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1. INTRODUCTION

The Mission of CES Performance Tours

The value placed on this touring program is reflected in the many resources devoted to it. These resources include financial support for production and travel, qualified artistic directors, and rehearsal facilities. Additionally, student performers pay tour fees and contribute hours of rehearsal time – all directed toward specific purposes. Each performer will give and gain the most by understanding and focusing on these educational and spiritual goals:

1. **Provide vital education experiences for students** involved in university academic programs in music and dance.
2. **Promote to worldwide audiences a greater understanding of the Church**, its purpose, its members, and its sponsored educational institutions.
3. **Edify and entertain audiences** with superb, uplifting performances.
4. **Increase faith, dignity, and self-regard** of local Church members through association with performing groups.
5. **Prepare students for a lifetime of service** by developing their artistic talents and cultivating a broader understanding of people, cultures, and languages.

Educational Objectives for BYU-Idaho Performance Tours

Each year BYU-Idaho schedules and promotes some of its finest student performing ensembles throughout the world. In supporting this endeavor, BYU-Idaho hopes to achieve the following educational objectives:

1. **Motivate students** to develop artistic understanding and skill in preparation for a lifetime of service.
2. **Entertain and edify audiences** with excellent performances that will increase their sensitivity to the artistic experience and their understanding of the Church.
3. **Broaden the students' knowledge** and understanding of other people, cultures, languages, and provide an opportunity for cultural exchange.
4. **Advance understanding** of and support for the values, goals, and objectives of BYU-Idaho.
5. **Increase the excellence** and image of the program through which the performing ensemble is developed.

BYU-Idaho Honor Code

BYU-Idaho exists to provide an education in an atmosphere consistent with the ideals and principles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Observance of such is a specific condition of employment and admission. Throughout the tour, students agree to:

- Be honest
- Live a chaste and virtuous life
- Obey the law and all campus policies
- Use clean language
- Respect others
- Abstain from alcoholic beverages, tobacco, tea, coffee, and substance abuse
- Participate regularly in church services
- Observe Dress and Grooming Standards
- Encourage others in their commitment to comply with the Honor Code

Being A Gracious Guest

Host Families

The domestic performance tours are made possible by the generosity of families who open their homes to students. Without their support, the cost of touring would be much higher and very likely cost prohibitive. During your tour, you will have the opportunity to stay with many different families. We hope you will watch and learn from each family you are blessed to meet. Please be grateful and courteous to each host family that

takes you in. Hosts sacrifice both time and money to have you in their homes.

Please recognize the hospitality of your hosts and do not make excessive demands of them. As a rule, you will make a bigger impact on your hosts than on anyone else you contact. We encourage you to leave thank you notes for host families. Be sure to leave the room, bed, bathroom, etc., clean, and tidy. And always express your sincere appreciation and thanks.

With a kind request to your host family, most laundry can be done at their home, but occasionally you may end up doing your laundry in coin-operated machines or in the sink of a hotel room.

While every effort is made to provide you with a safe and positive home-stay experience, if at any time you feel concerned for your safety, immediately contact the tour manager.

Hotel Stays

During the tour, you may have the opportunity to stay in various hotels. Please be grateful and courteous to hotel staff and other guests during your stay. The attitude and behavior of each individual and the group will leave a lasting impression on those you come in contact with along the way. Be sure to leave the room, bed, bathroom, etc., clean and tidy. And always express your sincere appreciation and thanks.

In order to pack lightly, you may need to do laundry while on tour. You may end up doing your laundry in coin-operated machines or in the sink of a hotel room. Keep in mind that there are usually a very limited number of washers and dryers at hotels, so students will need to take turns doing laundry. The cost to launder clothing on tour is the responsibility of the tour participant.

Dress and Grooming Standards

As representatives of BYU-Idaho, students are asked to follow the BYU-Idaho Dress and Grooming Standards while on tour. Although this is specifically for campus, please apply to situations you will be in while on tour representing BYU-Idaho.

The following are the campus Dress and Grooming Standards:

Men and Women Campus Attire

Immodest clothing is any clothing that is tight, sheer, or revealing in any manner. Men and women should be neat and clean and avoid being extreme or inappropriately casual in clothing, hairstyle, and behavior. Pants, slacks, or jeans should not be patched, faded, frayed, or torn and must be ankle length. Hairstyles should be clean and neat, avoiding extreme styles and unnatural colors. Caps or hats should not be worn in buildings. Shoes should be worn in all public campus areas. Flip-flops and other casual footwear are inappropriate on campus. Shorts are not appropriate campus attire. Do not disfigure yourself with tattoos or body piercings.

