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Competition Guide

2020-2021

Is my dancer ready for competition?

Your dancer should enjoy performing, working hard & wanting to do more. If your dancer has expressed an interest, please ask their teachers if they feel that they are ready. The teachers have a lot of insight as to their abilities. Also, a competitive dancer must be committed. The teams rely on each and every team member. If your dancer is not going to be committed, competition might not be for them.

Is my parent ready for competition?

Parents must have good sportsmanship skills. They must make sure to schedule the family so that the dancers can be at all classes, events, competitions and activities. They must be positive and supportive of the team and the studio at all times. They must be willing to help at recitals, competitions and with props and costumes.

What are the benefits of competition?

There are many benefits to competition. The dancers get more performance opportunities, which gives them more confidence on stage and off. It also teaches them to work as a team and become one. The dancer becomes more independent and can make lifelong friendships. Competition dancers grow as dancers faster. Competition dancers benefit in more ways than can be listed here.

What else is involved in competition?

Being in competition does cost more money. The dancer will have to take more classes, have to buy more costumes & must pay to perform at the competitions. This all is a little more expensive than non-competition classes. The competitions will take up time on the weekends, and there are usually extra practices for the team.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

(please program your cell phones today)

STUDIO (248)305-5600

TINA (248)421-6500

SARAH (248)755-2464

When it is not an emergency email is the best way to communicate with us.

2020-2021 Competition Guide

Home of 37 years running National Champions, Most Entertaining Act Awards, Best Choreography Awards & Top Studio Awards!

Open auditions for the 2020-2021
Cost: \$20.00

Ages 5-7: 3:00-8:00pm: Monday June 22, 2020
Ages 8-10: 3:00-8:00 pm: Tuesday June 23, 2020
Ages 11-12: 3:00-9:00 pm: Wednesday June 24, 2020
Ages 13 & up: 3:00-9:00 pm: Thursday June 25, 2020

Please complete the Google form using the link below by June 16 if you are planning to audition as a schedule will be set based on demand and broken into groups. You will need to complete a separate form for each dancer auditioning. Exact times will be sent at least 24 hours prior to your audition.

<https://forms.gle/Wp2cACUQSoKY8xky9>

If a dancer can not attend audition date, please call to set up an alternate audition time.

Audition Day

Company Contract included in this document must be turned in at audition.

Please dress in a dark, solid color leotard and bike shorts. Hair must be pulled up and out of dancer's face for the audition. Be prepared with tap and jazz shoes or turners. Dancers proceed to the warm up room and fully stretch and warm-up before the audition start time. Do your best and have fun in the audition.

Placement Announcement Procedure

Dancers will be notified by July 22 of their competition level placement (novice, line, line plus elite). This will not be a team placement notification. A non refundable \$200 deposit per student and acceptance letter will be due by August 1 to receive your team placement and schedule. Schedules will not be sent out until the \$200 deposit per student is received. We do our best to have successful placements and know our families trust our judgment. During the first month of classes, we reserve the right to make changes as necessary. Once classes have begun, your deposits will be placed on accounts.

Important Dates

September 8: classes start
September 26: Pumpkinfest Parade
November 6-8: Choreography Camp

2020-2021 Competition Contract

Student Name: _____ Student's Grade in fall: _____ Birthday: _____
Age: _____

Guardians' Names: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

We do most of our communication through email. Please give all emails you want on your account:

Home Phone: _____ Guardians' Cell Numbers: _____ Student Cell Number: _____

The following information is necessary for us to place your dancer on a team with the level of commitment you are willing to support.
All Competition Company members must:

- Take the required number of classes for their level
- Must have excellent attendance (no more than 3 misses per class per full season) and cannot miss class two weeks prior to each event
- Must purchase Company Jacket
- Must sell at least one yearbook ad per dancer
- Must keep account paid in full each month
- Team members are responsible for all competition fees even if you can not attend an event
- Parents must sign up to help with props, costumes and recital
- Both parents and dancers must obey code of conduct at studio and all events
- Must attend choreography camp and required workshops
- Must loan costumes if they ever miss an event
- Parents must attend a required parent meeting
- Dancers must participate in the Pumpkinfest Parade

Please check the highest level you will commit to:

Novice Level:

Must enroll in tap, jazz & ballet. Will attend 2-3 local events with 1-2 team dances.
Camp and workshop requirements vary at this level and will be explained to each team.

