Republika ng Pilipinas
Kagawaran ng Edukasyon
REHIYON V (BIKOL)
TANGGAPANG PANSANGAY NG MGA PAARALAN NG LUNGSOD IRIGA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
SDO-Iriga City RECORDS SECTION
RECEIVED
11 NOV 2026
CTRL No.: 2026-11-00m

Office of the Schools Division Superintendent

MEMORANDUM

TO: **OIC-Public Schools District Supervisors**
Elementary and Secondary School Heads
All Others Concerned

FROM: **MARIA-MAGNOLIA F. BRIOSO, CESO VI**
OIC-Schools Division Superintendent

SUBJECT: **INVITATION AND REQUEST FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE 3RD PASTORES DANCE CONTEST**

DATE: November 11, 2026

In view of the attached letter from the Local Government Unit-City Tourism Office, elementary and secondary schools are hereby invited to participate in the 3rd Pastores Dance Contest on December 14, 2026 at the Iriga City Park.

Participation to this activity is voluntary and subject to non-disruption of classes. Deadline of submission of entry is on or before November 27, 2026.

Interested schools may contact Mr. Romeo B. Abaño at 0949-147-4260 for more details.

For information, guidance and widest dissemination.

Republic of the Philippines
City of Iriga
IRIGA CULTURE, HERITAGE, ARTS, AND TOURISM OFFICE (i.CHAT)
New Government Center, Sta. Cruz Sur, Iriga City 4431
Telephone No.: (054) 299-9914

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
RECORDS SECTION, SDO-IRIGA
RECEIVED
By: _____ Date: 09 NOV 2026

November 9, 2026

DR. MARIA-MAGNOLIA F. BRIOSO, CESO IV
Schools Division Superintendent
Department of Education - Iriga City Division Office
Iriga City

Subject: Invitation and Request for Participation in the 3rd Pastores Dance Contest

Dear Ma'am,

Mabuhay!

As part of the annual Christmas festivities in Iriga City, the City Government through the Iriga Culture Heritage, Arts, and Tourism Office will be holding the **3rd Pastores Dance Contest** on **December 14, 2026**, at the **Iriga City Park**.

This traditional cultural dance competition aims to highlight the religious and cultural significance of the Christmas season, while encouraging the youth to appreciate and preserve traditional Filipino Christmas customs through dance, music, and creative performance.

In view of this, we respectfully request the participation of interested **Elementary and Secondary Schools** under your division. Their participation will greatly contribute to the vibrant celebration of our city's rich cultural heritage.

For your reference, attached herewith are the **Contest Guidelines and Official Entry Form**.

For inquiries and submission of entry forms, your office or designated representatives may email the Iriga Culture Heritage, Arts and Tourism Office at irigatourism@yahoo.com.ph or you may contact **Mr. Romeo B. Abaño at 0949-147-4260.**

Thank you very much for your continued support and collaboration in promoting our local culture and arts. We look forward to your favorable response.

Respectfully yours,

Dios Mabalos po! Arriba Iriga!

Respectfully yours,

ENGR.NONA VANESSA M. SANTIAGO
CGDH I/ City Tourism Office
Iriga Culture, Heritage, Arts, and Tourism Office

GUIDELINES

ENTRY FORM

ARRIBA IRIGA

Republic of the Philippines
City of Iriga
IRIGA CULTURE, HERITAGE, ARTS, AND TOURISM OFFICE (i.CHAT)
New Government Center, Sta. Cruz Sur, Iriga City 4431
Telephone No.: (054) 299-9914

PASTORA DANCE CONTEST 2026

Elementary Category

OVERVIEW:

The **Pastora** is one of the traditional dances performed by a young ladies during Christmas Season. The dancers used to sing and dance into houses. The dance usually for all girls of young ages wearing colorful dress, with decorated hat. This dance is a living heritage since the 17th century to the melody of Pastores A Belen. And danced with faith, joy, and love for our culture.

I. CATEGORY

Elementary Level - Open to all Public and Private Schools within Iriga City.

II. GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. Participants:

a. Number of dancers: **8 to 12 members only - ALL GIRLS**
b. Participants must be currently enrolled as elementary pupils in the participating school.
c. One (1) entry per school only.

2. Music:

a. Music must be recorded in USB Flash Drive (provide 2 copies, back-up required).
b. Duration: 5 to 8 minutes, including entrance and exit.
c. Music should be traditional Pastora / Christmas Pastora songs. Remix with modern music is allowed but Pastora melody must be dominant.
d. The USB must be properly labeled: School Name - Pastora Elementary.

