

DANCE SOLOIST



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.

DANCE SOLOIST 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.

PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS – AGE RESTRICTIONS

Participants in Star Search may begin at age 6. It is open to all Junior and Senior Soldiers and prospective Junior and Senior Soldiers. The four levels of participation will adhere to the following age requirements:

Level One	Ages 6 thru 11
Level Two	up to age 14
Level Three	up to age 17
Level Four	up to age 21

As with all Star Search categories, a participant that receives a 1st place rating for two consecutive years must advance to the next level in the category. If participating in Level Four of the category, the individual 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.

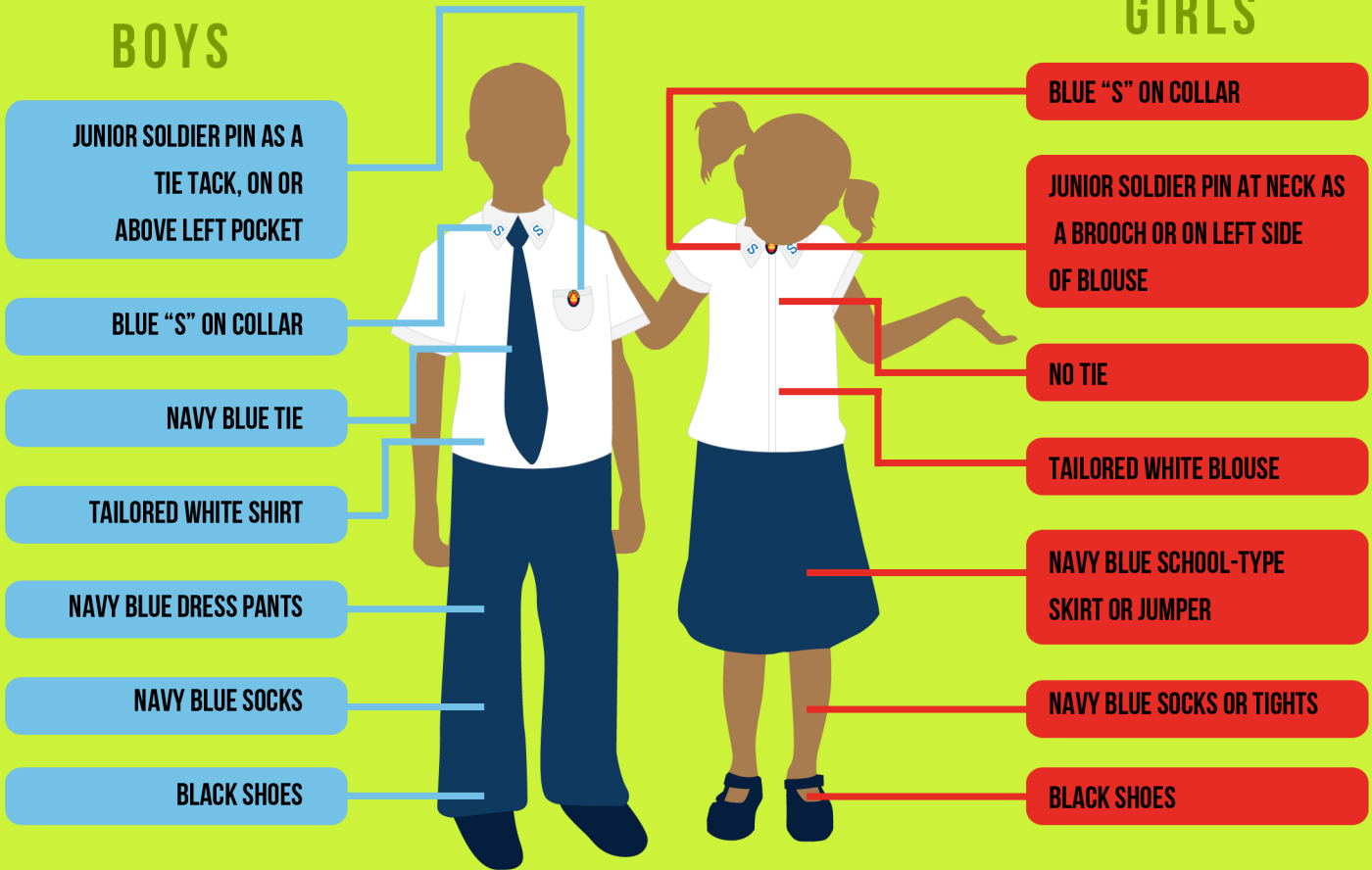
Dance participants will not be required to wear uniform **WHILE** performing. However, it is expected that they will be in uniform when they are not performing or waiting to perform. It is not necessary that they be dressed in black. Adjudicators will be looking for clothing to be neat, becoming, modest 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 via the links provided on the website.