Line Level:

Must enroll in tap, jazz, ballet & technique. Will attend 3 local events with 2 team dances.
Must attend November Choreography Camp.
Must attend either Muse or another outside weekend long convention.

Line Plus Level (line level plus competitive lyrical):

Must enroll in tap, jazz, ballet, lyrical & technique. Will attend 3 local events with 3 team dances.
Must attend November Choreography camp.
Must attend either Muse or another outside weekend long convention.

Elite Level:

All Elite level dancers must take ballet, tap, jazz, lyrical, musical theatre (depending on team placement), technique, turns and leaps and one or more additional class(es) such as ballet technique, Cecchetti, tumbling, etc. Will attend 3-4 local events with 3 or more group dances. Must attend November choreography camp, must attend Muse and another outside weekend long convention. Must purchase studio required shoes (same as last year, GDP Vans). All Elite level members must be at all recitals.

Fee Policies:

All required entry fees will be posted to your account about 60 days prior to each event. You must pay all fees on time. Fees are not refundable, even if you miss the event for any reason.
YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL ENTRY FEES FOR ALL EVENTS YOUR TEAM IS ATTENDING EVEN IF YOU WILL NOT BE THERE AND AN ALTERNATE IS TAKING YOUR PLACE. You must have your costumes in for the alternate two weeks before the event. If you are sick at the last minute, you must contact the teacher and send your costumes to the event. They must arrive one hour before the be ready time. Often times a team member will take the costumes for you.

Due to COVID-19, we have decided 2021 is an optional year for our National Event for all teams. 2022 will be a required year for Elite.

Would you be interested in participating in a small group if asked? _____

Maximum number of small groups you may be considered for: _____

Competition groups will be following these guide lines so please read carefully before signing. Please be sure to submit your class request with this form.

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Code of Conduct, Class Attire, & Attendance Requirements

Code Of Conduct:

Respect your teachers. Respect all team members. Be on your best behavior in the lobby. Clean up after yourself, help pick up after others and leave the lobby neat. Be helpful and a studio leader, make everyone feel welcome. GDP staff will go over competition behavior in detail with team members. We require respectful and excellent behavior at all events.

Dress Code:

-Hair: Please have hair up and off face for all classes.

-Attire: Black leotard or sports bra and bike shorts- no baggy shorts or cover ups in class.

-Shoes: You must have the correct shoes for the subject.

Dance Room Regulations:

No cell phones allowed in the dance rooms. This rule is for dancers in class, student assistants and visitors. Cell phones brought to class will be kept by the teacher until the end of the day. Parents who need to contact students may call the studio and we will get your dancer out of class for emergency calls.

No food or pop in the studio rooms, water bottles with water only. No Gum!!!

Attendance Policies:

Excellent attendance is required. You must be on time to all competition classes. Dancers may not miss more than 3 lessons per class, in a season. You must be in class the 2 weeks prior to each event. Dancers who have poor attendance will be handled by the teachers. All competition teams will have alternates to step in. Any missed technique class must be made up within 2 weeks of missing. Dancers may attend any other technique class to make it up.

Extra Class Rehearsals:

Occasionally, dance teams have extra rehearsals before competitions. In the past, there has been more practice needed prior to the first event. The staff will do their best to give as much prior notice of extra rehearsals as possible. We will also try to keep tap and jazz practices together. Please make every effort to attend.

Competition, Workshop Schedules and Fee Policies

GDP will have a team parent meeting in early fall. We will provide a calendar of all the events for the season at this meeting. The schedule handed out in the fall will include dates, rates, event cities, and host hotels that provide group rates. Competitions, Nationals, Camps and Outside and In-Studio Workshops will all be detailed. Outside Workshops begin in early fall. Elite level dancers must attend an In-Studio Workshop **AND** an Outside Workshop. Novice and Line level dancers must choose either an In-Studio Workshop **OR** an Outside Workshop. The Outside Workshop will be chosen by the studio. Competitions usually begin in February for Elite. Novice and Line competitions are held in March, April and May. At the fall parent meeting you will receive a break down of team required events and many optional things you may join. You will get the exact address to the competition location with the final schedule, at least 5 days prior to the event. You must keep the entire weekend open until you have the final schedule. Please do not email and call the studio asking for times in advance as we do not have answers. Please understand that the scheduling is out of our hands and that you must be available the entire weekend.

