

READY, SET, DANCE!

2016-2017 PERFORMANCE TEAM HANDBOOK



READY, SET, DANCE

Performance Team

INFORMATION

2016-2017

There will not be an audition process to be a part of the RSD performance team. Any student may participate as long as they meet the following requirements:

- You must be at least six years of age.
- You must enroll in two classes, one of which must be ballet.
- You must have the signatures of one teachers who feel that you have the qualifications necessary to be a part of the team. Miss Tonya is not eligible to sign this form unless she is your only teacher
- You must attend boot camp August 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, and a performance class Friday, May 1st.
- You must attend at least 10 summer classes. (See more info under “Boot Camp.”)
- You must take the required amount of weekly classes. (See more info under “Dance Class Requirements.”)
- All performances will be mandatory.
- All Broadway workshops will be mandatory.

You must turn in your teacher permission slips by May 1st!

We perform within the community at various functions! As of now, possibilities include:

- Celebration “Let It Snow” Event
- Orlando Magic games

There are extra expenses associated with performances! Some of these fees are as follows:

➤ Costumes

(Approximately \$75 per costume) We will re-use as many recital costumes or “make” as many costumes as we can to keep costs down! Tights and the proper dance shoes will also be required. Accessories such as performance earrings, make-up, etc. are also an added cost.

Rehearsals

A rehearsal schedule will be given several weeks ahead of time. Duets, trios, and small groups may have to come in for extra rehearsals. Your child will only be allowed three unexcused absences from rehearsals for the season and then will be dropped from the dance. An excused absence is illness, mandatory school function, or religious holiday.

This is a commitment on the part of the entire family. Dance is a very difficult sport and requires a lot of practice, not only individually, but as a group. Members of the performance team should be good role models for all dancers, and ready to work hard. Although our main goals are to have fun, gain performance experience, and entertain the community, any dance team is serious business and requires dancers to be very disciplined. They will be expected to give one hundred percent at all times!

Dance Class Requirements

Dancers must take at least two classes a week, one class must be ballet, and then one class of your choice (tap, tumbling, hip hop, contemporary, musical theatre, or a second ballet class).

Choreography Fees

There will also be a choreography fee for each dance number to cover choreography expenses. This fee is necessary in order to pay teachers for their choreography and time! Performance team costs **do not** include regular weekly dance classes.

Average costs per child are as follows:

- A dancer in only 2 or 3 dances averages \$950 for the year, which includes choreography fees, costumes, performance fees, and workshop fees.
- A dancer in 8 to 10 dances averages \$2500.00 for the year, which included choreography fees, costumes, performance fees, and workshop fees.

Choreography Fees

(These are one-time charges)

Duets	\$300 (\$150 per dancer)
Duets (commissioned by parents)	\$500 (\$250 per dancer)
Trios	\$375 (\$125 per dancer)
Groups (4 to 8 Dancers)	\$550 (per group/divided by number of dancers in group)
Lines (9 or more dancers)	\$750 (per group/divided by number of dancers in line)
Production (15 or more dancers) dancers in production)	\$950 (divided by number of

Rehearsal Fees

Duets/Trios	\$30 per dancer per hour
Groups/Lines/Productions	\$20 per dancer per hour

Boot Camp

All performance team dancers will be required to attend a “Boot Camp!” It will be full days of all-day classes. Classes will include: Ballet, hip hop, tumbling, tap, jazz, lyrical, Irish dance, contemporary, jumps, turns, drama, musical theatre, etiquette, audition hints, make-up, hair, and more. Classes will be taught by some of the Ready, Set, Dance Staff and also some guest teachers. Some choreography will also be taught for performance team dances. The boot camp will be divided into two age groups and will be mandatory. The cost will be \$220.00 per dancer. Dates for boot camp are August 6, 7, 8, 10, 11.

In addition to Boot Camp, each dancer will be required to purchase a “class card” for summer classes. There are two separate cards this year. A class card for 10 classes, which will cost \$100, and a card for 20 classes, which will cost \$180. This will give you the flexibility for vacations, etc. Classes to be offered will be ballet, jumps/turns, stretch/flexibility, contemporary, lyrical, pointe, tumbling, jazz, Hip hop, yoga/Pilates for dancers, and cardio for dancers.