The music for the Dance categories will be provided for the groups on the day of the event. They will not need to bring their own tapes or CD's.

TAM CONSERVATORY SCHOLARSHIPS

Those participants who are 14 years of age or older and who receive the highest scores in Dance Soloist Levels 2, 3 and 4, will receive a scholarship to the current year's 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.

Solo Dance Marking Rubric

Level- _____ Corps- _____ Song- _____ Name- _____

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Tally
Technique /20	The dancer(s) had distracting and improper or unsafe technique. 1-5 Points	The dancer(s) had passable technique. 6-10 Points	The dancer(s) had good technique with only minor exceptions. 11-15 Points	The dancer(s) had close to perfect technique and alignment. 16-20 Points	
Message and Expression /30	The choreography did not fit with the style of music or enhance the lyrics in any way. The dancer(s) were not performing with their faces and the message of the song was lost. 1-9 Points	The choreography in some ways worked with the lyrics and style of music. There were moments of clear story- telling but needs more rehearsal. 10-19 Points	The choreography worked with the lyrics and style of music. The dancer(s) were all expressive, conveying the message. 20-24 Points	The choreography was superbly executed; it worked with the style of music and enhanced the lyrics. The meaning of the song was made clear through the storytelling of the dancer(s) and their expressiveness. Your dedicated rehearsal time has paid off! 25-30 Points	
Choreographic Tools /20 (Opposition, Levels, Unison, Solos, Cannon and Use of whole body)	There was little to no use of choreographic tools. The dance felt repetitive and predictable. 1-5 Points	There was some use of the choreographic tools. Keep working on creating dynamic movement and interesting stage pictures. 6-10 Points	Good use of the choreographic tools. 11-15 Points	The choreography was interesting and engaging to watch with fantastic use of many choreographic tools. The dancer(s) have clearly worked hard to master such a diverse piece. 16-20 Points	
Spacing /20	Concentrated in only one portion of the stage 1-5 Points	More use of the stage is necessary. 6-10 Points	Most of the stage was used. 11-15 Points	The entire stage was utilized. 16-20 Points	
Costume /10	Costumes were either non-existent, ill fitting, or inappropriate for the dancer's bodies or the piece. Costumes were a distraction. 1-3 Points	Costumes were somewhat appropriate. 4-5 Points	Costumes were appropriate and fit well. 6-7 Points	Costumes were perfectly suited to the dancer's individual bodies and not only were they appropriate for the style of dance, but they enhanced the choreography and added to the effectiveness of the piece. 8-10 Points	
Hair & Makeup /10	Hair was messy, inconsistent, in the face and was a distraction. If makeup was needed, it was non-existent, messy or over-applied for the venue. It was a distraction. 1-3 Points	Hair was passably neat and out of the face. If makeup was needed, it was used to accentuate the dancer's expressions but there were some large exceptions throughout the group. 4-5 Points	Hair was almost perfect with only slight adjustments necessary. If makeup was needed, it was used to accentuate the dancer's expressions with some minor exceptions. 6-7 Points	The dancer(s) had perfectly neat hair, styled to suit the music and movement. Hair was never a distraction, but an asset to the piece. If makeup was needed, it was used perfectly to accentuate the dancer's expressions for this venue. 8-10 Points	

