

## FRIENDS DANCING TOGETHER

The members of the Ring of Kerry Irish Dancers (RKIDs) meet most Tuesday nights to learn lively Irish dances. There is always an atmosphere of fun and friendship.

Two styles of Irish dancing are taught—set and ceili (kay-lee). If you do not know what those terms mean, let us tell you all about it at class. The 7:00 class, our Core Class, is good for beginners; the 8:05 class is for advanced dancers. Beginners are invited to watch during the Experienced Class and, once sufficiently proficient, join in the class.

All the energetic and invigorating dances are done in groups. You dance with a partner, but you do not need to come to class with someone. The only requirements are the ability to laugh and to have a good time. In addition to the dance lessons, there are parties and dances (ceilis) held throughout the year. After learning the basic steps and some of the dances, members can confidently attend ceilis in the area. Some members of the RKIDs perform in parades, at festivals, at senior centers and at other community functions. All members are encouraged to perform, but this is always optional.



## NON-DANCE ACTIVITIES

There are non-dance activities for all members. We attend Irish programs and concerts, travel to Ireland and Irish-connected locations, visit exhibits, and participate in Irish social functions.

## YOU NEED

Comfortable, smooth-soled, and safe shoes.

## YOU DO NOT NEED

Irish ancestry, dance experience, a partner.

## CLASSES

Most Tuesday Evenings

September – May

7:00 – 7:50pm Core Dances

8:05 – 9:00pm Experienced

Meet at Ridgeview Middle School

16600 Raven Rock Drive

Gaithersburg MD 20878

(Off Quince Orchard Road, near The Kentlands)

## DUES

\$20 per year membership, \$50 per semester for class.

There are two semesters of approximately 14 classes each per membership year. You must be a member to apply for a class.

**Give it a Try — First Class is FREE!**

## PARADES AND PERFORMANCES

The group participates in two or three parades each year: Old Town Alexandria St. Patrick's Day Parade; Gaithersburg St. Patrick's Day Parade; and Gaithersburg Labor Day Parade. Parades are a great way for all members to join in the fun--- you can dance down the street, just walk, hand out flyers, or carry the banner.



Throughout the year, we receive invitations to perform at private events, senior centers, and festivals in the Washington area.

Everyone in the group is encouraged to participate in our performances, but it is not mandatory. Our shows usually consist of a few performance dances and some audience participation dances.

Members who are interested in performing must attend extra practices. A costume (as described on the following page) is worn for the performances. On the day of the performances or parades, please be at the event site at least 60 minutes before our performance or step-off time.

All questions about performances and costumes should be referred to Chuck and Maureen Knesel.

## COSTUMES

### Parade/Informal

#### Warm Weather

Everyone: RKIDS' green golf shirt, black shorts, white socks, and clean white sneakers.

#### Cold Weather

Everyone: RKIDS' green sweatshirt, black turtleneck, black long pants, black socks, black shoes.

*In case of extreme cold or wet weather, try to layer under your sweatshirt. Gloves and hats (dark) are okay. If necessary, a dark jacket and/or black umbrella may be used.*

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### Performance/Formal

#### Men

Black slacks, black t-shirt, black shoes and socks (no sneakers), black belt, purple sash (provided by RKIDs). Pant pockets should be empty.

#### Women

Black, knee-length skirt (one-inch above or below knee), black, scoop neck, short sleeve t-shirt, purple cape (provided by RKIDs), black, opaque stockings, two broaches and two safety pins for attaching cape. For long hair, use purple or black hair ties. Keep jewelry simple.

## MEMBERSHIP

Would you like to be part of the *Ring of Kerry Irish Dancers*, but, for whatever reason, are unable to come to class? Then join as a member! Members always can sign up for classes, at an additional cost. Visit our website for specific membership enrollment information.

### Membership Benefits

- ☘ Invitation for **one year** to ALL RKID events. (Dance class has an additional fee to cover the cost of the instructor and classroom rental.)
- ☘ Inclusion on email list.
- ☘ Right to attend and participate in Board of Directors' meetings.
- ☘ Participation in performances, with certain guidelines (such as, attendance at rehearsals and approval of performance organizers).

*The Ring of Kerry Irish Dancers, Inc. is managed by an all-volunteer group of committees, Board of Directors, and Officers. In this way, all members have a voice in their organization to help keep it vibrant, relevant, and true to its organizational purpose.*

# Ring of Kerry Irish Dancers



**A group of dancers  
dedicated to  
preserving the  
traditions of Irish  
set dancing, art, culture,  
and literature in the  
Washington, DC area.**

**For more information:  
[ringofkerrydancers.org](http://ringofkerrydancers.org)**

Based in Montgomery County, Maryland  
A 501(c)(3) Corporation