

NSD Dance Team Contract

2017-2018

The information in this packet includes details for each competition, convention, the team guidelines and our expectations for the NSD team members. We will receive more information once the competition dates get closer, but please reserve the entire weekend for each of the competitions. There are host hotels for each competition, usually for a discounted rate, if you choose. Most competitions do start at 8 am, but each competition is run differently. All students should be at the competition no later than two hours before their scheduled time to perform because some competitions run ahead of schedule. We will make sure to post the dates and times of all of our company routines, including solos and duets, once we receive the information from the competition.

Included in your packet are the competition fees. This will help you prepare for what each competition will cost. Please pay the total of your competition fees for each competition TWO months prior to the start of that competition. For example, our first group competition will be Onstage America which takes place March 2 – 4. The competition fees for this competition will be due no later than January 2nd. We will be ordering the costumes in the next month or so and once they have been ordered, we will give you a breakdown of the cost for each costume. Please pay the first \$25 deposit for each dance team costume by September 30th and the second \$25 costume deposit for each routine is due by November 30th. Since we order dance team costumes before the costumes for the recreational classes, it's necessary to have the payments sooner. This includes costume deposits for solos, duets, trios, etc. All remainder dance team costume balances must be paid prior to taking the costumes home. The next item in your packet is a copy of the NSD Dance Team Guidelines. We would like to read through these with you and then have everyone sign a copy and hand them in. You can keep the other copy in case you need to refer to it at a later date.

NSD Dance Team Guidelines

These guidelines are to help everyone understand what is involved. If after reading this outline you still have unanswered questions, please contact Jen or Nikki. Chances are you aren't the only one.

- Being a member of the NSD Dance Team means that the student auditioned and was accepted onto a competitive dance team. We would like for everyone to be able to participate, but we cannot guarantee that everyone will make it onto a team (especially their first year). If a student does not make it onto a dance team that does not mean that he/she should give up. It means that he/she should work harder over the next year and then try again. We do not want to be putting the extra pressure of being a competitive dancer on a student who is not quite ready yet. This also does not mean that because you made it one year, you will automatically make it next year. NSD dance team members must demonstrate good work ethic throughout the year if he/she expects to be picked for company again next year. Everyone will audition every year.
- Being a member of an NSD Dance Team means **mandatory** participation in a NSD ballet for all company dancers.
- Being a member of the NSD Dance Team requires an annual dance team fee of \$75/member. The annual dance team fee covers the time spent registering each student and routine for each competition and other performances/events as well as preparing group music, prop design, supplies, etc.
- Being a member of the NSD Dance Team means participating in three somewhat-local (mostly in Western, MA) dance competitions a year. The expenses of dance competitions are costumes and registration fees along with make-up and accessories. We want all of our dance team members to have an NSD Dance Team jacket prior to the first competition. Please see Nikki or Jen for a jacket order form. All team students are required to wear their team jackets to all conventions and competitions. NSD is looking into offering a variety of fundraisers throughout the year to help save on these costs. Fundraising is completely optional, as we know the students have to participate in fundraising in their regular day school. We are always looking for new fundraisers, so if anyone has any suggestions please let us know.
- Being a member of the NSD Dance Team means taking a 45 minute, 60 minute or 90 minute long dance class with other dance team members of the same technical ability. These classes are designed to work on both technique and choreography. The dance team classes are separated out from the recreational classes so that we can make sure each NSD student is working at the level he/she wishes. The instructors of the team classes have higher expectations and demands for their students, so they should come to class ready to work hard and focus 110%.
- Being a member of the NSD Dance Team means participating in other local performances, such as First Night, Nursing Home Performances, Half-time Shows and more! When we have more information about upcoming performance opportunities, we will let everyone know.

Not all dance teams perform at all of these performances, however keep in mind that it is a great chance to practice and we really encourage your participation!