Women

Clothing is immodest when it is sleeveless, does not cover the stomach or is low-cut in the front or back. Dresses and skirts should be knee-length or longer (even with leggings worn). No capris may be worn on campus. Women may wear one pair of earrings.

Men

Hairstyles should be clean and neat, avoiding extreme styles or colors, and trimmed above the collar leaving the ear uncovered. Sideburns should not extend below the earlobe or onto the cheek. Men are expected to be clean shaven; mustaches, if worn, should be neatly trimmed and may not extend beyond or below the corners of the mouth. Beards are not appropriate. Earrings are not acceptable.

Additional Dress and Grooming Guidelines for Tour Participants

In choosing your clothing, we remind you that **you will be representing the university**. We expect you to look sharp and be modest. You will be expected to dress better than your average “classroom dress.”

Jeans, shorts, and t-shirts will NOT be allowed on tour. (Exceptions to the “no jean/shorts/t-shirts” policy may be made by artistic directors for service activity and possible recreation activities, and will be communicated to tour participants prior to tour). We expect you to wear clothing that is NOT tight or form fitting. Tour Coordinators and Artistic Directors may make additional dress policies for tour.

2. TOUR POLICIES

Traveling as a Group – Dating and Flirtations

Tour participants should always be with at least two other tour members and are not to separate from the group. When sightseeing, students should be in groups and avoid situations involving couples alone. Dating while on the tour is not allowed, and public display of affection should be avoided. You must also avoid flirtations with those you meet on tour. These actions are often misunderstood and can lead to dangerous situations.

Proselyting on Tour

BYU-Idaho performing tours are a significant public relations tool for the university and the Church. You will likely be asked questions about the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints by people of other faiths who are curious to know why a university would sponsor such performing ensembles. You should not hesitate to answer questions directed to you, but in general it is inappropriate to initiate gospel discussions with audience members. You should also not pass out Church literature at performances unless the literature is requested by an audience member, or the performance is clearly under LDS Church sponsorship.

The reason for this caution on proselyting is because some “presenters” (those who arrange and sponsor performances) are not affiliated with the Church and are assured in advance that BYU-Idaho ensembles will not proselyte to audience members. Doing so in the face of these assurances would damage the image of BYU-Idaho and the Church, and in the case of some foreign countries, could force a cancellation of the tour. In all cases where questions of proselyting arise, follow the guidance of your tour leaders. If you are unclear what the policy is for the particular performance site, always ask your tour manager.

Post-Performance Encounters with Friends and Missionaries

Whether the Church is directly involved in presenting a performing ensemble or not, there are often friends or missionaries in the audience. It is easy for group members to gather around these people to discuss familiar things and unintentionally ignore other audience members. Performers should be aware of the following:

1. As you go into the audience, avoid grouping around specific audience members. Instead, scatter throughout the auditorium and speak to those not already talking to a performer.
2. Too much time spent with missionaries will inadvertently exclude other members of the audience waiting to meet performers, perhaps offending them, and lessening the ensemble’s influence. When missionaries are accompanied by investigators, the greatest impact can be made by focusing on the investigator.
3. Missionaries and friends should not be invited backstage before or after a performance.
4. Performers should take the initiative to politely end a conversation when it becomes too lengthy, especially if it is time to change out of costume and help load equipment.
5. Remember that host families are waiting for you.

Traveling in Host Vehicles

Members of performing ensembles are not allowed to drive vehicles belonging to presenters, host families, or local Church members while on tour. Whenever riding in host cars always wear a seat belt.

3. GENERAL TOUR INFORMATION

Finances

Funding for BYU-Idaho performing tours comes from four sources:

1. Ticket sales from pre-tour campus performances
2. University funding
3. Travel fee paid by student performers
4. Host families who provide housing and meals – without this, touring costs would be too expensive to operate

With this funding, the Performance Tours office arranges for all lodging, usually three meals per day and necessary transportation. In addition to these basic needs, our tour leaders will do their best to provide you with a positive tour experience. Please remember that these tours have a limited budget for extra activities and sightseeing. Even with these financial resources, BYU-Idaho's performing tours rely heavily on local presenters and host families. These hosts contribute substantial time, resources, and money – often at great sacrifice to themselves – to make possible your meals, lodging, and/or transportation. Because the performing tour program is so dependent upon the contributions from these presenters, your tour leaders cannot always guarantee the quality or timeliness of meals, accommodations, or transportation. Tour leaders often must balance the demands of the ensemble for free time and sightseeing with the interests of the presenters.

Student Tour Fee

Payment must be made prior to departure. Fees will be charged to your student account and a financial hold will be placed on you records if not paid.

