

# READY, SET, DANCE!

2018-2019

## COMPETITION AND CONVENTION HANDBOOK



# READY, SET, DANCE

## 2018-2019 Competition Team Information

Competitions are a fun and exciting way to showcase our dance abilities; dance workshops allow us to learn from dance professionals from all over the world! Both competitions and workshops provide opportunities for our dancers to learn the latest dance trends in the dance industry, as well as receive dance scholarships and professional opportunities.

We plan to attend 2 to 4 competition/workshops during the 2018/2019 dance year.

In addition, we perform at various events throughout the community!

### **Auditions**

This year dancers will receive a special invitation via mail to audition and become part of the RSD competition/performance team.

### **Requirements**

The following are requirements to be part of the team:

- You must be at least 5 years of age
- You must be currently taking 1-2 weekly ballet classes
- You must attend at least 20 summer classes for ages 10 and up
  - At least 10 classes for ages 9 and younger. (See more info under “Boot Camp.”)
- You must take the required amount of weekly classes. (See more info under “Dance Class Requirements.”)
- All Broadway workshops are mandatory

## **Competition Expenses**

There are extra expenses associated with dance competitions and workshops. Some of these fees are as follows:

### **Competition Costumes**

- Approximately \$60 per costume
- We will re-use recital costumes or “make” costumes to keep costs down
- Tights, proper shoes, make up, and accessories are required

### **Competition/Workshop Fees**

- These vary according to the type of dance or dances your child participates in  
Example: Solo (approximately \$95.00)  
Duet/Trio (approximately \$55 per dancer)  
Group (approximately \$40.00 per dancer)  
Line (approximately \$35.00 per dancer).
- These charges are collected by the association holding the competition, not Ready, Set, Dance
- Workshops fees vary according to length of workshop and range from \$60.00 to \$160.00

### **Rehearsals**

- Competition rehearsals are held every other weekend, mainly Saturdays
- A rehearsal schedule will be given several weeks ahead of time
- Solos/Duets/Trios may have to come in for extra rehearsals

## **Dance Class Requirements**

- Dancers ages 5 to 7 take 2 classes or more a week: all classes must be one hour long classes (no combo classes)
- Dancers ages 8 + take 3 or more classes a week: ballet, jazz or lyrical/contemporary and one or two classes of your choice

## Choreography Fees

There is a one time choreography fee for each dance number to cover choreography and teacher expenses. Average costs per competition child ranges:

- A dancer in only 1 or 2 dances (no solo) averaged \$1100.00 for the year, which included choreography fees, costumes, competition fees, rehearsal fees, team wear and workshop fees.
- A dancer in 6 to 8 dances (including a solo) averaged \$3000.00 for the year, which included choreography fees, costumes, rehearsal fees, team wear, competition fees, and workshop fees.

**Competition costs *do not* include regular weekly dance classes.**

## Fundraising

- Parents have formed a “fundraising” committee to offset some of the expenses
- Fundraising is optional!
- Parents participating in fund raising raised approximately \$400 or more each last year and applied towards their expenses
- Payments are broken down into monthly payments-This year, the first payment will be due in July and will depend upon your child’s total costs

## Competition Choreography Fees

Solos	\$275	
Duets	\$300.00	(\$150 per dancer)
Trios	\$375.00	(\$125 per dancer)
Groups	\$550.00	(4 to 8 Dancers per group/divided by the number of dancers in group)
Lines	\$750.00	(9 or more dancers, divided by total #)

## Rehearsal Fees

Rehearsal fees are billed monthly and are calculated by the number of dances your child performs.

