

FAQ -- Frequently Asked Questions

Participation in 2018 Atascadero's Dancing With Our Stars (DWOS)

1. Will our application be judged on what services we provide to the public?

Yes, but not entirely. We will consider how your current programs address the needs of your clients and community and how this new funding will benefit those programs and services.

2. Will our service area be taken into consideration with our application?

FOAL recognizes that there are numerous non-profits in the North County. Over time we hope to be able to work with everyone. We would prefer to not take applications from Non-Profit Organizations outside the Atascadero/North County area.

3. Why does the length of our existence/activities in the community matter?

New non-profit organizations are springing up all the time. We want to ensure that all long-time and new non-profits are accorded an equal opportunity to apply.

4. Why do you need to know how many members or volunteer base our organization has?

Since we are requesting volunteer help from the non-profits chosen, it is important that your organization has a committed base from which you can draw the help needed.

5. Why do you need to know the specific use of funds raised at DWOS?

We would like to salute the chosen organizations and the projects that will benefit the community in all phases of DWOS advertising

6. Why do you need to know if we will spend the DWOS funds within a one-to-two year period?

Some non-profit organizations have daily, weekly, monthly, and/or annual needs for funds for the community members they serve. We believe that people in the community are more likely to support community projects that will be funded in a relatively short period of time.

7. Why do you need to know if our organization has provided support to the Library/FOAL in the past? What about previous support for DWOS?

If your organization has supported the Library or FOAL in the past, we would like to acknowledge that support during the DWOS Event.

The same statement applies if you have provided auction items, supported a DWOS dancer from your organization, or worked as event volunteers in the past. We want to acknowledge this support.

8. How much volunteer help are we required to provide?

One Board member from your Organization is required to attend the monthly DWOS committee meetings. This individual will be the primary contact for your Organization.

In addition, each organization participating in DWOS will be required to provide 8 volunteers during the event in March. These volunteers will perform a wide range of activities including:

Morning set-up of tables and decorating

Coat-check

Handing out wine glasses

Concierges for dinner guests

Vote counting

Evening clean up

Volunteers do not have to work together on any one of these activities. Volunteers do not have to work on all three days of the event. Volunteers will be given an opportunity to provide help where they are best suited.

9. Does the community star dancer representing our organization required to have dance experience?

Absolutely not! The majority of our community stars from the past had little or no dance experience. This is one of the rewarding parts of the experience for our choreographers and stars. The star dancers learn they don't have two left feet after all!

10. Do we have to provide a dancer from our organization?

Not everyone wants to dance in public – and you may find this applies to your Organization. However, if you ask previous participants they will tell you it has been a magical time of their lives. In fact, many of the prior dancers now provide cameo appearances throughout the evening, depending on the theme of the show.

If you want our help to secure a dancer for your organization, we will be happy to provide that help by reaching out to community supporters of DWOS. In the past we have found

Community Stars who are active and high-profile members of the community in both non-profit and business communities.

Each dancer is paired with a professional choreographer – these choreographers will provide the best training possible for your selected dancer. The choreographer will connect with our event coordinator, Jeannie Malik, to select music and dance style for the routine. The dance routine will be 2.5-3 minutes in length.

11. How do we raise the funds for our dancer?

Funds are raised by voting for your dancer. For every \$10 donated, your dancer will receive one vote. High-profile community and business dance volunteers garner a lot of votes!

We encourage dancers to hold fundraising events. All dancers are provided with a “voting box” which they can place with a local businesses explaining what the money will be used for. We encourage your non-profit to duplicate this voting box and distribute them to businesses in the community. This enables everyone in the community to help your dancer.

Some fundraising ideas are: an evening of music at a supporter’s home with refreshments and an admission charge to attendees. The admission charge converts into votes for your dancer.

Or perhaps your organization could hold a drawing or auction of donated items and services (such as a themed dinner for 6; two hours of yard work; 6 desserts a year) with proceeds going specifically to your DWOS dancer. The sky’s the limit – be creative!

The most profitable way to raise vote funds is to secure sponsorships from local businesses. The sponsors receive numerous advertising perks and premium seating at the event.

There will be a meeting in August for our participating non-profit dancers and organization representatives. Binders of information will be distributed at the meeting detailing many helpful hints, time line, sponsor levels and tools for success.

All funds raised by your Organization convert directly into votes for your dancer.

12. When will we know if we have been selected to participate?

Applications are due by May 31st. The FOAL Board will meet in June to review applications and vote. Successful organizations will be contacted by June 19th and invited to a meeting in August with the FOAL/DWOS committee to kick off their partnership.