

**Azalea International Folk Fair -
World Culture
Folk Dance Competition**

Explore the World's Rich Cultural Diversity
through Colorful Folk Dances

The 7th Annual

on

Saturday, March 10, 2012

10:00 - 10:15:

Introduce Panel of Judges, Judging Criteria &
Certification of Non-Professional/Amateur folk dancers

(1) 10:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.:

Division of Adult Teams - Small Group Competition

1:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.: Certificates & Awards

(2) 1:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.:

Division of Youth Teams Competition

3:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.: Certificates & Awards

(3) 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.:

Division of Adult Teams - Large Group Competition

5:20 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.: Certificates & Awards

at

The Valdosta-Lowndes County James Rainwater Conference Center
#1 Meeting Place, Valdosta, GA 31603

The winning and losing of the awards is a natural part of a competition. Your performance proudly expresses and displays the unique heritage of a tradition, history and culture.

**We salute you, and to us,
you are all champions!!**

Participation is winning!!

Rules & Regulations

Rule #1

First of all, all competitors, please read and understand the important Rule #1:

The dance competition is a family-oriented, regional event with many young children in attendance. We have teachers brought their students to the festival as a school field trip.

Any dances containing inappropriate gestures, choreography, and/or costuming will be considered for disqualification.

In this case, the protocol for final disqualification will be as follows.

Step One: The panel of judges will be asked to watch and filter any teams that may potentially be considered in violation of the competition rules.

Step Two: If the dance is deemed potentially inappropriate by the panel of judges, the team will be called to meet with the judges and two additional board members from Azalea International Folk Fair (President & Director for PR) in order to watch the video at the break.

Step Three: A determination will be made in a private session without the dance team present.

Step Four: The team will be informed of the final decision.

Step Five: The Dance Competition Organizing Committee has the obligation in honoring our policy and commitment to the visitors. To be responsible for the policy, at the start of the award ceremony, we will announce: **"Because of the policies of the organizing committee, the panel of judges disqualified (a) team (s) due to the inappropriateness of their dance."**

To avoid any concerns over inappropriate costuming, we further ask all teams to send in a picture of the costumes that the team will be wearing for the competition in order for the Organizing Committee to conduct a preview. The photo may be sent by either by hard copy in the mail or by e-mailing to folkdancecompetition@gainternationalfolkfair.org.

We appreciate your understanding and believe you will agree and support this Rule #1.

Rule #2

Contestants are limited to **amateur folk dancers** who dance for hobby and passion and **DO NOT**

1. perform as an occupation
2. perform regularly for pay
3. get paid for professional service in dance performance.

In other words, the competition is **NOT open to professional folk dance performers** who either earn regular income from routine performing basis or got paid for professional service in dance performances.

When signing up for the competition and mailing in the registration form, the contestants, teachers, or parents certify that **every** contestant in the dance competition teams is **amateur** folk dancer.

(3) There is **NO limit number** of **teams or dances** from **each ethnic or performing group** to participate.

Each team needs to pay individual registration fees of **\$40.00** for each dance.

However, **exact same dances CAN NOT be repeated in different divisions.** **Different dances** are required for competition in divisions of youth, adult small group and adult large group. We highly recommend **different sets of costumes for each dance.**

(4) The dance presented in the previous years **CAN NOT** be entered **again in the exact same number of dancers, costumes, and routines** by the same dance team and company to compete.

However, a dance with the following variations is acceptable for competition if either of the following conditions is met:

- A. the number of dancers, costumes and routines of the dance are not repeating from any previous years
- B. the same type/name of dance is performed by different dance teams or company in a given or prior years.

(5) **Performance must represent an ethnic group's folk or folk dance culture.** The Competition Organizing Committee will **make NO determination** concerning the accuracy of these representations. **Instead, each team is responsible for using its own judgment as to whether the dance represents the country's folk or folk dance culture or not.**

(6) As one of the purposes and goals of the competition is to encourage and promote the rich, diverse folk culture of the world, we encourage dancers to wear the traditional ethnic costumes depicting and reflecting the region or the country's folk culture.

(7) A variety of **folk dances** are welcome in this competition. However, in view of safety reasons, any movements with inherently dangerous maneuvers associated with dances are not advised. The safety of the dancers is up to their dance teacher's discretion. Contestants agree that **The South's International Folk Dance Competition Organizing Committee** holds **NO responsibility** for any mishaps or injuries that may occur during the competition.

(8) Music should be suitable to the tradition of the folk performance.

(9) It is the team's responsibility to turn in your music to the sound technician to get ready for competition. **Music must be in CD written in a .WAV file only.**

It is the team's responsibility to **pre-test the CD** if the music may be played on the CD player. One selection of music on a single CD is preferred. All music must be clearly labeled with:

- (1) The name of the team
- (2) The ethnic group
- (3) The name of the dance
- (4) The number of the sound track to be played

If cassette tape is used (**NOT RECOMMENDED**), it must be cued and ready to go. The team may appoint a person to coordinate the playing of the music with the sound crew.