- 1 to 2 dances \$28 a month
- 3 to 4 dances \$34 a month
- 5 + dances \$40 a month

## Boot Camp

- All company dancers, ages 8 and up are required to attend a “Competition Boot Camp!” (those age 5,6,7 can also attend, but not mandatory)
- It will be an entire 3 days of all-day classes and an overnight/sleepover camp.
- Classes include: Ballet, hip hop, tumbling, tap, jazz, lyrical, contemporary, jumps, turns, drama, musical theatre, etiquette, audition hints, make-up, hair, and more.
- Classes are taught by RSD Staff and guest teachers.
- Dates for boot camp are September 7th-9th 2018

## Summer Classes

- Competition dancers are required to purchase a “class card” and take summer classes.
- There are two separate cards
  - 10 classes at \$120.00
  - 20 classes at \$200.00

## Competition Wear

In order to look professional as a group, we will be ordering team jackets, pants, leotards and bags! The approximate costs are as follows:

### Uniform

Jacket/Pants: \$90.00 total

Leotards: \$24.00 each (there are 2 team leotards per child)

Back Packs            \$40.00 (this includes logo and child's name and is optional)

**Make-up/Performance Earrings**

\$35-\$40.00

**Shoes**

Appropriate dance shoes are mandatory- do not purchase any shoes in advance. RSD will provide shoe information at the beginning of the season.

## COMPETITION CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARENTS

*The essential elements of character building and ethics in competition dance are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and good citizenship.*

1. I will not force my child to participate in dance.
2. I will remember that children participate to have fun, and that the dance training is for the child, not his/her parents.
3. I will inform the school of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or of others.
4. I will learn and honor the school's rules and policies.
5. I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage positive sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy and demonstrating support for the school's dancers and all other participating schools and students.
6. I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any judge, teacher, dancer, parent, or school staff member. There will be no yelling, taunting, or profane language at any time.
7. I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health or well-being of the dancers.
8. I will demand that my child treat other dancers, teachers, judges, and spectators with respect.
9. I will never ridicule or yell at my child or any other dancer for making a mistake or not winning an award.
10. I will respect the authority of the judges and competition directors during dance competitions. I will not question, discuss, or confront teachers at the competition site; instead, I will speak with teachers at an agreed-upon time and place.
11. I will refrain from coaching my child or other dancers during competitions or classes.
12. I agree that if I fail to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines, I will be subject to disciplinary action.

## TEACHER-PARENT PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

*When parents and teachers work together, children tend to perform better in class and at competition.*

1. Recognize teachers' commitment. The teachers' commitment involves many hours of preparation beyond time spent at rehearsals and competition. Acknowledge their commitment and the fact that they are not doing it because of a paycheck. Try to remember this whenever something goes awry during the season.
2. Establish positive contact with teachers. Let the teacher know that you want your child to have the best experience possible. Ask if there is any way you can help. Getting to know the teacher and establishing a positive relationship will make it much easier to talk later if a problem arises.
3. Show appreciation. When teachers do something you like, let them know about it. Teaching and creating choreography for competition is a difficult job, and most teachers hear from parents only when they want to complain. Your encouragement will help the teacher do a better job. Every teacher does many things well. Take the time to look for them.
4. Don't put the dancer in the middle. Too often, parents share their disapproval of a teacher with their children. When they complain about poor choreography or criticize a teacher's methods or decisions, the young dancers are put in a bind. How motivated will a child be to work hard to learn choreography that her parents believe is bad? How might such negative thinking affect her love of dance? Divided loyalties do not make it easy for a child to do her best. On the other hand, parents who support the teacher make it easier for children to put their wholehearted effort into learning to dance. If you think your child's teacher is not handling a situation well, keep your thoughts to yourself and ask for a private meeting with the teacher to express your concerns.
5. Don't give instructions during a competition or class. Do not give your child instructions about how to dance or perform. It can be very confusing for a child to hear someone other than the teacher offering advice at the competition. Feel free to share your ideas with the teachers, but let them decide whether to use your advice. Making such decisions is a privilege they have earned by making a commitment to your child.
6. Be positive with your child. Perhaps the most important thing you can do is to be there for your child. Competitive dance can be stressful—the last thing young dancers need is a critic at home. Be a cheerleader for your child. Focus on the positive things she is doing and leave correcting mistakes to the teacher. Let your child know that you support her without reservation, regardless of how well she scores.
7. Support the entire team. Praise all the dancers from your child's school. Let them know when you think they do something well.
8. Encourage other parents to respect the process. Show respect for other schools and their teachers, and encourage other parents to do so as well. If a parent begins to berate another school or teacher, gently say, "Hey, that's not the way we do things here."