Daily Devotional on Tour

Where possible, a devotional will be held each morning on the bus. This will also be an important time for you to be reminded of the plans for the day and hear of any updates.

Tour Leader Responsibilities

The duties of assigned leaders on your tour will include some or all of the following:

Tour Manager

- Meet with Tour Coordinators before tour to be apprised of tour arrangements
- Responsible for overseeing logistics while on tour: group travel, housing, meals, and activities
- Responsible for general group welfare
- Responsible for business management, accounting, keeping records
- Provide personal support and encouragement, group morale
- Encourage tour participants to abide by the BYU-Idaho Honor Code and the Dress and Grooming Standards
- Be a disciple leader for tour participants

Artistic Director/s

- Responsible for all creative aspects of the tour including music, staging, costuming, and performing
- Help tour manager become acquainted with and accepted by students
- Assure that tour participants abide by the BYU-Idaho Honor Code and the Dress and Grooming Standards
- Be a disciple leader for tour participants
- Promote group unity and keep group members informed
- Plan Sunday evening Devotional programs
- Assign tour participants to present in daily devotionals

4. TRAVELING ON TOUR

Packing Tips

1. Always travel light. If you do not need it, do not take it.
2. Pack bottled items that can spill (shampoo, perfume, lotion, etc.) in Ziplock bags. Also, if such items are to be packed in a carry-on bag for a flight, each item must weigh no more than three ounces.
3. For air travelers, pack a change of underclothing and your toiletries in your carry-on bag in case your checked luggage gets lost.
4. Pack valuables (including cameras and electronic equipment) in your carry-on baggage. Not only is there a chance that your checked luggage can get lost, but it is also possible for checked luggage to be opened and rifled through by baggage carriers.

5. Do not take valuable jewelry on tour. Jewelry can make you an attractive target for crime.
6. If you wear glasses or contacts, consider packing an extra pair and/or the prescription.
7. If applicable, bring a list of your prescriptions and their generic names for replacement purposes. If a medication is unusual or contains narcotics, carry a letter from your doctor stating your need for taking the drug.
8. Put your name, email, and telephone number inside and outside each piece of luggage.

How to Carry Money

Meals, lodging, and transportation will be provided for you on tour. You will want to bring some money for souvenirs, postage, laundry, and snacks. Spending money can be in the form of cash or credit card.

Credit and Debit Cards

Most merchants in North America will take American Express, Visa, MasterCard, and Discover credit cards or debit cards. Credit cards may also be used for cash advances. Before departing on a tour, call and advise your bank/credit card company of the days and locations you will be traveling.

Money Tips

1. Plan a place or places to conceal your valuables. Your identity, cash, and credit cards are safest when you carry them on yourself and conceal them in several places rather than putting them in one wallet or pouch.
2. Avoid handbags, fanny packs, and outside pockets, which are easy targets for thieves. Inside pockets and a sturdy shoulder bag with the strap worn across your chest is somewhat safer. The safest place to carry valuables is probably in a pouch or money belt that you wear under your clothing.
3. To avoid carrying large amounts of cash, use an ATM only as you need currency.
4. Do not reveal large amounts of money when paying a bill. Make sure your credit card is returned to you after each transaction.

Purchasing Gifts and Souvenirs

Although you are welcome to buy items on tour, please remember that there are limits to the amount you can pack in your luggage. Because of group equipment, costumes, and/or musical instruments, groups traveling by air cannot normally add more checked pieces of luggage. Bus bays are normally filled to capacity and cannot hold additional items purchased on tour. If you pack purchased items, do not pack fragile items in bags that will be checked on an airplane or thrown in the cargo bay of a bus.

Air Travel Safety

Below are travel “Do’s and Don’ts” from the U.S. Transportation and Security Administration:

DO’S

- Allow extra time. Arrive early.
- Please be vigilant of suspicious activity and report it to authorities.
- Keep your baggage with you at all times.
- Please review the guidelines for what you can take in your carry-on luggage.
- Bring a government-issued photo ID.

DON’TS

- The following is a list of items TSA does not allow on flights. Do not bring any of these: fireworks, flammable liquids, bleach, spray starch, spray cans, butane, CO2 cartridges, weapons including firearms, ammunition, mace, tear-gas, knives of any length, cutting instruments of any kind, scissors, pocket-knives, ice picks, straight razors, or corkscrews.
- Do not joke about terrorism, weapons, or firearms while in airports or boarder control offices. Do not threaten or appear to threaten passenger screeners. All such remarks will be taken seriously. This

could lead to arrest and/or fines. At a minimum, you may encounter a delay in travel.

- For more specific information on what to not pack, especially in carry-on luggage, go to any airline web page and locate this information.

