

Dance Leader Job Description for JKHC Tours

Summary

Dance leaders must coordinate song and dance, according to the amount of time set for the dance portion of tours. Dance Leaders will organize dancers, contact them a day ahead of the tour to ensure they will be available, and let each of the dancers know which songs are to be performed prior to performances. Leaders will also be held responsible for properly caring for their own dance regalia (to ensure best presentation), as well as the regalia owned or on loan to the JKHC being used by other dancers. In addition to leading the song and dance and telling the stories for each song, it is important that dance leaders also interact with guests and make them feel welcome and appreciated.

Duties and Responsibilities

1. Manage and organize dancers, contact them a day prior to tour dates to ensure they will be able to perform;
2. Be able to tell the history or story behind each song;
3. Give direction to the dancers for each performance, tell them what songs are to be performed and any special directions they will need to know to perform the dances;
4. Keep young dancers in check so their behavior doesn't get too loud, boisterous or unruly during the work day;
5. Wear full regalia including moccasins, headband, or hat, tunic, and or dance robe; (no tennis shoes or other manufactured foot wear) as any street clothes used with regalia must be of matching or complimentary colors, black pants acceptable, blue jeans not acceptable;
6. Keep regalia clean, and neatly stored for performances;
7. Keep in close contact with tour manager to keep abreast of any schedule changes or delays.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

- Knowledge of the Tlingit culture and language
- Knowledge of Chilkat/Tlingit song and dance styles;
- Able to drum when needed;
- Strong leadership skills;
- Strong communication skills;
- Able to lead song and dances in a knowledgeable and respectful manner;
- Knowledge of regalia, crests and local clan names and crest figures;
- Able to lead up to 4 performances a day.

Working Conditions

- Performances will be held indoors, in the long house
- Standing and or dancing during multiple performances, sometimes in short succession, other times with breaks in-between.