

# HENDRIX COLLEGE

## SHIRTTAILS SERENADE DOCUMENT

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### Serenade Document Outline (8 pages)

- Provides in-depth outline of all governing policies for the events
- Describes and defines the overseeing bodies in charge of the events
- Defines the events themselves and their time commitments
  - Includes attire mandates
  - Provides for an inspection
- Includes timeline of planning process and event schedules
- Outlines punishments for noncompliance with protocol outline in the document or the contracts

### Shirrtails Serenade

#### **Purpose of the Event**

Shirrtails is an event for all new Hendrix students. The purpose of the event is to promote unity, fellowship, and school spirit among new students and current residents of halls. All participants are expected to act in accordance with the Code of Conduct as set forth in the Student Handbook.

The Student Senate encourages positive leadership to take place in the residence halls. Senators, Hall Council members, hall residents, and all other students should take the initiative in setting a positive mood for the Event. The focus is for the new students to have fun and build a cohesive Hendrix Community.

#### **The Event**

Shirrtails is a Student Association event sponsored annually by the Student Senate. Shirrtails, hereafter referred to as the "Event," is comprised of an optional "Serenades" on Wednesday and "Teasers" and "Competition" on Saturday. It also includes all designated rehearsal and practice times.

#### **Serenades (Wednesday Night)**

- The men's dorms may venture to the women's dorms on Wednesday night to serenade female residents. This is an optional event for all first-year male students.
- The order of performance for the night is to be determined by the Shirrtails Serenade Committee.

**Teasers (Saturday Evening)**

- The Office of the Dean of Students will provide food to all competitors in the staging area prior to their performance.
- All residence hall teams will perform their Competition choice in rotation at the residence halls housing the other sex.
- Performers from all male residence halls will arrive at the predetermined staging area at 4:00 p.m. for inspection, while performers from all female residence halls will arrive at the predetermined staging area at 5:30 p.m. for inspection
- The men will perform first, leaving the staging area simultaneously to begin performing in a predetermined order.
- The women will then simultaneously leave the staging areas to begin performing in a predetermined order.

**Competition (Saturday Night)**

- This is the main event located in the Brick Pit
- Women perform first in random order
- Men then perform in random order
- The Shirrtails Serenade Committee will arrange for someone to perform while the judges tally their votes

**Participant Eligibility**

Those deemed “new” by the Office of the Registrar, to include transfer students, are eligible to participate with their respective residence halls. New students residing off campus or in the new houses may choose the hall with which they would like to participate. The Shirrtails Committee wants to ensure that all students are comfortable participating in Shirrtails regardless of their background, heritage, nationality, racial/ethnic identity, sexual orientation, and gender identity/gender expression. Transgender or gender non-conforming students living in gendered residence halls (all male/all female) may have the option to perform with the residence hall of their choice. Similarly, those students living in non-gendered residence halls may have the option to perform with the gender group of their choice for their residence hall. Requests of this sort need to be made to the Shirrtails Chair and approved by the Dean of Students within five days of the event. All students wishing to participate are required to attend the Shirrtails Orientation meeting and any educational experiences determined by the Offices of Student Affairs and Student Activities. Student Affairs staff will be responsible for keeping a list of students that attend the programs.

**ORGANIZATION****Shirrtails Serenade Oversight Committee**

The Shirrtails Serenade Oversight Committee (SSOC) shall be constituted of the Student Association President, Vice President, Academic Policy Representative; two SSC-selected volunteer Resident Assistants approved by the Student Senate, and an SSC-selected volunteer Faculty advisor.

- The committee shall publish clear and succinct guidelines during the spring and ensure that Choreographers follow them
- It shall choose the judges and ensure a transparent and fair judging process is in place for the competition
- This committee will also be responsible for setting up an alternate event for those not wishing to participate in Shirrtails. Options may include movies, cookouts, etc.

### **Shirrtails Serenade Committee**

The Shirrtails Serenade Committee (SSC) executives shall be constituted of a Chair, to be selected by the Committee on Committees and approved by the Student Senate. A Vice Chair for Contracts, a Vice Chair for Choreography, a Vice Chair of Media and Publicity, and an Assistant shall be selected by the SSC Chair. These positions are subject to being converted to Co-Chair positions at the discretion of the Student Senate. The choreographers shall be presented to and approved by Senate.

