

BLUE CREW DANCE

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Blue Crew Dance serves as a creative space for upper-level dancers to explore and enhance their creative skills. Participants are required to be enrolled in at least two upper-level dance classes offered through Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation in both the Fall and Winter semesters. To ensure the technical and physical safety of the participants, one of these classes has to be an upper-level jazz or ballet class. Weekly Blue Crew rehearsals serve to offer upper-level students an enhanced focus on performance and choreography that the average technique class does not offer.

Through a non-competitive atmosphere, Blue Crew Dance introduces upper-level dance students to various dance forms and the choreographic processes of those dance forms. The participants not only enhance their dance foundation, but they also boost their inner-strength, self-endurance, and self-esteem through individual and group choreography projects and performance opportunities (such as the annual Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation spring dance concert and other possible performance venues in the Harrisonburg and Rockingham County communities).



Blue Crew Dance and Parks and Recreation hosted and participated in a dance workshop with the global educational organization *Up with People*. Blue Crew has had the opportunity to participate in a workshop with VCU alumni and professional Emily Todd, artists of the Liz Lerman Dance Exchange, JMU dance alumni, Rockingham Ballet Theatre, JMU theatre alumni Tyler Edwards, and local PT specialist and Harrisonburg Dance Cooperative artist, Sarah Gosselin. Blue Crew participated in a choreographic intensive with Harrisonburg Dance Cooperative's co-founder and Texas Christian University alumni, Jerusha (Ellie) de Waal, JMU dance professor Shane O'Hara, JMU dance alumni and Bridgewater College Dance Team director Zilda Baker, and Shenandoah University's Cheryl Donald.

Several members of Blue Crew performed in The New Dance Festival at the Forbes center, collaborating with the JMU School of Theatre and Dance (2010) and collaborated with the Harrisonburg Dance Cooperative in a First Friday event. Blue Crew has had the opportunity to perform at several venues including Burg's Got Talent, Dayton Church of the Brethren, Bridgewater College, Children's Museum, First Night, First Friday, Smithland, Waterman, and Spotswood Elementary, and Elon Rhodes Early Learning Center.