Required local events do not require a hotel stay. However many optional events do. Hotel reservations are your responsibility. We suggest you book both Friday and Saturday night upon making reservations. Be sure you inquire about the cancellation policies of each hotel. When you receive the exact schedule you can adjust your reservations as necessary. You are not required to stay at the host hotel.

In-Studio Workshops are held throughout the season as they come up. We will email and post studio flyers for all of these types of events. Many times these are set up quickly. Having guest artists in the studio really helps the dancers grow and we encourage all dancers to participate in these events as they arise. **For our 2020/2021 season, dancers will be required to attend Muse and/or another outside weekend long convention depending on their team placement.**

Fee Policies:

All required entry fees will be posted to your account about 60 days prior to each event. You must pay all fees on time. Fees are not refundable, even if you miss the event for any reason. **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL ENTRY FEES FOR ALL EVENTS YOUR TEAM IS ATTENDING EVEN IF YOU WILL NOT BE THERE AND AN ALTERNATE IS TAKING YOUR PLACE.** You must have your costumes in for the alternate two weeks before the event. If you are sick at the last minute, you must contact the teacher and send your costumes to the event. They must arrive one hour before the be ready time. Often times a team member will take the costumes for you.

Competition Cost Estimate and Fundraisers

Regular monthly tuition is due for all competition dancers. Dancers must provide all required shoes. We have provided this estimate to help you plan for items in addition to that.

Estimated one time costs, these required items can be used year after year

Jewelry \$30.00

Company Jacket approximately \$120.00

Jacket embroidery approximately \$40

Makeup approximately \$45.00

Team Shoes (required for elite level, optional for all other levels): approximately \$120. (shoes will be the same as 2018/2019, GDP Vans)

Choreography & Team Building Camp

approximately \$260.00

Entry Fees (based on last year, approximate fees)

Group entry \$70.00 per dance

Solo entry \$150.00

Duet entry \$85.00

Trio entry \$85.00

NATIONAL ENTRY FEES ARE HIGHER THAN REGIONAL ENTRY FEES

Costumes - We use the same costumes for competition and recital. Price is an estimate.

Novice: 3 costumes @ \$150-\$200 each

Line: 3 costumes @ \$150-\$200 each

Line Plus: 4 costumes @ \$150-\$200 each

Number of Elite costumes vary depending on the number of group dances. Costumes are around \$150-200 each.

Additional One Time Fees:

Pre competition on stage rehearsal fee approximately \$20.00 per dancer

Outside weekend workshops approximately \$225.00 each

Muse Workshop: ages 5-8 \$200, ages 9 & up: \$425

Prop fees: varies by team. Estimate \$25.00 per dancer per group with prop

Team Parties - Varies by team. Estimate \$25.00 per event

National Competition - 2020/2021 is an optional national event year for all teams. Due to COVID-19, we have decided 2021 is an optional year for our National Event for all teams. 2022 will be a required year for elite.

Fundraisers

Each competition dancer is required to sell at least one ad for our yearbook. Order forms are included in the fall competition packet and are due in early spring. Proceeds from this go toward yearbook printing costs.

All other fundraisers are optional and run by parent volunteers. Proceeds benefit the dancers who participate.

Parent Recital Work Requirement

Competition parents are required to work at one of our recitals each year. Recital work forms must be turned in with your show selection before you can purchase recital tickets. GDP will assign the exact job.

COMPETITION FAMILIES CAN NOT OPT OUT OF WORKING AT A RECITAL!

Competition Cosmetics & Hair Requirements

All competition dancers are required to use the assigned makeup. Exact brands and colors will be sent out in the fall.

Admiration Awards

In order to encourage our dancers to watch, enjoy and learn from the other teams at competitions we instated Admiration Awards a few years back. The idea is that our dancers find something they like about a routine from outside of our studio. Then they show it by handing them an Admiration Award. The GDP staff will provide a bucket of awards at each event and we encourage the dancers to find the time to hand them out. This is informal. Just find a person from a dance you like, give them the award and tell them what you liked about their dance. It can be anything including but not limited to music, costume, hair, the dance, one step, or even their smiles. Please do not do this on stage during the competition awards. Any other time will work.