#### *The Chair and Assistant*

- Prepare funding requests and oversee budget
- Coordinate set up and tear down of competition area
- Procure and utilize proper security measures
- Ensure Hall Councils follow all directives and obey rules
- Schedule meetings as necessary and appoint Hall mediators
- Ensure contracts are adhered to
- Ensure this document is adhered to
- Prepare some sort of informational pamphlet explaining Shirrtails to be sent to the freshmen over the summer

#### *Vice Chair for Contracts*

- Ensure that all participants and organizers are properly contracted
- Compile and file all contracts
- Coordinate and ensure Hall Councils sign contracts
- Ensure students under the age of 18 have contracts signed by parents

#### *Vice Chair for Music and Choreography*

- Ensure SSOC guidelines are given to Choreographers
- Ensure that SSOC deadlines are followed
- Organize the selection of music with choreographers

- Ensure that the following dance criteria are followed:
  - No sexual maneuvers with another individual
  - No feigning masturbation
  - No inappropriate physical contact
    - Includes any touching of genital regions, buttocks or breasts
  - No removal/partial removal or feigning removal of clothing
  - Props and costumes must follow Shirrtails Committee protocol
  - Safety of all participants must be ensured on all stunts
    - Includes keeping continuous contact on “the flyer”

### *Vice Chair of Media and Publicity*

- Direct the design of publicity materials
- Distribute publicity materials
- Correspond with t-shirt company and place t-shirt order
- Direct the film and photography coverage of Shirrtails

### *Choreographers*

- Choreographers must maintain and uphold the Standards of Conduct during practices and during the night of the Event. Choreographers must be full time students at Hendrix. They must also attend the music selection, dance review, and if required by the SSOC, the dance approval meetings. Duties are elucidated in attached Contract.

### **Shirrtails Orientation Meeting**

- Meeting will be set as the Sunday freshmen return from Orientation trips.
- SSC will set up meeting times with each of the residence halls.
- SSC will be responsible for announcing meeting times to the freshmen and Hall Councils.
- Roll will be kept to verify attendance.
- Both committees and any of their representatives will be responsible for conducting one-on-one interviews with each new student interested in competing to ensure that they base their decision on their own and are able to express their concerns in a peer-pressure free environment.
- Both committees will be responsible for leading the discussion within each hall and administering the secret ballot for the nature of competition content.

### **TIMELINE**

#### *Spring*

- SSC and SSOC members are chosen
- SSC develops a budget to submit to Student Senate during Spring Allocation
- SSOC develops and distributes guidelines, including score criteria
- Choreographers are chosen by hall councils and approved by SSC

- Guidelines communicated to Choreographers

#### *Summer*

- Choreographers develop dance and serenade and prepare itemized prop/music list

#### *Fall*

- Music, dance, and prop final approval on Sunday prior to classes starting
- SSC/SSOC hold Shirrtails Orientation meeting on Sunday
- Event begins
- Wednesday Serenades
- Saturday Teasers and Competition

### **COMPETITION**

#### **Selection Procedure for Competition Content**

Choreographers are responsible for choreographing dance moves according to the following criteria:

- No sexual maneuvers with another individual
- No feigning masturbation
- No inappropriate physical contact
  - Includes any touching of genital regions, buttocks or breasts
- No removal/partial removal or feigning removal of clothing
- Props and costumes must follow Shirrtails Committee protocol
- Safety of all participants must be ensured on all stunts
  - Includes keeping continuous contact on “the flyer”

Dances are subject to an approval screening by the Shirrtails Serenade Committee and Shirrtails Serenade Oversight Committee before taught to new students. Dance moves deemed inappropriate or unsafe must be replaced. Additionally, choreographers must offer a gradient of moves. If a student is not comfortable with a move, they must have an available alternative move to perform. Choreographers must preview the entire dance for the prospective first-year student dancers prior to the first night of practice.

The first-year students may choose to perform as many of the following options as they wish:

- Serenades on Wednesday at 7:00-8:30PM
- Teasers on Saturday, no later than 4:00PM
- Dance Competition on Saturday at approximately 7:00PM

### Performance Practices

- Practices cannot interfere with participation in scheduled new Student Orientation events.
- Practice times will be arranged by the SSC and will total no more than 14 hours from Monday to Saturday. Practices held Monday through Thursday will be limited to 2 hours. Weekday practices will start no earlier than 6:30 p.m., and weekend practices will start no earlier than 8:00 a.m. No practices will last beyond 11:00 p.m.
- There will be no additional practices attended by Choreographers or Hall Council.
- The presence of dorm RAs is encouraged to promote a healthy and safe atmosphere.
- Hazing and/or actions promoting embarrassment of performers are prohibited.
- All practices are closed to anyone except participants, hall council, dorm RAs and Choreographers. The last hour of Friday practice can, by unanimous participant vote, be opened to the rest of campus. The SSC reserves the right to eject disruptive guests from practices. All practices are alcohol-free zones.

### Performance Attire

These are the MINIMUM requirements. More clothing may be used and should be left to the discretion of the new student participants of each residence hall. Performers not meeting the minimum dress requirements will be disqualified from all performances.