3. Performance:

a. The dancers are REQUIRED to SING and DANCE simultaneously during the performance. Live singing of the dancers must be audible.
b. Performance must portray the traditional Pastora (shepherdess) concept - joyful adoration to the Child Jesus.
c. Vulgar, indecent movements and actions are strictly prohibited.

4. Costume and Props:

a. Costume and props are REQUIRED and must be Pastora-inspired (skirt, blouse, hat, staff/baston, etc.).
b. Costumes must be decent and appropriate for elementary pupils.

5. Propsmen:

a. Allowed propsmen: 4 to 8 persons only.
b. Propsmen must be in costume / Pastora-related attire.
c. Propsmen are NOT ALLOWED TO DANCE. They are only to assist in handling props and stage setup.
d. Propsmen should stay at the back of the dancers during the Performance.

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City of Iriga
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PASTORES DANCE CONTEST 2026

Secondary Category

OVERVIEW:

The Pastores is our enduring cultural and religious legacy in Iriga City and other parts of the Bicol Region. Showcasing unique blend of Spanish – influenced tradition and Bicolano expression. It is a traditional Christmas season song-dance performance that celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, rooted in Spanish and Mexican origins. The people of Iriga adopted and localized the performance. It is one of the recognized folkdances in Iriga City / Camarines Sur and throughout the Bicolandia.

I. CATEGORY

Secondary Level - Open to all Public and Private High Schools / Junior & Senior High Schools within Iriga City.

II. GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. **Participants:**
a. Number of dancers: 8 to 12 members only - Male and Female combined
b. Must be currently enrolled as High School students (JHS/SHS) of the participating school.
c. One (1) entry per school only.

2. **Contest Pieces:**
Participants must select ONE (1) only from the following:
a. Pastores Talisay
b. Pastores Tubog
c. One Free Choice - (Must still be a Pastores related piece)

3. **Music:**
a. Music must be recorded in MP3 format only (in USB Flash Drive). Provide 2 copies, one as back-up.
b. Live accompaniment / live band is NOT allowed. Minus-one is allowed.
c. The USB must be labeled: SCHOOL NAME - PASTORES SECONDARY.

4. **Time Allotment:**
a. 4 to 8 minutes ONLY, strictly including entrance and exit.
b. A timer will start upon the first step / music of entrance.
c. Exceeding or less than the required time will have a 2-point deduction per minute or fraction thereof.

5. **Costume and Props:**
a. Costume and props are REQUIRED.
b. Must be in accordance with the chosen Pastores piece (Pastor / shepherd attire).
c. Costume must be decent. No revealing costumes.

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6. **Propsmen:**

a. Allowed propsmen: 4 to 8 members only.
b. Propsmen must be in proper attire / uniform.
c. Propsmen are STRICTLY NOT ALLOWED TO DANCE. They will only assist in props handling.
d. Propsmen should stay at the back of the dancers during the Performance.

7. **Rules and Discipline:**

a. Any violation of the guidelines will mean DISQUALIFICATION.
b. The decision of the Board of Judges is FINAL and IRREVOCABLE.

III. CRITERIA FOR JUDGING

CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION	PERCENTAGE
CHOREOGRAPHY & AUTHENTICITY	Faithfulness to the chosen Pastores style (Talisay/Tubog/Belen), creativity, formation, synchronization	**35%**
PERFORMANCE & MASTERY	Grace, energy, precision of steps, expression, stage presence	**25%**
MUSIC & RHYTHM	Timing, beat, musicality, coordination of dance to music	**15%**
COSTUME & PROPS	Appropriateness, creativity, craftsmanship, color harmony, relevance to piece	**15%**
OVERALL IMPACT	Entertainment value, audience impact, discipline, originality	**10%**
	TOTAL	**100%**

IV. IMPORTANT DATES

Submission of Entry: **On or before November 27, 2026** via online (google form) or you may submit it at the Iriga Culture Heritage, Arts, and Tourism Office (ICHAT), New Government Center, Sta. Cruz Sur, Iriga City

Date of Competition & Drawing of lots: **December 14, 2026 (~~Sunday~~ MONDAY), 5:00 PM**
Venue / Time: Iriga City Park

V. REQUIREMENTS UPON SUBMISSION

- Duly accomplished Entry Form
- List of dancers and propsmen with LRN / School ID
- Certificate of Enrolment from the School Head
- USB Music (kindly submit it directly at the Iriga Culture Heritage, Arts, and Tourism Office (I.CHAT)

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