If all possible, please leave a duplicate CD to the stage manager that we may use it for DVD production.

(10) **Duration of the Dance**

The duration of each dance is advised to be between **2** and **4** minutes. Timing will start with the first movement, spoken words, or note of music, whichever comes first. However, an extra one minute is acceptable and considered as a grace period. **2 Points** will be **subtracted from the team's final score if the dance lasts longer than 5 minutes**.

However, considering the fact that the competition's mission is to explore the folk culture through the dance, to respect the **"tradition"** (Such as the dance has a long history for its format), the dance duration may be considered acceptable for longer than 5 minutes. The competition team must submit **a written appeal** to ask for approval from the panel of judges **in advance**. Then, the 2 points will not be subtracted.

Definitely, the Competition does not accept the dance's duration **longer than 6 minutes**. **The team will become disqualified for the dance's duration longer than 6 minutes.**

(11) Props used in the performance should pose **no danger** to the dancers or to the audiences.

(12) Please provide effective promotional materials & the best information to describe your dance, costume and team for the media, publicity, documents, and web page. They will help us introduce your performance to the audience. Please read and fill out the registration form and send quality pictures along with it.

(13) Every team is responsible for the security of its own music, costumes, make-up, props & belongings. Make sure you do not leave any valuable items unattended.

The Competition Organizing Committee IS **NOT** RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY LOST OR DAMAGED ITEMS.

(14) It is the responsibility of every performing team and every individual member of the performing team to comply with and to conform to the regulations and requirements of the James Rainwater Conference Center, city and county ordinances, and state and federal laws.

(15) Rights of the Annual Folk Dance Competition Program:

When filling out the registration form, all performers automatically release the right to the Competition Organizing Committee for their media production. Means of media may include DVD, CD, book, brochure, photos, and other physical or machine readable medium. Because the potential viewers of the broadcasting and distribution will include all ages, the contents of the dance competition may be edited to suit for the general audience. The Azalea International Folk Fair reserves the right to omit completely a dance in the considerations of public interests or educational purposes. In addition to this editing right, others may include distributing, publishing, duplicating, and broadcasting rights of partial or the entire program of the dance competition.

The Azalea International Folk Fair is the sole producer of the dance competition program and the only authority to own the rights aforementioned.

General Info

Date:

Saturday, March 10, 2012, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Schedule:

(1) 10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.:

Introduce Panel of Judges, Judging Criteria and Certification of non-professional/amateur folk dancers

(2) 10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.:

Division of adult teams (Ages 15 years old and up) –
Small Groups (1-3 dancers) Competition

12:45 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.: Judges review the final scores and endorse the final list.

1:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.: Certificate & Award Ceremony for Youth Division

(3) 1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.:

Division of Youth Teams (Ages 14 years old and under) Competition

3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.: Judges review the final scores and endorse the final list.

3:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.:

Certificate & Award Ceremony for Adult Teams - Small Groups Division

(4) 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.:

Division of Adult teams (Ages 15 years old and up) –
Large Group (4 and more dancers) Competition

5:00 p.m. – 5:20 p.m.: Judges review the final scores and endorse the final list.

5:20 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.:

Certificate & Award Ceremony for Adult Teams - Large Groups Division

The Order of Dance Teams Line-Up for the Competition

The order of dance team line-up will be drawn by the **Competition Organizing Committee** on **Friday, March 2, 2012**

The order will be notified individually to every registered team by e-mail on March 3. Be sure to check your e-mail very often.

Registration

January 1, 2012 – February 25, 2011

(No registration will be accepted on or after March 2.)

Registration Fees:

Regular registration due on or before **February 25, 2012: \$40.00**

Late registration due by **March 2, 2012: \$50.00**

This \$40 registration fee includes one FREE DVD for one paid registered dance.

Additional copies of DVD can be order for \$12 + \$3.00 for shipping.
Please place order to the stage manager on-site.

Time & Schedule

(Please read and understand: This schedule is very much **tentative** and may change due to the number of teams register for the competition. Be sure to check your e-mail very often during the first week of March for the final, updated schedule)

(1) Adult Teams – Small Groups

9:15 a.m.:

(1) Adult teams- small groups arrive.

****** If you plan to change costumes and do make-up on site, please then come earlier –

Make your own judgment to decide when is the best time for your team to arrive.

(2) The Folk Dance Competition Committee's **Community Ambassadors** will be assigned to be your host. They will welcome you at the check-in, bring you to the dressing room, show you around and assist you in line-up.

