

ABOUT STOCKTON FOLK DANCE CAMP

Many people ask a friend who has been to Camp what it's like. If you don't have anyone to ask, we hope the information below will be helpful.

Stockton Folk Dance Camp has taken place every summer since 1948. The old saying about having stood the test of time certainly applies. Originally known as the College of the Pacific and affiliated with the Methodist Church, the campus where Stockton Folk Dance Camp is now called the University of the Pacific, located in Stockton, California. You can read more about the history, the curriculum, and the teachers who have appeared at Camp over the years by downloading the [FDC History](#).



THE SCHEDULE. You should plan to arrive at Camp some time on Sunday, preferably after 2:00 p.m. when the rooms become available. Check-out time is 9:00 a.m. on Sunday the first week and 10:00 a.m. on Sunday the second week. The [virtual Stockton Ride Board is available here](#) to allow Campers to communicate regarding sharing rides from the airport (Sacramento or San Francisco), sharing rental cars, or carpooling from their homes. Once you are at Camp, an actual Ride Board is used to connect Campers who need rides back to the airport.

If this is your first year at Stockton Folk Dance Camp, you will want to arrive in time for the afternoon guided tour of the campus. This tour of campus that is scheduled around 4:00 p.m. on Sunday includes the intricacies of the dorm layout, our three dance venues, the dining hall, the Camp Office, the Camp Store, the university's campus convenience store, the library, and much more.

If you have a few moments, download a [Sample Schedule](#). You will notice that Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday are primarily teaching days, while Wednesday and Saturday are review days (more about them later).



a video, a dance demonstration, or a question-and-answer session.

On the teaching days there are four hours of classes scheduled before lunch, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., with a break between the second and third classes for fresh fruit and beverages. In the afternoon after lunch there is a Cultural Assembly, which is an opportunity for the teachers to talk about some aspect of their specialty in a lecture setting. It could include a PowerPoint presentation or



Following the Culture Assembly are three more dance classes before dinner. On Tuesdays there is a special picture-taking opportunity in the evening when everyone is encouraged to dress in ethnic costume. Other special activities are planned such as a sing-along or a “time-capsule” when the focus is on dances from the past.



The evening festivities begin at 7:30 p.m. with Old Favorites with the Stockton Band (20–30 minutes) and Once-Over-Lightly, a review of the dances taught that day. Once-Over-Lightly typically ends around 10:15 p.m. when the After-Party begins, and that can last until 1:00 or even 2:00 a.m. During the After-Party, the Hole In The Wall snack bar sells late-night refreshments (the proceeds go to the Camp Scholarship Fund).

Sounds like a lot, doesn't it? Keep in mind that you don't have to do it all, and few Campers attend every session every day. Some Campers are early birds and get up for the 8:30 a.m. class, but never attend an After-Party. Some Campers, being night owls, attend every After-Party but barely get out of bed in time for the 10:40 a.m.

class. Still others attend the 8:30 a.m. class and the After-Party, but they make time for a nap instead of attending the afternoon classes. Now you know why we ask as part of the [Registration process](#) if you are a Night Owl or an Early Bird. If you don't already have a roommate but want one, we can match you with a roommate with the same temperament.



Another option favored by some dancers is to attend Stockton Folk Dance Camp both weeks. This allows them to take fewer classes each week and get a bit more sleep.

There are also alternatives to dancing that allow you to rest your feet. There is a singing class each day, or you can help create decorations for the Wednesday night and Saturday night banquets and parties. You can visit the Camp Store where second hand clothing, shoes, and dance-related items are for sale. You can also visit the University of the Pacific Library, which houses the Stockton Folk Dance Camp collection of music, videos, and dance notations.

Take a look at the second page of the [Sample Schedule](#). You will see that Wednesday and Saturday are review days. No new dances are taught; everything taught up to that day is reviewed. All classes are shortened so they can be finished before lunch. After lunch there is some free time built into the schedule (an opportunity to nap, do laundry, shop, etc.).

On Wednesday afternoon there is a wine-and-cheese social hour with a live auction before dinner. Wednesday evening, the Once-Over-Lightly becomes a dance party built around a fun theme such as Mardi Gras or a luau. And you don't want to miss the Candle-Lighting Ceremony held during the Wednesday party. It's Stockton's very special way of welcoming first-year Campers.



On Saturday afternoon, the Camp's Talent Show features both real and imagined talent, dance and music performances, skits, presentations, comedy routines, and the like. On Saturday evening there is a special banquet planned around one of the teachers on the staff that year. The pre-banquet festivities are often the highlight of the Camp. One year we had an English-themed Banquet on Saturday night and the pre-banquet festivities included a choice of a tea party or a pub party (or you could attend both events). Another year the pre-banquet event was a Japanese Obon Festival.



If you are on a Camp scholarship, time will need to be set aside for whatever scholarship-related tasks you have been assigned. This could mean spending an hour helping in the Camp Store, cutting fruit for the morning break, or setting up chairs for the Talent Show.

