

Debra Sparks Dance Works

Competition Team Handbook 2020-2021 Season

Thank you for your interest in the DSDW Competition Team. Please review the following information before auditioning to see if this is the right fit for your dancer.

INTRODUCTION

Debra Sparks Dance Works is proud to have an award winning competition team at our studio. The team competes in all styles of dance in all age categories. Dances are taught and rehearsed by our DSDW Staff, as well as outside choreographers. Being a member of the DSDW Competition Team challenges dancers and improves their technique, ability to pick up choreography, work well with others, and become more confident in performing overall. DSDW limits the amount of competitions (typically two per season) for we are first and foremost a training studio.

A role on this team must be taken very seriously and professionally. This opportunity is one that will afford huge progress, great fun, a dance family for support and encouragement, and one that will make memories to last a lifetime!

The information below details what exactly is expected of our team members.

TEAM MEMBERSHIP AND STRUCTURE

- **Team Auditions**
 - Typically all team members must audition for the team every year. However, for this year and this year only, 2019-2020 team members need not to re audition for their spot on the team.
 - i. 2020-2021 Auditions are **Thursday, August 13th from 5-7 PM**. Dancers must wear black leotard and pink tights and will learn both a ballet and jazz combination.
 - ii. There is an audition fee of \$20 per dancer.
 - iii. Dancers will be notified of their acceptance within two weeks.

- **Three Teams**

DSDW has three teams which are grouped by age. In special circumstances, you may be offered to dance with another team. Dancers are placed according to age and technical ability. There may be a cross-over between the Mini, Junior, and Senior teams according to Miss Debra's discretion.

Mini Team- Ages 5-8

Junior Team- Ages 9-12

Senior Team- Ages 13 and up

- **Class Requirements**

All team members are required to be in the following classes in their appropriate level for the full school year, September-June.

Master Ballet Technique
Jumps and Turns
Ballet/Jazz
Classical Ballet Workshop
Team Workshop

Team members that sustain an injury or illness will be excused from competition while still remaining a valued team member. Injured dancers must still attend all rehearsals, classes and competition.

- **Intensives**

All are required to attend both summer and winter intensive. This year you have the option to attend summer intensive either in person or virtually.

2020 Dates

1. Summer Intensive

- a. Monday-Friday 10 AM -3 PM
11& under: July 27th-31st
12 & over: August 10th- 14th

2. Winter Intensive

- a. Monday, December 21st and Tuesday, December 22nd
4-8 PM

- **Attendance**

- All team members are permitted up to 3 excused absences/year for team workshops classes.
- All added rehearsals are mandatory.

DANCES AND REHEARSALS

1. Groups, Solos, Duo/Trios

- a. Miss Debra chooses dancers for a solo, duo, trio, small/large group and production opportunities based on technique, commitment, confidence, musicality, showmanship, and ability to learn material quickly and to correct mistakes. A parent cannot make a decision or pay an extra amount of money for this honor.
- b. This year we will be competing with last years' pieces. Therefore families will incur no unforeseen added fees for new choreography.
- c. Any new group pieces will be taught/choreographed by Miss Debra and Miss Tamara at no charge.
- d. Any student offered a solo or duo/trio with a specific teacher, must be enrolled in one of that choreographer/teachers' classes (if applicable).

- e. New solos, duos and trios will be taught by whomever suits the dancer best and will be charged at the choreographer's rate. Costumes will be purchased. This, as always, is optional.

2. Rehearsals

- a. Dances will be rehearsed in the appropriate team workshop class. Any additional rehearsals will be emailed out to students in advance and are mandatory.

MANDATORY EVENTS

1. Competitions

- a. All team members must agree to compete in all chosen competitions, including Nationals if Miss Debra decides to enter. No exceptions.

2. Showcase

- a. We offer a showcase of team dances in the spring to showcase to our family and friends who may not be able to attend the competition. This is also a wonderful way to prepare for the stage. Please stay tuned for our 2020-2021 date as it is in the works.

3. Other Events

- a. There are many fundraising events and efforts that are run for the team. All must participate.
- b. Community Service Shows are put together by Miss Debra in the fall and done at local schools and nursing homes. Team members are given this honor to attend and be a part of these wonderful events.

COMMUNICATION

- 1. Email:** Emails will be sent regularly with updates, reminders, rehearsals and entry fees. Please check your email regularly.
- 2. Band App:** Our band app is up to date with rehearsal times and dates. It is recommended all team members download the app and use it often!

