

FAQ

What forms of payment do you take?

- Classes may be purchased through PayPal, Cash, Check (made out to Obsidian Butterfly), or Credit Card (3% fee applies to credit card purchases)

How is payment accepted?

- **Online:** Offers best rates (PayPal, Credit Card)
- **Online rates are offered** when booking classes for the next month on the last class of month
- **In class:** Standard Rates apply (Check, Cash, Credit Card)
- **Through Mail:** Standard Rates apply (Check by mail)
 - Mailed checks must be received by 72 hours before the first day of classes

When is payment due?

- \$35 non-refundable registration fee is due 72 hours before the class start date
 - This is NOT in addition to the posted class rates
- Balance is due at or before the first class
- If buying classes in full; full payment is due 72 hours before the class start date
- Online rates must be purchased online in full by the posted registration date
- Online rates are only available online, if paying in class, standard rates apply
- Upon registration, you will receive an email confirming receipt of registration, details of class (dates, time, location, rates, and balance due)
- If paying standard rates in class, pre-registration is still due and the balance may be paid in class
- Classes require a minimum of 4 people to register for posted rates

How are the classes structured?

- Classes are based on either four 1 hour classes in one calendar month or a series of classes over a 6 week period

How long do I have to use purchased classes?

- Special, bulk, and online rates are per calendar month
- Series of classes are for scheduled dates only
- Standard rate privates are for 2 months
- The class schedule for the month is listed at www.sacredfiredance.com/Classes

Are there refunds on missed classes?

- There are no refunds or rain checks on missed classes
- Missed class dates may not be applied to future dates
- Student is responsible for making up missed material
- Classes happen rain or shine

FAQ Continued....

Note on small groups (1-3 people):

- The registration confirmation will include any adjusted rates based on a smaller class.
- The instructor may:
 - Accept the class at the given rate,
 - Make an alternate offer based on the smaller class,
 - Cancel the class.
- *In the event the class is cancelled or the offered rate is too high, the registration fee will be refunded only if the instructor is notified 24 hours before the start date and time of the class*
- **For this reason, if you intend on registering for a class, please register early**

May I drop in?

- Yes, however consider that better rates are offered for ongoing classes
- Lessons are meant to progress along through a process toward an end result
- Each lesson provides information that unlocks the door to what happens next
- Classes are therefore geared toward those who are continuing classes
- Time will not be spent explaining preparations that have already been covered for one person
- The exemption to this would be if this information needs to be re-introduced for the whole class
- The instructor is better able to help students when they know who will be in class
- Drop-ins are encouraged to register drop in dates at the beginning of the month when class rates are due, and pay registration fee at this time.
- Material might be confusing if prior knowledge is required; please check in with the instructor 48 hours in advance to find out what skills are needed
- Drop-in rates are posted as a baseline structure for the classes offered and discounts are offered from this foundation

I want to take classes but I seriously can't afford that. I don't even have a job; or a version of...

I'm sensitive to this situation. Let me explain. Poi was the tool I first connected with. It acted like a portal into a geometric world. When I first connected with poi, I did not have a job, was transitioning into living in a bus, and being on the road, and was going through a major transformation in my life. There was a community of people in Golden Gate Park at Hippie Hill where I first saw poi; not on fire. It was an amazing meditation that day watching well over 50 people free flowing to the drum music with poi. Based on that vision, I crafted my first set of poi. I did not have access to the internet and had to use my creative imagination and explore movement with an object in space. So I played, I literally danced with them; everywhere I went, they were in my hands. One day while practicing in San Francisco, near the ocean, on a cliff, a stranger passing by joined my flow as he brought out his poi and struck up conversation. He then proceeded to show me the weave. Before that point, I did not even realize that there were movements with names. He was very patient, super kind, and stayed to see me through. After the good majority of a day, I had finally tackled my first poi move; the 3-beat weave. I do not know who that kind stranger was or what provoked him to work with me for so many hours that day; but I have been eternally grateful for that magical seed moment, that

connection that was part of a progression that ignited my passion. At the time there were not many people teaching. I found someone in Mountain View that I managed to muster up enough to pay for one private. In that private, she helped me flow with what I had. My next teacher was a book on Poi spinning. Then a video from Australia and once I became rooted and could afford internet, most of my learning happened online with Nick Woolsey who has been a fabulous guide. I have also now taken some workshops from the Vulcan in Oakland, invested in some other Poi Dvd's, and taken workshops at Fire Drums and I have this to say; a good teacher goes a long way. Though learning on my own was a rewarding process, I have learned far more in less time with a good instructor. The bottom line here is that you do not have to take classes from a teacher and not all teachers charge. When I first started teaching, I used to offer free classes. While I was learning to be a teacher, this worked for me. However, the more experience I gained teaching, the more preparation would go into my classes and the more eager I would be to share the fruits of my practice. Therefore, when preparing for a class that no one shows up to, I'm left standing there with no one to teach and having expelled a fair amount of energy that is built up in me with nowhere for it to flow. I have found that when value is created for the time spent, people show up, take it seriously, respect each other more, respect what I present more, develop community, and learn more swiftly. With this in mind however, I do not like to turn anyone away from learning because of money. I will do what I can to make it work for everyone in all situations with some limitations.

Trade for Classes (TFC)...

One Option: Trade for Classes (TFC)

What can be traded?

- 1.) **Safety services:** At troupe rehearsals, practices, and shows
 - a. **Requires:** Safety training P.1 + experience = 5 troupe rehearsals + 11 shows
- 2.) **Performance Services:**
 - a. **Requires:** Completion of safety training, performed 15 - 25 student shows with lead dancer, or those with 2 years previous experience
- 3.) **Administrative Work:** Revising safety manual, website work, music editing, class scheduling
- 4.) **Referrals:** Refer students, show bookings
- 5.) **Transportation:** Be the driver and cover gas to and from shows
 - a. **Requires:** Reliable transportation; punctuality, insurance, enough room, sobriety
- 6.) **Something else?**

How does TFC work?

- TFC rate is based on standard base line rate of \$25 per class hour; special rates do not apply
- Will receive a Gig Sheet for services expected and value of services with expiration date
- When class registration is due, email instructor which class dates TFC is being used for
 - **Student Rates for Services**
 - **Designated Safety services at a show:**
 - \$25 - \$50 depending on gig; confirmed on gig sheet
 - **Student Performance Rate:**
 - \$25 - \$75 depending on gig; confirmed on gig sheet
 - **TFC Value**
 - **TFC (1) = \$25** and covers 1 one hour class
 - **TFC (2) = \$50** and covers 2 one hour classes