(3) We have limited dressing rooms available. Teams will have to share rooms. After changing the costumes, our ambassador would show you to the assigned storage area where you may feel safe to leave your belongings. So other teams will be able to continue to use the dressing rooms.

(4) It is highly recommended that **local performers** come dressed and ready to perform.

(5) Teams turn in music to the sound technician to get ready.

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.:

Adult Team – Small Groups line up.

Judges be seated & introduced to the audience. (A more descriptive introduction of the judges), introduce the judging criteria as illustrated in the score sheet and certify Non-Professional/Amateur folk dancers

10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.:

Adult Team – Small Groups compete.

11:45 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.:

Lunch Break for Judges

Show time for World Geography: Are You Smarter than 7th Graders??

12:45 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.:

Judges review the final scores and endorse the final list.

1:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.:

Teams called to the stage to receive the **Certificate of Participation.**

Winners Awards given!!

(2) Youth Teams

12:15 p.m.:

(1) Youth teams arrive.

* If you plan to change costumes and do make-up on site, please then come earlier –

Make your own judgment to decide when is the best time for your team to arrive.

(2) The Folk Dance Competition Committee's **Community Ambassadors** will be assigned to be your host / hostess. They will welcome you at the check-in and show you around.

(3) We have limited dressing rooms available. Teams will have to share rooms. After changing the costumes, our ambassador would show you to the assigned storage area where you may feel safe to leave your belongings. So, other teams will be able to continue to use the dressing rooms.

(4) It is highly recommended that **local performers** come dressed and ready to perform.

(5) Teams turn in music to the sound technician for testing.

1:00 p.m.:

Youth teams line up.

1:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.:

Judges be seated & introduced to the audience.

(Only a brief introduction of the judges to enter)

1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.:

Youth teams compete.

2:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.:

Break for Judges

Show time for Science Challenges 107

3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.:

Judges review the final scores and endorse the final list.

3:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.:

Teams called to the stage to receive the **Certificate of Participation.**

Winners Awards given!!

(3) Adult Teams- Large Groups

2:30 p.m.:

(1) Adult teams - large groups arrive.

* If you plan to change costumes and do make-up on site, please then come earlier –

Make your own judgment to decide when is the best time for your team to arrive.

(2) The Folk Dance Competition Committee's **Community Ambassadors** will be assigned to be your host / hostess. They will welcome you at the check-in and show you around.

(3) We have limited dressing rooms available. Teams will have to share rooms. After changing the costumes, our ambassador would show you to the assigned storage area where you may feel safe to leave your belongings. So, other teams will be able to continue to use the dressing rooms.

(4) It is highly recommended that **local performers** come dressed and ready to perform.

(5) Teams turn in music to the sound technician for testing.

3:15 p.m.:

Adult teams - large groups line up.

3:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.:

Judges be seated & introduced to the audience.

(Only a brief introduction of the judges to enter)

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.:

Adult teams - large groups compete.

5:00 p.m. – 5:20 p.m.:

Judges review the final scores and endorse the final list.

5:20 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.:

Teams called to the stage to receive the **Certificate of Participation.**

Winners Awards given!!

Cash Award

For All Divisions:

(1) With **12 & less teams** registered for the division, there will be top **THREE** winners awarded:

1st place: **\$300**
2nd place: **\$200**
3rd place: **\$100**

(2) With **13 & more teams** registered for the division, there will be top **FIVE** winners awarded:

1st place: **\$500**
2nd place: **\$400**
3rd place: **\$300**
4th place: **\$200**
5th place: **\$100**

(Kindly, please help to promote the program.)

The Most Distinguished, Outstanding Award

The group/dance company that registers to compete for all of the **three divisions**, youth, adult teams - small groups and adult teams - large groups, and win **the first place** for all of three divisions will be awarded with the most outstanding award of **\$500.00.**

What an exceptional accomplishment,
we pay tribute to your team!!

New to 2012....

Trophy of Judges' Choice Award!!

The panel of judges and an AIFF representative will discuss and decide on one team which may **NOT** score the top five highest scores for cash awards, but the panel wishes to recognize a unique team for the team's participation, aspiration, dedicated efforts, and extra enthusiasm presented in the dance.

Judge's comments will be announced by
Ms. Caroline Kay Picart

One Judge's Choice Award for each division.

Judging Rules

1. To provide fair, accurate and non-discriminatory judgment on the dance competition, the qualified and dedicated judges will be selected by the Azalea International Folk Fair Board of Directors. Renowned dance instructors or dancers with insightful years' experience in dances will be selected. The list of judges will be announced on website on January, 2012.

2. Judges of the competition will be selected by the Azalea International Folk Fair Board of Directors based on professional criteria such as years of dance instructions, judging experience, specialty and expertise. The list of judges along with their professional credentials will be announced in January 2012.

