

Life Skills Acquired Through Drill Team

I strongly believe that many young women learn life skills through experiences on a dance/drill team. As a dance drill team director, I want mold the members of my team into successful young adults who understand the importance of the following life skills:

- **Organization:** They cannot function without being organized. The team would not operate.
- **Responsibility:** They take care of their business.
- **Work Ethic:** These young people know how to work; they just need motivation.
- **Team Work:** They work together; they have too.
- **Compromise:** Each member cannot have her way all the time.
- **Dedication:** Dance team is year round. They have to be dedicated.
- **Direction - Taking:** The team members always follow directions.
- **Accepting Constructive Criticism:** We cannot get better without it.
- **Communication:** A member does not function without open communication.
- **Goal - Setting:** That is what keeps the team going - meeting our goals.
- **Meeting Deadlines:** It is due when it is due - no later.
- **Time Management:** School, dance/drill team, home, church, family, friends, job, etc. Must all be juggled.
- **Risk - Taking:** Students take a chance on doing what has not been done and let others see and critique it.
- **Consideration for Others:** Members learn to sense the needs of others.
- **Problem - Solving:** We must continuously work to improve the routine, as well as our relationships with each other.
- **Taking Initiative:** Learning to see, acknowledge, and act upon a job that needs to be done - without prompting.
- **Pride of Effort:** We all have pride for a job well done.
- **Listening Skills:** If we do not listen, we do not know what to do. If we do not know what to do, nothing will get done.
- **Acceptance of the New and the Different:** There is constant change in dance/drill team; this must be accepted.
- **Discipline of Self and Group:** Team members learn what to say and when to do the correct thing.
- **Academic Achievement:** If they are not eligible, they cannot perform.
- **Character-Building:** The act of dancing on a team builds character based on all the other acquired skills on this list.