- Men
  - Boxer shorts or boxer briefs (NO open holes)
  - White, long sleeved oxford shirt; Only the top button of the shirt may be undone during the performances
  - Closed-toe shoes
  - Tight, full-coverage undergarments must be worn under shorts
- Women
  - Any style of shorts (NO holes and the inseam must be at least 2.5 inches, Soffee short length)
  - White, long sleeved oxford shirt; Only the top button of the shirt may be undone during the performances
  - Closed-toe shoes
  - Tight, full-coverage undergarments must be worn under shirts and shorts.

### Inspection

The SSC and SSOC will be responsible for checking both attire compliance as well as inspecting the students for signs of alcohol consumption. For reasons of propriety and comfort, students may only be inspected by members of the same sex. A student may request to be inspected by a different member of the Committees upon request, for any reason.

- Any student found to be exhibiting signs of alcohol consumption will be removed from the competition and there may be repercussions for the dorm.
- Any student not in compliance prior to the Competition event will be barred from performing until they comply with attire protocol.
- Any student found to be out of compliance with attire protocol during the Competition will be removed from the competition. The SSC and SSOC will then decide if measures need be taken against the offender's residence hall team.
- The Office of Student Affairs will have representatives present to verify attendance of all educational programs required to establish participant eligibility.

### **Competition Night**

- Competition shall be the first Saturday after the first day of classes
- Participants deemed to be intoxicated by any Staff, SSOC, SSC or Senate officer will not be allowed to perform
- Performance time shall not last longer than 5 minutes, including introductions.
- All performers shall leave the staging area and sit on the western steps of the Brick Pit to await their performance time
- Only participants, hall council members, and the choreographers will be allowed on the West steps of the Brick Pit
- No cups will be allowed on the West steps of the Brick Pit
- Any props used in the performance must be carried by new students
- Any props must be pre-approved by the SSC
- Items may not be thrown into the air or into the crowd during the competition

### **Dance Area**

The dance area shall be designated and set up by the Committee.

- The area will be large enough so that the largest group has room to perform.
- There shall be an established entrance and exit at each performance area.
- There shall be a six-foot buffer zone between the outside of the taped-off area and the performance area. Individuals crossing this area shall be asked to leave or will be escorted from the area by a public safety officer.

Any act that is in violation of the rules established by the Committee at any point during the week shall result in the following consequences:

- First infraction results in a 10% reduction penalty, if appropriate for the scoring system designed by the SSC. The SSC may offer alternative penalties, to be approved by the SSOC.
- The second infraction results in disqualification.
- The SSC and SSOC reserve the right to disqualify residence halls for multiple violations.

Anyone observing the performances should encourage dancers through clean, appropriate, and positive comments. Booing, sexual, or rude comments are not allowed. Any disruption will result in individuals being escorted from the area and/or campus.

Any individual or hall failing to comply with the stated and established rules, including but not limited to the following:

- Unruly behavior as determined by any member of the Staff, SSC, SSOC or Senate.
- Physical contact between performer and an observer and vice versa.
- Throwing anything into the dance area.
- Failing to comply with performance attire policy.

### **COLLEGE POLICIES**

**The Sexual Harassment Policy of the college, as defined by the Student Handbook applies in full. An overview follows:**

- It is the policy of Hendrix College that no member of the academic community may sexually harass another. Whether overt or subtle, sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment when such proposals are made under circumstances implying that one's response might affect academic or personal decisions subject to the influence of the person making the proposals. Sexual harassment may also be constituted by conduct that abusively implies a discriminatory hostility toward the personal or professional interests of members of the community because of their sex.
- The procedures for dealing with sexual harassment are intended to create an atmosphere in which individuals who believe that they are the victims of harassment are reassured that their complaints will be dealt with fairly and effectively and to create an atmosphere in which instances of sexual harassment are discouraged. Toward this end, all members of the academic community should support the principle that sexual harassment represents a failure in ethical behavior. Sexual exploitations of professional relationships will not be condoned in the Hendrix community. Students who believe that they have been victims of sexual harassment as defined above may bring the matter to the attention of the College Counselor, a member of the Student Affairs staff, or any



officer of the College. At this point, information is readily available regarding the bringing of a complaint and the resolution of that complaint.

**The Alcohol Policy of the College will be enforced. In addition, the following will apply:**

- Any performer who exhibits signs of alcohol consumption will be immediately disqualified
- Public Safety shall confront observers who appear intoxicated and/or in possession of alcohol.

Created 4/16/08 by Bradley Fogleman, Senate President

Revised 03/04/2013 by Laura Wagner and Neelam Vyas, SSC Co-Chairs