Team 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:	\$95.00
Dance Bags:	\$40.00 (this includes logo and child's name)
Leotards:	\$28.00 each (there are 3 team leotards per child)
Back Packs	\$35.00 (this includes logo and child's name)

Make-up/Performance Earrings

Approximately \$40.00

Of course, all the necessary dance shoes will be needed as well! Everyone must have the same style of shoes! So before you purchase any, please check with us!

These are approximate costs, so *do not* make any payments towards these until you receive a bill!

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.

TEAM QUESTIONNAIRE!!!!!!

Performing is an exciting way to have fun, build friendships, and showcase our dance abilities!!! In addition to performing and dancing, we are building character, discipline, and technique. Are you ready to be a part of the Ready Set Dance! Performance team?!?! Take this quiz to help you find out!!!!

For the students:

1. Do I like dancing so much, I am okay with being at the studio 3-4 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 3-4 days a week due to classes and rehearsals?
2. Performing 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 performing!!! 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 PERFORMING

If you dance often you know how much work goes into it—and what it costs 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 dancing.

How much does it really cost?

From the teachers' point of view:

Time spent:

- Planning the season, researching the best workshops to attend
- Researching and purchasing the right music for the each of the dances
- Recording and editing music for each of the dances
- Meeting with staff to place 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 fees
- Stress of last minute payments, paperwork, running to overnight paperwork because of 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 Performances

The pressure is on — a new season 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!

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 experience is not simply about learning another dance are stronger and dancing for the right reason — because they want to be good dancers! 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. Unless a rehearsal immediately follows a class, dancers should arrive 15 minutes early for every rehearsal to warm up. They are expected to be properly warmed up and stretching at the start of rehearsal. 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 as well 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.

PERFORMANCE TEAM APPROVAL LETTER

DANCER'S NAME _____

CURRENT AGE _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____

TYPES OF DANCE CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN

TEACHER APPROVAL:

(PRINT NAME)

(SIGN AND DATE)

I understand that it will be mandatory for my child to attend the “Boot Camp” which is Thursday, August 6th through Tuesday, August 11th. (No camp Sunday, August 9th.)

PARENT SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

READY, SET, DANCE PERFORMANCE TEAM

POLICY ACCEPTANCE FORM

Dear Parent/Guardian and Students:

Participation in the Ready, Set, Dance! Performance Team requires a solid commitment to all the policies listed in the handbook. If you accept those policies and all obligations associated with the Ready, Set, Dance! Performance 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) _____, have read the 2016-2017 Ready, Set, Dance! Performance Team Handbook and understand that my signature constitutes acceptance of all obligations outlined.

Dancer Signature _____

Date: _____

I (parent/guardian) _____, have read 2016-2017 Ready, Set, Dance! Performance Team 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 _____

Measurements: (A teacher will measure and fill out)

Bust _____ Waist _____ Hips _____ Girth _____

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)

Name of Parent/Guardian (please print)

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Date _____

TEAM WEAR ORDER FORM

DANCER'S

NAME _____

Team Jacket (these run very small!)

Small child _____ med child _____ large
child _____

Small adult _____ med adult _____ large
adult _____

Xlarge adult _____ 2x adult _____

Team pants (these run very big!)

Small child _____ med child _____ large
child _____

Small adult _____ med adult _____ large
adult _____

Xlarge adult _____ 2x adult _____

Back pack _____ how you want your
name

Team Duffle bag _____ how you want
your name

RSD Dancer shirt

Small child _____ med child _____ large
child _____

Small adult _____ med adult _____ large
adult _____
Xlarge adult _____ 2x adult _____

All 3 Team Leotards

Small child _____ med child _____ large
child _____
Small adult _____ med adult _____ large
adult _____
Xlarge adult _____ 2x adult _____

New Team Shirts (to be determined)

Small child _____ med child _____ large
child _____
Small adult _____ med adult _____ large
adult _____
Xlarge adult _____ 2x adult _____