THE TEACHERS. We have six teachers on the faculty who change each year. Generally three of them teach partner dances and three teach non-partner dances. Each of these teachers presents the same dances TWICE each day. Because there are six teachers, but only five class slots (the four before lunch and the one after lunch), you will have to choose which teacher you're NOT going to see. Having each teacher available twice each day also means you can take a favored teacher's class twice. In addition to those six full-time teachers, there are additional "workshop" teachers who teach one-time-only classes in the afternoon. For example, we had a belly dance teacher in 2013 and 2014 who taught an afternoon workshop. There was a class on Congolese dance in 2015.



Every afternoon also features a special series called Dances for All Ages which focuses on dances for young dancers, first-time dancers, senior dancers, one-time events for limited-experience dancers, etc. This workshop is taught by some members of the faculty, and other experienced teachers who attend Camp and volunteer to share their favorite recreational dances.

Finally, on Wednesday there is a "dance-sharing workshop" that has been a tradition at Stockton Folk Dance Camp for decades. Campers are encouraged to share a favorite dance that can be taught in five minutes or less.

Two other special events need mentioning. They are the Hat Kolo and the Silent Auction, both of which are held on Thursday evening. Everyone is encouraged to wear an interesting hat to Once-Over-Lightly. The end of the Hat Kolo is the signal for the Silent Auction, held in an area adjacent to the dance hall, to begin. All proceeds from the silent auction (and the live auction mentioned earlier) go to the Stockton Scholarship Fund).



SUPPORT MATERIALS. One very important feature for dancers attending any dance event is the floors. Stockton has its own flexible wood floors that are installed over the existing floors at the University. It's a back-breaking job, but every dancer knows it is worth it. In fact, Oscar Faoro, who designed and built our floors, usually received a standing ovation every year at the final assembly. Oscar died in 2012, but is remembered fondly, and his floors continue to support us.



Do you like live music? Every year features a talented band that provides live music every evening at Once-Over-Lightly, at some of the After-Parties, before the Live Auction, and other times. The group changes from year-to-year but is always appreciated by the dancers.

Stockton Folk Dance Camp produces both a syllabus of dance notations and a DVD. The syllabus is available for download just prior to Camp through a link on the Stockton website, but only to those attending that year's Camp. A printed copy of the

syllabus can be purchased when you register for Camp and will be available when you arrive. The Camp's DVD featuring the dances taught by the six main teachers and the workshop teacher(s) may be purchased before Camp (when you register) or during Camp.



The Camp Store manages the Camp's rummage sale. Campers bring their lightly used clothing and shoes, and folk dance related materials such as CDs, cassette tapes, records, syllabi, and books for

resale. Don't be surprised if a shirt you donated shows up on a dancer later in the week! If you didn't purchase the Camp T-shirt (featuring a different design each year) as part of your registration package, the Camp Store also sells them.



The CDs of music supplied by the teachers for their dances are sold by the Camp's two vendors – Folk Motif (Marge and Anna Gajicki) and Festival Records (John Filcich). Be sure to purchase your CDs early. There is often a limited supply, and vendors will sell out before the end of the week. These vendors also have other

music and videos for sale, dance shoes, jewelry, some folk costumes, and much more.

The Camp Office is open several hours each day. The Office acts as a post office if you need to send or receive mail or packages, it's where you pay for extras like the Camp DVD or a laundry card, or put down your deposit for the next year's Camp, and you can get photocopies made. The Camp Office staff is extraordinarily helpful so be sure to ask if there is anything specific you need.

HOUSING. Although some Campers stay off-campus or live close enough to commute, most of the Campers stay in one of the University of the Pacific dorms, Grace Covell Hall. The dorms are designed to be two-to-a-room, but you can pay a bit more and get the room to yourself if you prefer. The buildings are three-story dormitories with bathrooms for men and women on each floor. The dormitory also hold the laundry facilities, the Camp Office and Store, and the vendors. One of our three dance venues are in the dormitory, while the other two are a short walk away.

MEALS. We eat most of our meals in the dining hall a short walk from the dormitory. In addition to a hot entree, there is a salad bar, a sandwich bar, a cereal bar, two soups, and a selection of desserts. As mentioned earlier, there a special banquet on Saturday that features food prepared exclusively for Stockton Folk Dance Camp.

STUFF TO BRING. We can't think of everything, but we do have a [list you can download](#) that will help you pack for your stay. The Camp also maintains a Swap Board where you can offer extra supplies (laundry soap?) or request something you forgot (mattress pad?). There is a market a short walk away and shopping malls a short drive from the campus. If you don't have a car, be sure to ask in the Camp Office if someone can give you a ride to where you need to go.

MENTOR PROGRAM. Stockton Folk Dance Camp recently instituted a Mentor Program for first- and second-year Campers. Many first-time Campers come with a fellow dancer who recommended the Camp, but there are others who come alone and are unsure what to expect, even after reading this document. If you would like a mentor to guide you through your first Camp experience, just check the box on your [Registration Form](#). Your mentor need not be your roommate.

If you have questions before Camp that aren't covered in this document, the Registrar would be happy to answer them. They say a picture means a thousand words, so you might also want to visit the [Stockton SmugMug photo site](#).