Competition Day Procedure

Arrival:

Please arrive early. Be dressed, hair and makeup perfect, correct tights with no runs, have all costume parts, and clean shoes. You must be ready with your group at the listed be ready time. **THIS MEANS HAIR AND MAKEUP DONE WITH YOUR FIRST COSTUME ON.** If you are walking into the building at this time, you are late. Don't worry about not having a designated meeting place. We always find each other at the events. Parents, once the dancers are completely ready and with a teacher feel free to go to the audience and see the show. The teacher will have better attention from the dancers with less distractions as they warm up and focus on the routine if less people are around.

Dancing:

Parents be aware that competitions often run out of published order. Stay in the audience to be sure you do not miss your dancer's act. Dancers should not leave the competition in between dances without having their teacher's permission. This is due to the fact that the scheduled order may change. Be positive and supportive of all dancers from our studio and others. Parents, sit together in a group and applaud for all GDP dances to show team spirit.

Awards:

Dancers are encouraged to stay for the awards. Please wear your studio jacket on stage for the awards. The team trophy, plaque or medal comes back to the studio and each dancer receives a pin, button or ribbon depending on the event. Dancers may purchase their own trophies at the event check-in table. The awards are based on the opinion of three judges, please keep this in perspective. We must have good conduct at all times. This applies to the dancers and their parents. Dancers must wear studio jackets during awards. Dancers must stay on stage during the whole presentation. No leaving partway through the awards. Dancers must applaud all dances that win an award. Dancers will stand and applaud all First Overall winners. Parents, sit together in a group and applaud for all GDP dances to show team spirit.

Exit:

Be sure to leave the dressing area extra neat and clean. Parents should double check your dancers costumes and shoes. Be sure to leave nothing behind.

Emergencies at the Last Minute:

If you must miss an event at the last minute please call your teacher's cell phone. All competition students will receive the staff phone list. If your teacher doesn't answer, call another teacher. Get your costumes to the event. You may send them with another teammate or your parents must bring them. Most of the time we have an alternate. We must have your costumes to place the alternate in your spot. Entry fees are non-refundable. The competitions never refund money for any reason. It is sad when a dancer is too sick or a family tragedy causes conflict with the event, but we have no control over this situation. We just want to make the best of a bad situation by being ready with an alternate when possible so the team can do the best possible performance.



Camp Copneconic

November 6-8, 2020

At camp, the dancers learn their team competition routines and develop a bond together as a team and as an overall company at this event. The cost for this event is approximately \$260. The camp does have a store so dancers can bring money to visit the camp store.

A final schedule will be out the week before camp.

The dancers are with studio staff, camp staff and parent chaperones. The parent chaperones will be the adults in charge at night.

Chaperones: Parent chaperones must arrive at the camp on Friday by 3:00 pm. Chaperones leave on Sunday after the last team member is picked up. Please do not volunteer if you can not make these requirements. No siblings are allowed at camp. To volunteer as a chaperone, please email the studio. All teams do need a parent so please consider helping if you can.

Notify Us Now: If your child has a condition that needs special attention please email the studio now! The camp will accommodate all special diets. We want to know of any medical conditions that require skills to handle. **Normal things** like: inhalers, normal medicines, afraid of dark type things **do not require a special email**. Please list these on your "care of kids form" and mention it to your chaperones upon drop off at camp.

Arrival: Check in at 4:00. Proceed directly to your housing unit which will be listed on your final schedule. Check in with your chaperone. You will give your chaperone your "care of kids & emergency form" and any necessary medicine. Help your dancer set up their bed and say good bye. Parents need to exit the camp by 4:30 as we want to start activities.

Packing: See attached packing list. We are outdoors a lot and for long periods of time. Be sure to send warm clothes. Boots are good for walking place to place. Dancers are dancing in a camp format. Be sure your dancer has old jazz shoes or old ballet shoes for Jazz and Lyrical classes at camp.

Camp Rules: Dancers can not drive to camp. No cars allowed for anyone under the age of 21. If a dancer does not follow all rules they will be sent home. No refunds will be given. No smoking, drinking or visitors allowed.

Cell Phones: Dancers will not be allowed to use cell phones in activity time or dance time. Dancers may use cell phones in free time. Please explain this rule thoroughly to your dancers.

Pick Up: **Come to the dining hall at the assigned time on Sunday. Do not arrive early.** Find your team area, pick up all belongings and let your chaperone know you have your dancer. At this point you are free to head home.

