

Allegro Team Informational Package

A competitive dance team is designed for the serious dancer who is highly motivated in the performing arts. Those selected for company will need to possess the following:

- Be self-motivated and able to self-evaluate
- Have solid technical and performance skills
- Strong desire to grow and develop as a dancer
- Have a sense of humor, bright smile, and positive attitude
- Have respect for the team, teachers, staff, and parents at all times
- Show respect and support for the studio and fellow dancers

The Competition Experience: It is important to understand that the “competition” aspect of being a member of a Competitive Dance Team should be considered a “performance” opportunity. Competition results are strictly a subjective opinion, and each dancer’s growth should not be completely gauged by their scores or achievements at competitions. It is important to keep competition experiences positive, and most importantly, be proud of the growth and development that takes place within you as a dancer. Team members are not in competition with each other. Students are encouraged to strive to improve themselves and to work to their full capacity. Each dancer is uniquely different, each with their own strengths and their own weaknesses and each brings their own talent to the team as a whole.

Attendance/Tardies: Attendance is mandatory for all dance classes. The studio tries its best to be flexible and accommodating with conflicts due to school and/or important family activities. However, by becoming a member of a team, you have agreed that this is a priority in your schedule. Missed classes for any reason other than a contagious illness must be **approved in advance**. Student absences will be recorded. If unexcused absences have occurred, it is possible you may not be able to compete in the competition. An unexcused absence the week of a competition, in any class, may be grounds for team suspension. (_____Initials)

All team fees must be paid regardless of attendance at said competition. Any time an absence occurs, students are responsible to learn what was missed before the next class, either with a private lesson, a friend or from BAND. Students must arrive on time for class or earlier. Missing the first part of class causes the students to become behind on stretching and warming up which can lead to injuries. More than 3 tardies in any classes may result in missed competitions. Also, frequent tardies and absences may result in students to drop their solos, duets or trios. Being part of the competition is a team effort and attendance is very important to all other dancers. Dance teachers do understand that they are dealing with busy children and socially active teens with many school demands; being a well-rounded individual is important, however, when it comes to participation on a competitive team, skills are constantly being taught.... students must be present!

Dancer _____ Parent _____

Required Classes: Each dancer is required to take a certain set of classes based on age group.

Mini: Ages 4 to 7

- Weekly company rehearsal class
- 1 Ballet
- 1 Jazz
- 1 Acro when not competing
- Electives (not mandatory): Hip-Hop, Tap

Youth: Ages 8 to 10

- Weekly company rehearsal class
- 2 Ballet
- 1 Jazz
- 1 Acro when not competing
- Summer Programs (End of July ~ August)
- Electives (not mandatory): Lyrical, Tap, Hip-Hop, Musical Theater

Junior: Ages 11 to 13

- Weekly company rehearsal class
- 2 Ballet
- 1 Jazz
- 1 Acro when not competing
- Summer Programs (End of July ~ August)
- Electives (not mandatory): Lyrical, Tap, Hip-Hop, Musical Theater

Teen: Ages 13 to 15

- Weekly company rehearsal class
- 2 Ballet
- 1 Jazz
- 1 Acro when not competing
- Summer Programs (End of July ~ August)
- Electives (not mandatory): Lyrical, Tap, Hip-Hop, Musical Theater

Senior: Ages 16 to 18

- Weekly company rehearsal class
- 2 Ballet
- 1 Jazz
- 1 Acro when not competing
- Summer Programs (End of July ~ Beginning of August)
- Electives (not mandatory): Lyrical, Tap, Hip-Hop, Musical Theater

Tempe Team Seniors: Ages 14 to 18 (This team is for Juniors, Seniors and dancers who are on a High School Dance Team with the desire to still be able to compete)

- Weekly Team rehearsal class
- 2 Ballet
- 1 Jazz
- Summer Programs (End of July ~ Beginning of August) As Available
- Electives (not mandatory): Lyrical, Tap, Hip-Hop, Musical Theater

****This team is not subjective to rules on Absence or Tardies. Those dancers placed on this team will be in no more than 3 dances (solo, duet, trio or small group). The dancers, parents and Coach will carefully select the competitions or conventions that this team will perform at. All high school scheduling will be taken into account. There will be no extra weekend rehearsals for this team, unless specifically requested by dancers in each dance. Each dance will be evaluated separately to decide which dancers are available for each competition. Competition enrollment will be done only after scheduling verification. It is understood by the coach that this team is also committed to other events. Communication on this team is extremely important. All team members and a parent must attend a meeting after the start of the school year to discuss scheduling and competition choices.

***Solo/Duo/Trio Requirements** Each dancer interested in competing solos, duets and trios must fill out a separate application form. Solos, duets and trios are not given lightly and will be determined based on behavior, ability, stage presence, etc.

- Must take the team requirements as listed for age. Students must take a class in the style of selected solo.

Summer Classes: The students work so hard during the year to better improve flexibility, strength, etc.... A lot can be lost during the summer months. To make it possible to maintain strength and flexibility we offer many classes through the end of summer and ask that students attend the acro class week (July 22-26), ballet class week (August 5-9) and the power class week (TBD). Please plan for Choreography to start August 5 with a schedule to follow at the team meeting.

