

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



What is NEXT STEP?

A performance training program for aspiring, professional Irish dancers.

Who can audition?

Dancers must be 15 years old by July 15th 2026 in order to apply. They should be of champion level standard. Dancers should have an interest in becoming a professional Irish Dancer.

Is this an 'OPEN' program?

Yes, this is open to ALL Irish dancers no matter dance school or organization affiliation as NS is a stage production and dancers are not affected by associations or workshop penalties.

What are the dates?

Check-in begins 10am on Sunday August 2nd and week commences after Matinee Performance on Saturday August 8th

How do I apply?

Dancers must first fill out an audition form and then upload an audition video that our choreographers will then determine if dancer is accepted into the program. Audition video must show 16 bars of *both* hard and soft shoe dance. Videos can either be uploaded to YouTube or emailed. *See our website for upload info.*

Do I have to pay a deposit when submitting an audition video?

No, the audition process is free and open to dancers 15 and up.

What happens if my audition is accepted?

Welcome to the program! We will email you notification of your acceptance within two weeks of application received. In the email, we will provide you a link to do a full registration online and pay your deposit. The deposit holds your spot.

How much does the program cost and what is included?

Early bird special is available until March 15th for \$1,599.00. After that, program cost is \$1,675.00 Tuition includes:

- Air Conditioned, apartment style housing for 6 nights
- All catered meals
- Classes held by TOP INDUSTRY PROS
- Theatre Costume rental
- Theatre Rehersal Space
- Shuttle Servie to/from theatre
- On-Site Medical attendants and supervision for teens
- On-Site Seamstress
- Program finishes with fully produced Theatrical Production
- Tuition includes TWO tickets to performance.

Is there supervision at Next Step?

Yes, there will be Program Advisors located in the apartment unit to answer questions, guide you through the day, host night-time social activities, monitor curfews and overall supervision.

What is a typical day like?

After breakfast cast members will rehearse from 8:00 until 12noon then break for lunch and back again from 1:00pm to 6:00pm daily. Rehearsals include early morning fitness training, learning the choreography, technique classes, stage plots, experience learning backstage areas, and gaining the knowledge of working in a large scale show.

Night-time will be scheduled for social activities and guest keynote speakers within the theatre business.

Where will dancers be rehearsing?

Rehearsals will be set at College Park Hall on Union College campus, which is 11,000 square ft ballroom. This room can accommodate anywhere from 12 to 1,200 people and is home to the largest special event space in Schenectady county.

What are the accommodations like?

We will be utilizing College Apartments on campus. Apartments are available in 2 and 3 room units with sitting area, air conditioning, kitchen with fridge and microwave. Each room has a college twin size bed with desk and closet space. Males and females will be on different floors. Wifi throughout campus is free as well as free laundry services in the dorm house.

I live close to Union College, can I commute and not stay on campus?

Yes. Tuition for day commuters is a flat fee of \$1250.00.

What clothing/ attire will I need for rehearsals and performance?

Upon acceptance into program, we will provide Cast Members with a program kit containing information on rehearsal clothing etc. Tuition includes costume rental and cleaning for Theatrical Performance.

What should happen if a dancer gets injured?

Next Step is providing an on-site, 24 hr medical attendant to oversee the care and well-being of each dancer. There will be a health center equipped to handle basic first-aid needs. Parents will also be able to contact the medical staff in case of emergencies.

I have a dietary issue, can you talk about the meals?

All our meals will be catered through Union College dining. Meals are served buffet style and each cast member will have an array of choices for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Union College is very aware of students with food allergies or dietary issues and therefore has an allergy free area set up in their facility to accommodate all types of allergies or dietary issues. For more information on this specific issue, feel free to email the Next Step office and chat with one of our staff to answer your concerns.

Can I attend CRC and Next Step and is there a discount?

ABSOLUTELY! Next Step was designed to aid campers into their own journey of transitioning from amateur to professional! We encourage our older campers to continue to attend the camp they love so well and welcome them to gain the experience and knowledge of a professional show.

If a camper should be attending NY Session 3, they will be able to stay on campus between the end of camp and the start of Next Step, at a small additional cost.

Discounts:

CRC is providing a discount for 'crossover' campers who wish to attend both CRC and Next Step. This discount is \$100 of tuition and will be applied to balance.

Next Step is offering sibling discounts; \$50 off 1st sibling and \$75.00 off 2nd and any additional siblings.

Staff discount is available for any working 2026 CRC staff, please email for info.

Cancellation Policy

Once a cast member is notified of acceptance into the NEXT STEP program, a non-refundable deposit of \$750 is required to secure their spot. Remaining balances may be paid on a monthly schedule or paid in full by July 1.

Because NEXT STEP is a full stage production requiring choreography based on cast numbers, as well as the ordering of costumes and other production materials, no refunds of the deposit will be issued if a cast member cancels on or before June 1.

Canceling from CRC and moving to NS

If a camper cancels from CRC and moves to Next Step, the CRC cancellation policy would go into effect.

Please feel free to contact us if we did not fully answer your questions

nextstep@irishdancecamp.com