3. The performance will be judged by the panel of judges using the criteria prepared by the competition committee and endorsed by the panel of judges.

4. The judging criteria & Score system:

Use a **20 - point** scale to evaluate the first category of (1) **choreography** and the 2nd category of (2) **Folk Culture**. Use a **10 - point** scale to evaluate categories (3) - (8). The **highest point value** for strongly agree/excellent; "**1**" for strongly disagree /very poor.

Total score is 100.

Evaluation Category	Achievements	Scores
(1) Choreography (Worth 20 points)	The opening presentation, either entering from the wings or beginning on the stage, is commendable. The dance steps/movements are well created and have good variety and a reasonable degree of difficulty. The ending presentation, either exiting the stage or ending on the stage, is commendable.	/20
(2) Folk Culture (Worth 20 points)	Crucial elements of the folk culture are well interpreted and effectively represented	/20
The following 3. - 8. is worth 10 points each		
(3) Visual Effect	The dance is impressive and entertaining.	/10
(4) Projection	The dancer(s) have delightful delivery of the dance and look pleasant.	/10
(5) Coordination	The dance has good spacing and flow and smooth transitions.	/10
(6) Costumes	The costumes are appealing and reflect the folk culture of the region.	/10
(7) Music	The dance is well woven together with the music and the interpretation of the music is well demonstrated.	/10
(8) Overall Impression	As a whole, the overall dance is enjoyable and impressive.	/10

5. Read this statement CAREFULLY!!

The winners will be decided by two factors:

- (1) The top five highest scores averaged from scores of the 5 judges.
- (2) The five judges will review the final scores and make a collective decision to endorse the top five winners.

The winners will be awarded from the 1st to the 5th places. There will be only one winner for each of 1st place to 5th. In the event of a tie, judges will decide the winners based upon scores from item #2, item#3, item#4..... in the score sheets to break the tie.

**The decision of the judges and the Committees
are final and binding.**

Narrators for the Competition Show

The competition will have narrators introduce the teams and the dances to the judges and audiences using the descriptions provided on entry form by the team leaders.

The narrator will usually introduce the team name, the dance, the country/region they represent & where (city and state) they are from. The narrator will also briefly introduce the background history of the folk culture the dance present, the story of the dance and the costumes, if provided and helpful for the judges and the audiences to understand the dance.

The competition organizing committee reserves the right to edit or even to re-write the descriptions in order to suit for narration and time. The team identity related **personal information** such as choreographer, manager, participants' individual names will not be mentioned.

Understanding the Facility and the Stage

The competition is located in the Valdosta-Lowndes County James Rainwater Conference Center's **10,935 sq. ft Exhibit Hall**.

This is **NOT** a professional performing auditorium. However, sound, lighting & staging systems will be professionally installed. The sound system is available for both a cassette deck and a CD player. The staging is absolutely strong and stable, but they are platforms installed from portable staging risers. Lighting is pre-set for the optimal result of viewing and videotaping. We will not be able to take any special requests for lighting.

The contracted company for providing our sound, lightning and staging service is **After Hours Productions**. Call Nick at 229-386-1323 / 800-417-7206 or E-mail: nick@fterhoursproduction.com for any question.

The stage size is 24 feet (wide) x 40 feet (long) x 4 feet (high).
The leader of the team needs to make a good judgment of the appropriate number of performers.

Feel free to call the Conference Center at (229) 245-0513 or visit **One Meeting Place, Valdosta, GA 31601** (www.valdostatourism.com), if you have any further concerns or questions about the facility.

Community Ambassadors to be your Host

The Folk Dance Competition Committee has a group of Community Ambassadors recruited from the Valdosta City & Lowndes County to assist you in getting ready for the competition. We will give the team leader's phones to the assigned ambassadors. They will call you on Wednesday or Thursday of the event to give you a pre-event welcome. They will then meet you at the check-in desk and to show you around. They will bring you to your assigned dressing room and also help you to get ready to line up for the competition and to get the certificates of participation as well as the awards.

Admission to Watch The Competition Show

We have hired professional ticket controllers to handle admissions on Saturday of the Fair. These controllers will adhere to strict rules.

**Under no circumstance will an attendee
enter the conference center without a ticket!**

Only dancers who participate in the competition and one team leader will get complimentary tickets to enter the International Folk Fair free of charge. The tickets will be mailed in advance to the team leader. All dancers need to present the tickets to enter. Without presenting the tickets, dancers will be required to purchase the admission.

All other attendees including team helpers, drivers, chaperones, hair-dressers, prop/costumes managers, etc.... **whoever are not dancers for the competition** will all need to purchase admission for the Folk Fair.

Admission Fees to the 2012 Azalea International Folk Fair:

\$6/ adult

\$3/ Children 12 & under