(_____)Dancer. (_____)Parent

Judging: Every competition has different criteria for judging routines. The four basic things that routines are ALWAYS judged on are:

1. **TECHNIQUE:** The reason for all those extra ballet tech and stretch/strength classes is **TECHNIQUE!** This includes:

- Correctly pointed feet
- turn-out
- extensions
- proper execution of turns
- use of plié
- placement of arms and hands

***TECHNIQUE IS ALWAYS AT LEAST 50% OF A ROUTINE'S SCORE, SO GET TO THOSE BALLET CLASSES!!**

2. **OVERALL PERFORMANCE QUALITY** How well each student knows their routine and how well they entertain the judges and audience with it. Also, in this area, is the use of facial expression to convey the "feeling " of the routine.

3 . **CHOREOGRAPHY** Choreography scores are based on appropriate choice of music and costumes, use of stage, difficulty of routine and how well the movement in the dance relates to the music. This is often the smallest portion of the overall score.

4 . **APPEARANCE** This pertains to costume fit, whether undergarments are showing, neatness of hair and make- up. Hats and hair pieces must be securely attached and, if performing in a group, consistently placed. Costumes will be tested **BEFORE** the first competition to determine if you need to pin or secure it during our mock competition. This is non-negotiable for all students and all teams, including solos/duets/trios. Double check that you have the proper bra/tights/shoe for each dance. Wardrobe malfunctions can bring down a score very quickly!

Awards: Awards Ceremonies are usually held a few times each day of competitions and are the **MOST FUN** time of the weekend! Students are required to wear their team jackets on stage for all award ceremonies that they attend. They are required to attend all award ceremonies for the teams that they are on but students often like to go on stage for the others. Awards are the time to:

- Hoot and holler (parents AND dancers)
- Take pictures
- Sit back and relax.

***The most important thing to remember about awards is that ALL scores are the opinions of 3 or 4 judges.**

Financial Commitment: Being in a program such as this requires a certain financial commitment. Fees:

Choreography Fee

- Payment in full is due on the first day that you come to learn your choreography

Summer Intensive Week

- Due on the first day of the summer Intensive Week

Company Rehearsal Tuition

- Paid with Monthly tuition

Monthly Privates for Specialties

- \$90 per hour/per specialty

Competition/Convention Entry Fees You will be given a convention and competition schedule at the beginning of the year. Each dancer's competition costs vary based on their age, the size of the group performing each dance, and the number of dances the dancer is participating in. If your monthly company fees are not paid in a timely manner it could result in your dancer not competing in the competition. Convention fees are separate from competition fees.

Travel/Hotel Expenses Every effort is made to select competitions that will provide our dancers and their families with the best experience possible. While we try to select "local" competitions, we also compete out of state (age 7+) and travel teams will require some travel and hotel expenses. These expenses are at the cost of the families. The studio does not provide compensation for such expenses.

Required Company Warmups Each team member is required to purchase company warmups and must wear them on stage for awards.

Costumes expenses Costume charges are additional. The costumes are per dance and cost more than our recital costumes. Each costume will need new competition tights and shoes which is due at the beginning of the year. If you quit or are asked to leave a team, you are required to leave your costumes at the studio for another person to fill your spot. This is not negotiable. Your costume will be returned to you at the end of the season. If you do not leave your costumes, for each costume needed, your account will be charged a replacement cost.

Fundraising All monies collected while fundraising may be used towards competition related expenses only. You also have the option of choosing to keep your money in the account to use towards next seasons competition fees etc. They are your funds, you may use them as you please (within the guidelines). There will be periodical fundraising meetings to discuss new ideas and plans. We are currently trying to set up a booster club to help with expenses. You may choose not to fundraise or be part of the booster club at any event in which case you would not receive a portion. The dancers are expected to be fully involved in the fundraising because it is for them, after all. The studio director/staff is not responsible for

any fundraising. It is organized by the “team parents”. Please remember that while you are fundraising you are representing The Dance Allegro Company and you are to follow everything laid out in this handbook regarding etiquette, respect, and professionalism. Any funds raised by the team will be left with the team if your dancer leaves the studio.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the The Dance Allegro Company Dance Teams is to provide students with an opportunity to participate in an activity and develop sportsmanship, character, responsibility and competitiveness. Participation on the Dance Team is a privilege, not a right. As a member of the Company you represent Allegro and your conduct and actions in the classroom, on the dance floor, with your social media and in the community should not deviate from the regulations set forth in our Code of Conduct. Team members must show determination, dedication, and desire to be a productive member of this team as well as respect for other and themselves.

CONDUCT RULES: Be respectful and age appropriate. We expect for our dancers to uphold age appropriate and respectful behavior at all times. If your actions are not deemed appropriate and respectful and do not coincide with this companies’ guidelines you will be denied participation on this Dance Team. No refunds will be given.