## CONVENTION ETIQUETTE

1. All students must take every class. If a class is too difficult, stand in the very back and try! No tumbling, talking, or sitting down during any class.
2. Specific dancers will be appointed to go up and thank the teacher after every class.
3. All students must remain in the class for the entire time. If you must use the restroom, go between classes, tell the Ready, Set, Dance teacher in your class, and *never* go alone.
4. Running around the hotel is *not permitted* at any time. You must always wear a cover-up when in the hotel. No dance shoes should be worn in the hotel, especially tap shoes.
5. The studio dress code applies to all conventions and master classes. The dress code will be given to you prior to the workshop.
6. Parents must adhere to all rules set forth by the studio. Please be on time. We will set a meeting place and time within the hotel lobby; you will drop your child off with us and then you will pick them up at the same meeting place. Exact times will be given each day. Do not come to a class and get your child. Do not take your child out of line in the “shopping area.” This makes it very difficult for us to keep track of the dancers.
7. Parents should keep in mind that this is a “dance” weekend, not a vacation. Your child should be focused on dance, not on playing in the pool or on the beach! Sleep and nutritious food will help your child get through this weekend.

# COMPETITION QUESTIONNAIRE!!!!!!

Competition is an exciting way to have fun, build friendships, and showcase our dance abilities! Are you ready to be a part of the Ready Set Dance! Competition team? Take this quiz to help you find out!!!!

## **For the students**

1. Do I like dancing so much, I am ok with being at the studio 4-5 days a week?
2. Uh oh- I have a lot of homework to do and dance practice. How am I going to do both?
3. My best friend is having her birthday party at the same time as our dress rehearsal. Do I go to rehearsal or to the birthday party?
4. Ouch!! I have a blister on my heel and I have a 3 hour rehearsal? Do I still go to my rehearsal? What should I do?
5. I have to dance for the next few hours!!!! What should I bring with me to rehearsals? Am I going to be sleepy? Or hungry?
6. Am I responsible enough to help mom/dad remember when I have a show and to pack everything that I might need?

## **For the parents**

1. Am I ok with my child being at the dance studio 4-5 days a week due to classes and rehearsals?
2. Competition is fun, but also a hectic time!!! Can I be supportive for my child and stay calm amidst all the quick changes, running to make the dance on time, fixing hair etc?
3. Do I have the time to assist with fund raising (optional), team events, and performing opportunities?
4. This is a big commitment — can I check my email daily to make sure I am up to date on all performing and rehearsal information?
5. I understand the financial aspect of competition!!! Costumes, choreography, and registration are all necessary fees. The staff of Ready, Set, Dance will keep you informed as early as possible on all necessary payments!

# THE HIGH COST OF COMPETITION

If you participate in competitions, you know how much work goes into them –and what they cost you in dollars, as well as time and energy. As parents, you also need to know what it takes for teachers to keep your kids competing.

How much does competing really cost?

## *From the teachers' point of view:*

### **Time spent:**

- Planning the competition season, researching the best competition workshops to attend
- Researching and purchasing the right music for the each of the competition dances
- Recording and editing music for each of the competition entries
- Meeting with staff to place competition dancers in correct dances, choose costumes, discuss music, choreography etc.
- Shopping around to find the best deals on costumes
- Scheduling rehearsals, classes, shows
- Collecting all competition fees
- Stress of last minute payments, paperwork, running to overnight paperwork because of parent's payment delays
- Brainstorming new ways to motivate the dancers to do their best
- Planning for next season

### **Money spent:**

- Fronting entry fees for parents who are late with their payments
- Carrying cost of costumes on charge cards until parents pay, with a hefty finance charge each month
- Cost to overnight paperwork because of delays in payment
- Our personal transportation, hotel, and food costs
- Our workshop fees, which are much larger than a student's and have to be paid in order for our students to attend!
- Subs to cover classes, if we have to be at a competition
- Music rights from ASCAP, BMI, and SEAC. We have to pay all three of these organizations every year in order to use music in class, at recital, and at competitions. The fees are literally thousands of dollars a year.
- Costs of CDS, copies, processing fees (most competitions charge at least a\$35 processing fee to process your competition paperwork)