In Case of Emergency

In case of emergency, the most efficient way for people to reach you on tour is to call BYU-Idaho Performance Tours at 208-496-2000.

5. HEALTH AND SAFETY

Healthy Performers

Drink Water

Drink six to eight glasses of water a day. If you become sick, drink as much water as possible. It flushes the sickness out, and you will heal much faster and feel better while you are sick.

Practice Good Hygiene

Always wash your hands. As COVID has taught us, touching doorknobs, bus seats, bag handles, shaking hands, and dancing are all potential ways to pass germs. Infections are easily passed through saliva. If you share food, water bottles, or sneeze and then shake someone's hand, the potential for passing on a sickness multiplies. Do not drink out of each other's containers!

Face Masks

All tour participants are expected to wear masks in accordance with municipal and venue requirements and by direction of tour management. Protective face coverings may be required in public venues. Students should bring their own masks on tour.

Bring Medication

Bring enough personal medication for the entire tour (prescriptions and over the counter). A first-aid kit is available in case of an emergency. Do not share medications; doing so makes you liable if a problem arises. Consult the tour manager for medical assistance.

Illness on Tour

Unfortunately, illness occurs often during extended touring. Traveling together in close proximity for an extended time, combined with fatigue and changing circumstances, creates a greater possibility for sickness. If you have a history of illness or a special medical condition requiring regular medication or treatment, please share this with your tour leaders so they can be prepared to assist you if necessary.

Special Dietary Needs

The quantity and quality of meals provided by your presenters will vary greatly. Therefore, it is very difficult for the tour leadership to meet the specific dietary needs or requests of individual tour members. If you have special dietary needs (gluten-free, vegetarian, lactose-free, etc.), please discuss this with your tour leaders before tour so accommodations can be made, and to talk about how this may affect your ability to perform while on tour.

Lost or Stolen Items

If your possessions are lost or stolen, report the loss immediately to your tour leaders, who should then contact the local police. Keep a copy of the police report for your insurance claims and as an explanation of the incident.

Accidents or Injuries

BYU-Idaho sends a first aid kit with each tour to assist you in case of an accident or injury. If you are injured, see that your tour leaders are immediately informed, so they can assist you in receiving whatever care is necessary.

Safety on Tour

To ensure your safety, it is very important that you be wise in your conduct while traveling. Please consider the following tips for Safety on the Street, Safety in Your Hotel, and Safety on Public Transportation.

The U.S. State Department suggests the following ten “Safety on the Street” Tips:

1. Do not: travel alone at night, use shortcuts, narrow alleys, or poorly lit streets.
2. Avoid public demonstrations and other civil disturbances.
3. Keep a low profile and avoid loud conversations or arguments. Do not discuss travel plans or other personal matters with strangers.
4. To avoid scam artists, beware of strangers who approach you, offering bargains or to be your guide.
5. Beware of pickpockets. They often have an accomplice who will do the following:
 - a. Jostle you
 - b. Ask you for directions or the time
 - c. Point to something spilled on your clothing
 - d. Distract you by creating a disturbance
6. A child or even a woman carrying a baby can be a pickpocket. Beware of groups of vagrant children.
7. Do not walk the streets alone. Travel in mixed-gender groups of three or more.
8. Wear the shoulder strap of your bag across your chest and walk with the bag *away* from the curb to avoid drive-by purse snatchers.
9. Try to seem purposeful when you move about, even if you are lost, act as if you know where you’re going. Ask directions only from individuals in authority.
10. If confronted by superior force, do not fight attackers – give up valuables.

The U.S. State Department suggests the following six “Safety in Your Hotel” Tips:

1. Keep your hotel door locked at all times. Meet visitors in the lobby.
2. Do not leave money and other valuables in your hotel room while you are out. Use the hotel safe.
3. Let someone know when you expect to return if you are out late at night.
4. If alone, do not get on an elevator if there is a suspicious-looking person inside.
5. Read the fire safety instructions in your hotel room. Know how to report a fire.
6. Be sure you know where the nearest fire exit and alternate exits are located. Count the doors between your room and the nearest exit. This could be a lifesaver if you have to crawl through a smoke-filled corridor.

Lost or Late on Tour

If you become lost while on tour, you should contact or attempt to contact the Tour Manager. If this is not possible, contact one of the other tour leaders or a fellow tour participant. It is wise to carry the tour itinerary with you at all times.

Because of time constraints on any tour, the group cannot be unduly detained waiting for one participant. **If participants, through their own negligence, become lost or are late for departures, they must pay their own transportation expenses to get back to the group.**

For more information: www.byui.edu/performancetours