- Sunday, December 31st is The Festival of Dance for the 2017 First Night in Northampton. There will be two performances, one at 3:00pm and one at 4:00pm at the Academy of Music. As the year progresses, we will let you know which companies have been chosen to dance in First Night and which show they will be in. Tentatively, all participating company members must be at NSD for a group warm up at 1:00pm.
- Being a member of the NSD Dance Team means having excellent attendance in **all dance classes**. Effective immediately, students who miss three or more company or ballet classes a month will be put on probation. Once a student is on probation, they will not be allowed to compete at the next competition. Students who do not come to class on a regular basis will fall behind and make it difficult for the instructors to continue with choreography. We understand that injuries, illnesses and family emergencies are out of our control, but if a student is well enough to sit through class he/she should at least observe. If a student is going to miss class, please call or email the studio so that we can plan accordingly.
- At NSD, tardiness is equally as unacceptable as absenteeism. All NSD Dance Team members must arrive 5-10 minutes prior to class start time and must be ready to dance right when class starts. With many classes being reduced to 45 minutes, we do not have any time to waste! Just like in school, 3 tardies results in one absence. The same rule applies to probation.
- We want NSD Dance Team members to be studious and achieve the best of grades, so this might mean holding back on their social life in order to get their homework done. We have received a lot of phone calls saying that a student is unable to attend class because of homework, which of course comes first. However, NSD Dance Team members should do their best to get their homework and studying taken care of during their free time when possible so as to avoid missing dance classes and rehearsals.
- Being a member of the NSD Dance Team means taking dance to a more serious level and working 110% at all times. This is not to say that dance will not be fun anymore, of course it will be fun because it is what we all love to do. It just means that dance team members will be working to the best of their ability at all times. We want everyone to do their best in competition, so this means that we must practice doing our best in each class. Remember, what you do in the classroom is what you will do when get on stage!
- Being a member of the NSD Dance Team **does not mean** that you are “better” than non-competitive dancers. The “I am better than you” attitude will not be tolerated at NSD and will result in **immediate** dismissal from team. All NSD students will be treated equally by staff and faculty, both competitive and non-competitive dancers. This means that both team and recreational dancers will treat each other as they would like to be treated.
- Being a member of the NSD Dance Team means that you will not be competing for other dance schools as this is a conflict of interest. We encourage students to participate in other classes and performances, as long as they do not conflict with NSD rehearsal time. There have been some issues with students participating in too many activities. Unfortunately, once dancers get to a certain level and want to pursue dance on a competitive basis he/she may have to give up other activities. It is difficult to make decisions like this at such a young age, but we all have to learn to make sacrifices. Remember, dance does not have to be such

a great commitment. NSD students are always encouraged to take dance classes on a recreational level instead of a competitive level. This decision is up to each student and their parents. We want everyone to know that more will be expected of NSD Dance Team members than it will be of NSD recreational dancers.

- Below is a list of the competitions that we will be attending this season. This year we will not be making any special schedule changes once the competition line up has been released (with the exception of religious events such as First Communions, etc). You should plan on reserving the entire weekend for the dates below, regardless of how many routines your child is in. You should expect that if your child is in more than one dance, you might have to be there more than just one day. We like to give you these dates early on so that you have plenty of time to plan! Competitions do not release the detailed schedule until 1-2 weeks prior to the competition date. At each competition several award ceremonies take place throughout the weekend. We strongly encourage all dancers to stay for their award ceremony as it is a great way to show team spirit and celebrate your hard work and dedication! We want everyone to be recognized and to receive their awards.
- Lastly, the dress codes listed in our policy and procedure form are **STRICTLY ENFORCED!** We have seen a lot of hair falling down, or not up at all and inappropriate dance attire being worn to class. We want everyone to be the best they can be and that is going to start with the way you look and feel when you come to class. Students should practice wearing their hair in a neat and tight bun to class on a regular basis. This means using hair pins, hair nets and bobby pins! Students should not be taking time out of class to get changed into their dance clothes! Students who miss warm up may be asked to sit out of class, to avoid possible injury. Unsecure hair is a distraction not only for the class and instructor but for the student as well. Please make sure your hair is up and secure prior to walking into the dance studio. Doing your hair in class will not be tolerated!
- Students who are absent from team classes should make arrangements to learn missed choreography with a fellow teammate. Taking time out of class to review choreography for students who are absent takes time away from moving on and it is unfair to those who attended class.