COMPETITION OBLIGATIONS

1. Competitions

- a. We will travel to two mandatory competitions sometime in March and April. Dates will be finalized in September, or as soon as they are released by the competitions.
- b. In 2021, we are offering a third competition that is optional for soloists and duo/trios since we were unable to compete in the 2020 season.
- c. We try to select competitions that are max two hours from the studio. It is not mandatory that you stay in a hotel, but group rates will be available.

- d. All dancers must be accompanied by a chaperone at competition events.

2. Etiquette

- a. All dancers, parents, and supporters of DSDW must have proper etiquette while attending competitions. This includes good sportsmanship, proper theatre manners, and respectfulness of all DSDW staff, parents, and students.
- b. Each competition varies and has its own policies and rules. Parents are responsible for reviewing the guidelines.

3. Competition Schedule

- a. Competitions are typically a three day event (Friday, Saturday, Sunday). Dances can be run at any time and may be spread out throughout the day. It is extremely important that you are free for the entire weekend, as competitions do not release their schedules for the weekend until 7 days prior to the event
- b. Supporting your team members is a critical component of the experience for dancers of all ages! Dancers are encouraged to attend the full event.
- c. Some competitions offer their own Master Class during the event. All DSDW members are encouraged to participate if this is the case and the schedule permits.

CONVENTIONS

DSDW offers optional conventions for team members to learn from the best in the industry. The conventions allow for students to challenge themselves in all styles. Many times, scholarships are awarded at the conventions. Convention prices average between \$150 and \$300 depending on the pass purchased. Conventions are an amazing opportunity that is offered to our team members only and benefits them as dancers tremendously!

This year's conventions are below. Miss Debra will be choosing from these conventions based on competition schedules.

JUMP: Philadelphia, PA	February 5th- 7th
NUVO: Atlantic City, NJ	April 16th-18th
NYCDA: Atlantic City, NJ	March 26th-28th
NYCDA: Meadowlands, NJ	March 12th-14th
Velocity: New Brunswick, NJ	March 19th-21st

Broadway Dance Center

Our team this year will have the special opportunity to train at Broadway Dance Center for the day with the industry's best! Dancers will take a bus up to New York City and be in class all day with different teachers in all styles. Stay tuned for more information about this exciting event!

FEES

1. **Competition Fees:** Fees will be due about a month before the competition. Groups range anywhere from \$45-\$55, Duo/Trios are \$45-\$55, and solos can be anywhere from \$100-\$130, based on the 2020 rates. The studio does not profit from competition fees. The fees parents pay go directly to cover the exact charges from the competition company.
 - a. All Entry fees that are late will incur a **\$10 late fee for every week it is late.**
 - b. Soloists are given the opportunity to enter their solos in the Title Division if it is an option. This typically costs between \$40-50 extra.

2. **Costumes:** Costumes are **\$75 per competition costume.** Please note that for the 2020-2021 season, costumes have already been ordered and paid for from the spring. No new costumes will be ordered.

3. **Membership Fee:** All members are required to pay a team membership fee of **\$300** This will cover all additional rehearsal time with Miss Debra and Miss Tamara (up to 40 hours per season), a team photo session, one costume, and a video from our team showcase.
 - a. This fee is due **November 1, 2020.**

ATTIRE

1. **Tights**
 - a. Pink: Capezio 9/9C, Theatrical Pink
 - b. Tan: Capezio Hold and Stretch in Suntan

The tights required can also be purchased at the studio for \$20.00. They are competitively priced with online pricing.

2. **Shoes:**
 - a. Pink split sole canvas ballet shoes
 - b. Tan leather split sole jazz shoes
 - c. Tan canvas turning shoes (also known as half shoes)
 - d. Black oxford style split sole tap shoes
 - e. Special shoes that are needed for particular dances will be notified as necessary

3. **Warm Ups**
 - a. Members will be given the opportunity to purchase a jacket through the studio at the beginning of the season.
 - b. Additional DSDW Apparel can be purchased at our school store at <https://teamlocker.squadlocker.com/#/lockers/dsdw?k=ijogob>.

4. **Hair:** Hair is in a secure, perfect bun, unless another hairstyle is noted. No whispies!
5. **Red Leotard:** All team members must purchase a red leotard to wear during class, at competitions, and even in some dances and performances.

DSDW COMPETITION TEAM COMMITMENT FORM 2020-2021
DUE BY JULY 10TH
(or within 5 days after receiving acceptance letter for new team members)

I agree to all the stipulations presented above and will adhere to all.

I will treat each fellow dancer, choreographer and myself with the utmost of respect.

Attendance is mandatory with only 3 excused absences/year unless for illness or injury.

Parental Signature

Date

Team Member Signature

Date
