



Dance Dance!

Kerala Fest Cinematic Group Dance Competition

Location: Indian Community Center, 525 Los Coches St, Milpitas, CA, 95035

Date & Time: Saturday, May 16, 2026. 8:30 AM Start

RULES AND GUIDELINES

All teams must honor these rules: **Violations will be grounds for penalties and/or disqualification from the contest.**

APPLICATIONS:

- Registration fees must be paid in full while registering your team
- The registration fee is \$100, and it includes one group (3 – 12 participants). Each additional participant will pay \$5.
- Participants must report backstage 30 minutes before their item's scheduled time. Estimated time for individual events will be communicated 2 to 3 days before the event.
- Only participants registered online on or before the last registration day will be eligible to participate in the competitions.
- Applications are considered on a first-come, first-served basis. Kerala Fest 2026 reserves the right to reject applications not meeting the selection criteria.
- Application Deadline: May10th , 2026

- Schools can send more than one entry per category if the dancers in the group are different.
- Age Categories will be based on School Grade as of May 16, 2026.

GROUP/TEAM CONTEST:

- The contest is for CINEMATIC GROUPS ONLY
- Minimum of 3 dancers and Maximum of 16 dancers
- **No SOLO PERFORMANCES** in the competition.
- The same dancers CANNOT compete in more than one dance.

FORMING TEAMS:

- To participate, you do not have to be a dance teacher, own a dance school, or belong to a dance school to form a group.
- Please choose one person as the “Director” or “Coordinator” for the group's communication with Kerala Fest.
- Follow the rules. Ensure that there are no disputes amongst yourselves about who will receive the trophy if your group wins.
- Must ensure the entire team checks in together

CATEGORIES:

- **Sub Junior Category** – Grade K-3
- **Junior Category** – Grade 4-7
- **Senior Category** – Grade 8-12
- **Adults Category** – 18 and above

AGE EXCEPTIONS

- Participants from the lower grade category may compete in the higher grade category.
- Kerala Fest permits one participant from the higher-grade category to compete in the lower grade category, provided they are only one year higher. For instance, a single 8th grader may participate in the Junior Category, but not a 9th grader.

- Cross-checking that all participants are within the age group is based on the honor system. It is the team director/coordinator's responsibility to bring all exceptions to our notice. However, if it is brought to our attention that a participant is under or over the age category that they have registered under, Kerala Fest holds the right to disqualify the entire team

NOTE: Kerala Fest will not police or check proof of age. The team director is responsible for ensuring the dancer's age complies with each category, and they must bring all exceptions to our notice.

LENGTH OF PERFORMANCE

Music/Performance cannot exceed 6 minutes

PENALTY: If the length exceeds the allotted time limit, the team will be informed, and they could be disqualified.

PROPS:

Props can be used if they take **less than one minute of set-up and tear-down time**. No heavy props that need adult assistance in the green room to set up.

Props cannot include flames, candles, weapons, color powder or sharp objects of any kind that may jeopardize the safety of dancers and others. The Kerala Fest team reserves the right to disallow a prop before the performance.

Use of glitter or smoke items on the stage is strictly prohibited, and any violation will result in disqualification.

SONG LANGUAGE:

Songs should be a film song, album, or remixed version of the song

PERFORMANCE:

The dance performance will be category-based, and the Order of execution and expected performance time will be communicated to each team in advance.

JUDGING:

Each category will have at least 3 judges who are qualified individuals.

Judgement Criteria – Cinematic

Elements Description Maximum Marks		
Entry/ Opening		05
Choreography		15
Special effects and Stage Setting		10
Facial expression, gestures and steps		15
Synchronization & Group formation		15
Power and Dynamics		10
Costumes and Accessories		10
Music		10
Sense of Space	Space utilization	05
Overall impression		10
Grand Total		100

- No audience members will be allowed to sit in front of the judging area
- All decisions made by the judges are FINAL. We do not encourage any deliberation regarding the decisions by the judges. Please do not follow-up with the judges after the event.
- Dance groups may be disqualified before, during, or after their performance if they are found to have violated Kerala Fest's policies and rules for the contest.

PRIZE DISTRIBUTION:

Prizes for the category will be given after all the dance competitions are over.