**FAQs – 2018 Metropolis of Atlanta Odyssey Travel Program for HDF Dancers**

1. **Who is eligible to apply?**

*While we will not exclude anyone from applying, the trip is geared towards teens ages 15-18 who have completed at least one year of high school. Previous Odyssey participants, whether receiving financial assistance from the Metropolis or attending at the invitation of Metropolitan Alexios, are not eligible.*

1. **What are some additional requirements?**

*Applicants should be active, sacramental members of their parish. Preference will be given to a teen who participates in more than one metropolis or district event. This provides for a more committed Orthodox youth.*

1. **What if I am new to HDF?**

*All applicants must have performed with their parish-based dance group in at least 3 HDF weekends since 2014. This program is funded through HDF registration, so it is not fair for those families who have contributed to the event.*

1. **How many service hours are required?**

*Each applicant must complete a* ***minimum of 60 volunteer hours*** *in order to be eligible to participate in the 2018 Odyssey Travel Program.*

1. **What types of volunteer activities do you recommend?**

*We understand how busy teens can be, but also recognize an important component of living a Christian life is giving back to our neighbors. With this in mind, service hours can range from cleaning your church, volunteering at a local Soup Kitchen, speaking to a Church School class about our faith, visiting a nursing home, helping clean up a park in your area, sorting clothing for a parish rummage sale, volunteering for Vacation Bible School, or teaching Greek dancing to a group of veterans and their wives in your area.*

1. **I am an Alter Boy or Handmaiden – does this count?**

*No – unfortunately, this type of activity does not count for your additional service to your parish or community.*

1. I am already in a service club in school – can I just use these hours?

Yes – you can use a portion of these hours, but the program is designed for interested applicants to expand their horizons and develop new and creative ways to impact their community, their parish and themselves.

1. My GOYA always volunteers at our Greek Festival – I can early my hours in one weekend!

While that is possible, you will note on the Yearly Tracking Sheet a number of options regarding how the opportunity was developed. **Each person should have hours in at least 4 categories including the “Personal Initiative” area**. You cannot just “tag along” with GOYA events or school opportunities. Applicants should be actively and creatively seeking ways to give back to others.

1. What if I forgot to get my firm signed – can my Dance Director just do it?

No – **it is imperative that the form is completed in its entirety**, including the signature of the individual who supervised your work. We will be contacting the individuals you reference, so please be specific regarding their title, email and phone number.

1. I already volunteer at the Humane Society – I’m good to go!

While this may seem like an easy answer, we are also expecting that applicants find a variety of opportunities and locations. So **you will not receive credit for more than 12 hours (20%) in any one location**, nor can you have the same supervisor for more than 12 hours.

1. What is the deadline to submit this information?

All forms must be received by the Metropolis of Atlanta no later than Thursday, November 30, 2017.