### **Personal wear and tear:**

- The stress of ordering costumes and getting them on time
- Trying to accommodate each parent's special requests
- Fatigue because the competition ended late on Sunday and the studio must be open on Monday morning
- Consoling dancers who didn't score well at competition
- Dealing with parents who aren't happy with the way their children scored at competition
- Dealing with parents who have issues with other parents on the team
- Planning normal weekly dance classes, choreographing recital dances at the same time you are choreographing and rehearsing competition dances

## **Rehearsing for Competition**

The pressure is on – a new season of competitions has begun. You've got more to do than ever, plus you're facing a heavy rehearsal schedule. You'll want to get as much done in every rehearsal as possible, in addition to making that time an important part of your student's education. It can be done! Many teachers choose to bring their competitive students in during the summer, at least one month before the studio opens, to set competition choreography.

Rehearsals should not serve as replacements for technique classes. Do not eliminate classes in an effort to complete choreography faster; do not compromise the students' training that way. Dancers who understand that the competition experience is not simply about learning another dance are stronger and dancing for the right reason – because they want to be good dancers! Competition rehearsals should be separate from dance classes – we can never underestimate the value of our dancers understanding that their technique classes are priority when it comes to good training.

The dancer should walk into every rehearsal prepared and enthusiastic. There is nothing harder than trying to create choreography on a group of unprepared, bored dancers. The creative process takes energy from everyone involved. Dancers should be properly warmed up. Unless a rehearsal immediately follows a class, dancers should arrive

15 minutes early for every rehearsal to warm up. An injured dancer can destroy the dance for everyone. Plus, warm up is a reminder of how important discipline is to a dancer.

Discipline is key. Do not allow dancers to miss a rehearsal. If they have made the commitment to be a part of the team, then they need to understand that not participating in a scheduled rehearsal lets the team down. Once a dancer is allowed to miss rehearsals, others will consider it okay to do so too and it will bring down the positive atmosphere of the entire rehearsal. Do not make exceptions, especially not for the most talented dancers.

The process of cleaning the choreography is one of the hardest and most important parts of rehearsals. Dancers tend to be less enthusiastic when it comes to cleaning because of the repetition involved. Dancers should be expected to dance full out every time. There is nothing worse than trying to clean choreography on lazy dancers. Also dancing full out builds the stamina a dancer needs for a good performance.

The cleaning process is never done. There are always ways to improve a dance.

# READY, SET, DANCE COMPETITION TEAM

## POLICY ACCEPTANCE FORM

*Dear Parent/Guardian and Students:*

*Participation in the Ready, Set, Dance! Competition Dance Team requires a solid commitment to all the policies listed in the Competition and Convention Handbook. If you accept those policies and all obligations associated with the Ready, Set, Dance! Competition Dance Team, please sign the form below.*

*Note: Please do not sign this contract if you are unsure that you can fulfill the commitments and obligations outlined in the handbook. No one should feel pressured to participate in this program.*

I, (dancer ages 11 and up) \_\_\_\_\_, have read the 2018/2019 Ready, Set, Dance! Competition and Convention Handbook and understand that my signature constitutes acceptance of all obligations outlined.

Dancer Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I (parent/guardian) \_\_\_\_\_, have read the 2018/2019 Ready, Set, Dance! Competition and Convention Handbook and understand that my signature constitutes acceptance of all obligations outlined.

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Ready, Set, Dance

## Performance/Competition Dancer Information

Dancer's name \_\_\_\_\_

Mom's name \_\_\_\_\_

Dad's name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Cell number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Shoe size (street shoe) \_\_\_\_\_

Earrings: Pierced \_\_\_\_\_ Clip on \_\_\_\_\_

Please supply us with a copy of your dancer's birth certificate.

# **READY, SET, DANCE**

## **PHOTO/VIDEO RELEASE FORM**

I hereby give my permission for images of my child, captured during regular dance classes, rehearsals, performances and special activities through video, photo and digital camera, to be used solely for the purposes of Ready, Set, Dance (also known as DHC Group, Inc) in promotional material, newsletters, websites and publications, and waive any rights of compensation or ownership thereto.

Name of Participant (please print)

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Name of Parent/Guardian (please print)

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Parent/Guardian's Signature

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Date \_\_\_\_\_