

IMEA CHILDREN'S FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL

General Information

WHAT IS IT?

A gathering of children dancing together—performing dances they have learned over several months of preparation.

HOW DO THEY LEARN THE DANCES?

Music and P.E. teachers are often involved, but classroom teachers, resource teachers, art teachers, parent volunteers, and retired teachers also help teach the dances.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS FESTIVAL?

The dances are geared toward upper elementary students; however, participants range from 3rd grade through high school. There is no geographical boundary—students participate from all over Indiana and occasionally from neighboring states.

WHERE DO THE FOLK DANCES COME FROM?

Each year features a variety of dances from around the world. The festival coordinator attends the Kentucky Dance Institute each summer to learn new dances. Many favorites from previous years are also retained, so teachers do not have to learn an entirely new set of dances every year.

IS THERE A FEE?

Schools pay a **\$35 registration fee per school**, which covers the cost of the syllabus with dance instructions, access to online music recordings, and access to online training videos.

Participating students attend free of charge. Audience members purchase tickets at the door on the day of the event:

- \$5 Adults
- \$3 Non-participating students

- Free for children ages 5 and under (non-school)

The festival often includes a professional dance ensemble performance during intermission.

An optional **Festival T-shirt and snack pack** is available for students. Teachers register for these in advance. The cost is **\$12 per child (optional)**.

THE GRAND EVENT

It is truly a spectacular sight to see hundreds of children dancing together in one space.

The event typically takes place in a local high school gymnasium on the final Saturday in April or one of the first Saturdays in May. Please check the IMEA Folk Dance website for specific dates and details.

For additional information, please contact:

Damon Clevenger, Festival Chair & Host Coordinator

(W) 317.964.6800

(C) 317.403.5194

damonclevenger@msdl.k12.in.us

Paige Rauscher, Festival Co-Chair

(C) 317.709.7433

prauscher@gws.k12.in.us

Marie Lawlor, Festival Director

(H) 317.283.6213

(C) 317.501.4814

mlawlor63@yahoo.com