We hope this helps everyone to understand the expectations of NSD Dance Team dancers. If you have any questions or comments, please speak with Jen or Nikki. Thank you!

We have read, understood and agree to follow these NSD Company Guidelines.

Student's Signature

Date

Parent's Signature

Date

MANDATORY Group Competitions

Onstage America

Onstageamerica.com

March 2 - 4

Registration & Fee Due Date: January 2

Venue Location:

Mass Mutual Center
1277 Main Street
Springfield, MA 01810

Fees:

TBD

Spirit of Dance

Spiritofdanceawards.com

April 6 - 8

Registration & Fee Due Date: February 6

Venue Location:

Vernon CT
Rockville High School

Fees:

TBD

Dancers Inc.

Dancersincompetition.com

May 4 - 6

Registration & Fee Due Date: March 4

Venue Location:

Springfield MA
TBD

Fees:

TBD

Optional Solo, Duo/Trio Competition

Dance Team members who have solos, duos/trios may participate in this optional competition. Those who have attended in the past have really enjoyed going. It is a great way to practice solos, duos/trios without the stress of your other routines!

You must have a solo, duet or trio attending the three mandatory competitions to participate!

Groove

Groovecompetition.com

East Haven CT

February 16 – 18

Registration Deadline: December 16

East Haven High School

35 Wheelbarrow Lane

East Haven, CT 06513

Kids Artistic Revue

Dancekar.com

Torrington CT

March 16 – 18

Registration Deadline: January 16

Warner Theatre

68 Main Street

Torrington, CT 06790

If you are interested in doing a solo, duo or trio, please sign-up ASAP. Remember that you must be enrolled in a dance team class of the genre in which you wish to have a solo, duo or trio.

Please direct any questions to Jen or Nikki.

Optional Dance Conventions

Groove

Groovecompetition.com

Sunday, November 5

Registration Deadline: September 30

Venue Location:

The Lantana
43 Scanlon Drive
Randolph, MA 02368

Fees:

\$125/dancer for 2 - 10 dancers
\$115/dancer for 11 - 19 dancers
\$105/dancer for 20+ dancers
Observer bands \$20 at the door

Beyond the Stars

Beyondthestarstalent.com

Sunday, December 3

Registration Deadline: October 30

Venue Location:

Mass Mutual Center
Springfield MA

Fees:

\$125/dancer
Observer bands \$20

These conventions are STRONGLY ENCOURAGED!

Please sign up on the board at the studio by the deadline date if you will be attending. There is limited room so we need to reserve your spot ahead of time!

OTHER THINGS TO REMEMBER...

Parent Accountability: Please make sure that your child has adequate supervision if you cannot be there. Make sure that your child has rides and knows contact phone numbers, etc.

Make-Up: Every student should have the following items...

- Concealer
- Foundation
- Powder
- Blush – Cover Girl # 510 Iced Plum
- Lipstick – Maybelline # 435 Plum Perfect
- Eye Shadow – Maybelline # 22 Chai Latte
- Black Eye Liner
- Black Mascara
- Black Eyelashes
- Eyelash glue (Duo)

The above items can be found at Wal-Mart, CVS, etc. Please remember that students should not share make up. Make-up should be heavy as last year the judges told us that our make-up was not dark enough. The eye shadow directions are on the back of the case. Please follow the “Dramatic Look” display.

Hair: Each teacher will request the company members to wear their hair a certain way. No matter how hair is worn, all hair must be neat. Students should also have the following items...

- Hair ties
- Bobby pins
- Hair pins
- Hair nets
- Hair gel
- Hair spray

Accessories: There may be other items that students need to purchase, such as hair accessories and earrings. We will keep you posted if there are any additional fees.

Remember... to make sure that all of the above items in addition to tights, shoes, costumes, etc. are brought to every competition. Also, you should have other various items with you such as...

- A Tide Pen
- Safety Pins
- Ice packs
- Water
- Nail Polish Remover
- First Aid Kit
- Snacks that aren't messy and a button down shirt that can be worn over costumes to avoid from getting any snacks on them
- Tissue
- Scissors
- Sewing Kit

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