

Apparel Guidance for Chapel Choir Mission Tour

Someone Important

On Mission Tour we dress for the job we're on. It is a mission trip using the gifts of service and music to share and receive Christ's love alongside our local partners. Dawson has the most thoughtful, conscientious, kind, and Jesus-loving students around. We want that to shine the brightest for this week to the glory of God, drawing attention to that glory. We want to dress like we're going to meet someone important, because we certainly will.

General Now, Specific Later

This guidance is broad and not particular to a specific Mission Tour year, and represents the most liberal we will be with apparel. As we gain additional information from our local partners, our apparel guidance may become more conservative, so don't cut off the tags just yet. We will communicate this in rehearsals leading up to Mission Tour.

Guiding Principles

This guidance centers around three main goals: safety, community norms, and ministry task. Prioritizing the safety of our participants and local partners means that our clothing will sometimes allow us to blend in, and other times be easily identifiable. Valuing community norms means that we will rely on our local partners to help us customize our apparel to enhance our ministry. For example, there may be specifications for how males and females dress. We'll also dress for the task we are doing, whether that's singing, serving, or traveling.

Parent Support

We recognize that conversations about apparel can be challenging, so this guidance aims to be clear and helpful. It also means that at times we have preferred guidance that is clear, even when it may be more conservative or restrictive than one's typical choices. We need parents to take responsibility for what students bring to wear, and support leadership if a student fails to meet this guidance.

Correction

Our goal is never to embarrass a student, but to subtly correct an issue if it arises. If a participant accidentally doesn't comply with this guidance, an adult designee will text them and ask them to change clothes or do a self-check to allow the student to identify the issue themselves. If they aren't able to respond, or time is short, that student may be approached in person. Avoiding these interactions is possible by only bringing clothing that fits this guidance.

Shorts

- Shorts should have an inseam of 4" or longer.
- Shorts should not be skin-tight, nor should they be so loose that they don't stay close to the body.
- Shirts should be tucked in the front if it is longer than the bottom of the shorts.
- Flowy shorts are not permitted, even with tights.

Shirts

- No cut off sleeves or shirt tails.
- Shoulder straps should be 2" or wider.
- No exposed stomachs when arms are raised above the head.
- No sheer fabrics.
- No bare backs, cut-outs, strapless, or racerbacks.
- No shirts that are ripped, torn, or have holes.

Skirts & Dresses

- For women only.
- Athletic skirts/skorts and tennis skirts are not allowed.
- Skirts and dresses should fall below the knee cap.
- Sheer material is not allowed on skirts and dresses until it falls below the knee cap.

Pants

- Jeans with holes in the knee or lower are permitted only when not performing. Holes above the knee are not allowed.
- No large belt buckles.
- Jumpsuits and rompers are allowed as long as the individual parts comply with the provided guidance.

Undergarments

- Underwear, bras, bralettes, boxers, and sports bras should not be visible.

Leggings

- For women only.
- Leggings are permitted when not performing, and when worn with a shirt that extends to the upper thigh, covering the entire bottom.

Jewelry

- Jewelry should be subtle and simple.
- All items should be inexpensive and replaceable.

Images and Text

- Political, culturally inflammatory, or crude text and images are not permitted.

Provided Clothing

- Performance attire should be free of holes, rips, or customization.
- Issued t-shirts should not be cut, altered, or customized.
- Do not throw away or gift any tour/ministry shirts unless you ask first, as we may reuse them on the trip.
- Keep your performance clothing in ready-to-wear condition as it may be worn unscheduled.

Senior Banquet

- This apparel guidance in full applies to the Senior Banquet, with the exception of skirt/dress length, which may be no more than 6 inches above the top of the knee, to be approved on Mission Tour by the adult designee for apparel.

Why?

- **Shorts:** Because body types are different, we have chosen a clear inseam length to provide clarity to students preparing and adults supporting this guidance. The active nature of Mission Tour means that we may be shoveling dirt one moment and singing a concert in the next.
- **Shirts:** In order to provide clarity in preparation, strap size has been clarified. Because we want participants to be able to lead, serve, and worship, even when extending their hands above their heads, we have specified shirt length.
- **Skirts:** Because we are often seated on risers or steps, and often raised above our audience, skirt length is more conservative. Because tennis/athletic skirts are all made differently and the individual components would not separately meet this guidance, we have restricted them for clarity.
- **Pants:** Holes in jeans for non-performing venues are permitted, but we have restricted the location of these holes for clarity.
- **Undergarments:** Although we know some undergarments are designed to be seen, we have restricted showing them for clarity.
- **Leggings:** Because some fabrics are more sheer than others, they should be covered by a long shirt.
- **Jewelry:** Simple choices will help draw attention to the group instead of an individual, and expensive choices create an opportunity for theft.
- **Images and Text:** When in doubt, please don't include images or text on clothing.
- **Provided Clothing:** We all need to look the same when using provided clothing, so we don't want it customized.
- **Senior Banquet:** We have made an exception which will be confirmed by the adult designee for apparel. Check before we depart if you are at all uncertain.

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