number of years the student has danced in our dance program.
3. Consistency in classes (not skipping from one dance form to another or taking semesters off).
4. Consistent class attendance and the number of classes taken.
5. The student must have danced consistently at Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation under the training of one or both of the directors for at least 2-3 consecutive years in the area of ballet or jazz. Exceptions are made based on the level of skill, progress, behavior, and dedication to our dance program.
6. Behavior in class with fellow students, instructors, and guest instructors; students must show respect to all faculty and fellow students.
7. The student's age **and** maturity.
8. The student's ability to adapt to new ideas, dance styles, and new choreography.
9. The student's willingness to work in groups.
10. The student must take classes in the fall and spring semesters consistently.
11. The student must demonstrate advanced dance technique and performance quality.
12. The student must participate in our annual spring dance concert and continue to do so each year.
13. The student must be enrolled in and have his/her tuition paid in full for 2 dance classes per-week at the recreation center, one of which must be in advanced jazz or ballet; taking more classes is encouraged and highly recommended.
14. The student must show willingness to take and apply corrections to improve his/her dance skills.
15. The student should not talk out of turn or question the authority of the directors' and guest choreographers' decisions.
16. The student must respect his/her fellow classmates and company members; he/she must recognize seniority in the company and respect reasonable requests made by senior members of the company.
17. The student must speak positively about and promote the dance program, students, and instructors.
18. Student choreographers are sometimes given the opportunity to set work on the company. This is an experience for students to work with our community dancers through choreography. Students must be willing to work with their peers in a positive way and not use this opportunity to promote themselves and their ego. Student Choreographers must respect all members in the company and abide by the artistic decisions of the directors. This includes who is performing in their piece, where and when the piece is performed, and any changes made to the piece. This position is unpaid and is for experience only.

