American Dance

Education Support

How to Prepare a Drill Team Budget

By Joyce E. Pennington

The time to prepare your budget for the coming year is well before you meet with your new team candidates prior to tryouts. It will take some time for you to research the costs of new products and services and gather the data together. Since every school operates on a different budget program, you will need to determine how much of the expenses the school budget funds will pay, how much your Booster Club will contribute, how much to raise with fundraisers and how much each team member will be responsible for paying. Remember when you make your budget to always allow for a couple of extras when it comes to costumes, props, practice wear, etc. If a piece is lost, damaged or stolen, you will be able to replace it immediately. The cost for these extra items will need to be figured in for your total budget so that you will not find yourself "in the red" due to overages.

If you have never prepared a budget before, it would be advisable to consult with other directors in your district or your fine arts director for guidance. You will have to prepare an annual budget for school funds that must be turned in during January or February. It is not a good idea to be too overzealous in your requests, but remember, you will not receive any money for items unless you ask. Again, remember, all school districts are different in what their budgets will cover and the amount of budget provided to the team.

Once the student cost per person has been figured, you may want to set up a payment plan that will spread the costs over a period of a few months. Early information to the candidates can help them do financial planning with their families to make dance team an affordable activity. Selling used items from graduating seniors can help defer some of the costs as well as help seniors with their graduating expenses. Careful budget planning can contribute to happy parents, students, administrators and a successful year.

SCHOOL BUDGETED ITEMS:	
Sound equipment for practice and performance	$_____
Music purchases	$_____
Costs for professional recordings for performance	$_____
Letter jackets or award blankets for senior	$_____
Tryout judges fees both for officer and line tryouts	$_____
Choreographers for Contest or Spring Show	$_____
Contest and Camp fees	$_____
Director's fees for camps	$_____
Director's travel expenses to contests & camps	$_____
Buses for football games & camp	$_____
Field Uniforms	$_____
Pom Pons	$_____
Props for field and contests	$_____
Costumes for contest or spring show	$_____
Props for field and contests	$_____
Rain Ponchos	$_____
Other items	$_____
TOTAL AMOUNT	$_____

STUDENT BUDGETED ITEMS:	
Practice Wear	$_____
Practice Shoes/Tights/Jazz Shoes	$_____
Performance Shoes/boots	$_____
Summer Camp fees (line/officer)	$_____
Contest solo/ensemble fees (optional)	$_____
Big Sis/Lil Sis gifts (optional)	$_____
Dance Intensive fees	$_____
T-shirts	$_____
Warm-ups	$_____
Dance Bag	$_____
Travel Expenses to Contest	$_____
Hat	$_____
Boots	$_____
Other items	$_____
TOTAL AMOUNT	$_____
BOOSTER CLUB EXPENSES/PROJECTS:	
Defer expenses on costumes for spring show and contest	$_____
Have a 'support fund' to help dancers in financial need	$_____

Defer travel expenses for contest	$_____
Prepare spring show program (can be used to raise $)	$_____
Prepare and raise funds for drill team banquet	$_____
Raise funds for drill team scholarship and awards for seniors	$_____
Volunteer as chaperones for games and trips	$_____
Volunteer for bookkeeping for fundraisers	$_____
Volunteer for build props or sew costumes	$_____
Other items	$_____
TOTAL AMOUNT	$_____
ESTIMATED COST PER PERSON	$_____
FUNDS RAISED FROM BOOSTER CLUB/FUNDRAISERS	$_____
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST	$_____