



Welcome Letter

I am so excited to welcome you to this new event that is sure to be value-packed for your students. The Gold Star Achievement Ball was born out of a desire to help bring the dance communities together after the shutdowns from the pandemic. We believe that the success of our first event in April of 2021 was proof that we should continue and grow. Our primary goal over the next two years is focused on quality and organization, therefore attending this event will be by invitation only. We are committed to growing slowly as to maintain a healthy event that feels stress-free and fun for all.

The achievement section of the event is scheduled for Saturday late morning early afternoon of April 23, 2022. The awards and showcase section is scheduled for Wednesday evening of April 27, 2022. The Country Western syllabus is now fully integrated and several Ballroom and Country Western dances are combined and evaluated in one event. We are only offering evaluations through Bronze, with Silver and Gold levels of all dances added to future events. The syllabus used for all student evaluations is Dance Vision, although this is an unsanctioned event and student evaluations will not be recognized by Dance Vision. Our intention is a community-driven event, so the evaluators will be teachers attending with their students.

This new event has three components: First, the student evaluations during the day session, when students will go through the evaluation rounds, formatted in the spirit of a competition. Second, all attending teachers will present up to three showcase routines during the evening session. These can be formation teams with multiple people or Pro-Am choreographed showcase exhibition routines. The third component is the awards, when students will receive the evaluators' sheets, showing them things they did well as well as areas of needed improvement. They will also receive the results of their score, in terms of lack of proficiency, proficiency, or honors. Each student will receive a packet with a journey chart for every style of dance they enter. Every dance that was proficient or above earns them a sticker that can be placed on their journey charts, by which they will track their progress towards Full Bronze Certification.

As we look to the future for the Gold Star Achievement Ball, we hope to see schools from both Colorado Springs and Denver participating together, something for students to look forward to and gain confidence to explore future avenues like studio showcase events and competitions. Because of this aspiration, we are considering moving this event to Castle Rock to give both dance communities easier access to the event.

Thank you for considering being part of this new idea. All forms in this packet are posted on the website, the summary form has information about teacher participation the price list and payment methods. Summary form is password protected, please contact me for the password. We hope to see you and your students at the next Gold Star Achievement Ball!

Brad Ackerman
Organizer