

Scottish Sessions Youth FAQ

Q: Pinewoods Scottish Sessions welcomes dancers of all ages. What's changing?

A: Not a lot. We have always had a small number of people under the age of 18 at camp. This has included staff being welcome to bring their children to enable them (the staff) to attend, and high-school/college age dancers being accepted on a case-by-case basis. In 2024, RSCDS Boston Branch decided to be clear about welcoming younger members of our community and make it easier for parents in the community to attend.

Q: What do you mean by *dancers*?

A: Scottish Sessions is an event for Scottish dance and music. No particular level of proficiency is required, but we request that youth applying already be dancers. This could mean they attend local classes or SCD events with some regularity, or that they are confident participants in a related dance tradition such as ECD, Contra, or ceilidh dance who are excited to learn and participate in SCD. If they're new to SCD and might like to try it, please see below.

Q: I am a student under the age of 18 who has been taking Scottish Dance classes at college. Can I attend?

A: Welcome! We will need a signed Responsibility Form from your parents, and, if they aren't attending, they will need to assign a Guardian who will also have to sign the form.

Q: I'd like to bring my baby to camp, can I?

A: Yes, absolutely! Children 3 and under will be accepted with you. No additional deposit is required.

Q: I'd like to bring my child who has never danced before but I think would have fun, can I?

A: Pinewoods Scottish Sessions is an event for dance and music, and as such we will prioritize children who will fully participate in camp activities. That said, we recognize that bringing your new dancer child might enable you to attend when you otherwise couldn't and will hopefully positively introduce your child to our community. You are welcome to apply for your new dancer child. If we receive enough applications to fill camp, new dancer children will be placed at the end of the wait list. If this happens, you may choose to attend without them or withdraw and have your deposit refunded.

Q: How should children apply?

A: Parents, to make our records easier, please fill out a separate online application form on behalf of each child.

Q: Will there be any children's programming or daycare?

A: No. Young dancers should be prepared to participate in regular programming; the session will not be providing any special youth-oriented programming.

Q: Is Scottish Sessions turning into a *Family Camp*?

A: No. Scottish Sessions is still a primarily adult space that welcomes some non-adults. We expect parents to understand this. Attendees should remember that the Event policy prohibits supplying alcohol to or consumption of alcohol by a minor.

Q: I plan to bring my baby to dance/dance with my baby, what do I need to know?

A: The pavilions are quite crowded with energetic dancers especially when we have a full camp dancing lively reels, and the railings do not extend low. There may not be a good safe space for your baby to crawl around.

A: If you are planning to wear your baby to dance, remember that it is frequently hot and humid in the evenings in addition to all the bodies generating heat. It may be hotter for your baby than you are accustomed to at your local classes. We recommend consulting with your pediatrician regarding heat safety.

Q: Are there any other rules for children?

A: PCI requires that campers under the age of 18 be accompanied by a parent or guardian who will be responsible for them at all times. We will require a signed Responsibility Form. There are also additional waterfront safety rules for campers under 18 which will be provided to you.

Q: I have a question not answered here, what should I do?

A: Email us at scdpinewoods@gmail.com