SOCIAL MEDIA and STUDIO ETIQUETTE: This policy is not meant to be taken personally or lightly. If you post negative things on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Tik Tok, Snapchat, etc. or exhibit behavior reflecting negatively on our studio, we will consider this ground for probation or suspension from the company. If we are in a public situation (competitions, performances, conventions, etc.) the expectation is that you will conduct your behavior responsibly and respectfully. Remember you are a representative of The Dance Allegro Company. If there are situations that need to be addressed, please remember that we can handle those upon return to the studio. In a public forum, it is unacceptable. Our goal is to foster a healthy competitive team environment. With so many personalities, we realize that conflicts may arise, but we must be respectful of one another. Be kind to one another. There is no room for personal conflicts amongst the team. Do not bring them to the dance studio. It is hard to stop gossip among students all together, but we do not want it to become destructive. If you have a problem with a parent or another student, please try to resolve it with the person you are having the issue with. If it cannot be resolved contact the Director to discuss your concerns and the proper actions will be made. If your social media is found to be not compliant with studio code of conduct, you will be dismissed from the team. No funds will be reimbursed.

DANCE COMPETITION ETIQUETTE:

- 1) **Sportsmanship**-One thing you have to remember is that every single dancer works very hard to perform. Every parent wants their child to do well and be noticed. Every dance teacher works diligently so that their students perform to the best of their ability. Everybody at a dance competition has at least all of that in common. Therefore, YOU, as a student, parent, or teacher should clap for every single dance and every single award

given if you are present in the auditorium. Dancers, you would want to be clapped for, so do the same for others. Appreciate the art- not just when YOU are being recognized.

2) **Backstage**- In reference to sportsmanship, wish the dances before you and after you; “good luck”. When dancers come off stage, tell them that they did a “good job”. These words cost you no extra effort. In fact, you may even make a few friends. It doesn’t matter what studio they are from. They need encouragement just as you would. Your efforts will most likely be noticed and very appreciated. Do not block the wings to watch. Dancers often have wing changes, props, and/or run off after the dance. If you are sitting in the wings, you are in the way. It’s as simple as that. Be at least 3 feet away from the wings. If you are the next dance, you will most likely have time to enter the wings while you are being announced. Be quiet. I know dancers get nervous backstage. However, that’s no reason to start laughing uncontrollably loud. Saying “shhhhhh” is a lot louder than tapping a person and whispering to them to remind them to hold the volume down. Know your dance and be aware of your space. Do not decide to practice your entire dance backstage. Movement backstage is extremely distracting to the dancer. Not to mention, dangerous. You could hurt yourself and others by simply doing a grande jete or a pirouette. Stretching backstage usually means you’re in the way. Instead, consider stretching in the dressing room, hall or lobby.

3) **Dressing Rooms**- It’s common for studios to segregate themselves in the dressing rooms. That’s fine. However, be mindful of everyone’s space. Throw your trash away. Don’t touch anything that isn’t yours. Clean up after yourself.

4) **Schedule**- Most competitions will schedule numbers in between yours or accommodate costume changes. Either way, competitions prefer to stay on schedule. If you have a decent number of dances close together, do your best to make it backstage a few numbers beforehand. If a competition runs late, it’s usually the fault of dancers’ changes and that time adds up. It’s up to the dancer to change quickly and return backstage. Don’t make the backstage manager have to come find you. If you have 5-10 dances in between your numbers, now is not the time to check your cell phone, watch dances from the audience, run your dance, or sit back and relax. Change and wait. Most costumes changes can be done in about 5 minutes or less if a dancer is really making the effort.

5) **Awards Ceremony**- Even at the awards ceremony, you are performing. You are on stage. Do not bring your cell phone with you. Your texts and Facebook status of your results can wait a few minutes. Leave room for the judges (or whoever is handing out awards) to walk. If you are asked to move over, please do so. There is plenty of room available. We know you’re tired by this point, but you can be energetic for a few more minutes. This means clap for EVERYONE. Refer back to #1. When accepting an award, an improper response would be to grab the award and walk away. A more acceptable response is ALWAYS a “Thank You”. It doesn’t matter if you get a bronze or a platinum. It’s nice to show your gratitude toward the judges for taking the time to evaluate you.

6) **On Stage**- Unless your top falls off, don't stop dancing. And, even then, fix it quickly and keep going. You can continue dancing without a shoe or a headpiece. Don't lip sync unless it's choreographed. In addition to this, a huge no-no is counting on stage. You should be able to count in your head. The only mouth movements you should be making are for facials. It's ok to look at the judges once in a while, but you are performing to the audience. Don't stare the judges down. You need to perform to the back row of the audience.

7) **Competition**- Competitions aren't just about the trophies. Competitions are about bettering yourself and challenging yourself. Therefore, you should participate in all of the available workshops and seminars at competitions. You should also take the time to watch dancers from other studios. Also, when you get home, ask your teacher if you can see the critiques so you can fix your mistakes for the future.

8) **Attitude**- While a certain amount of confidence is required to perform on stage, there is a thin line between confidence and arrogance. Be gracious. Your parents and teachers have worked extremely hard to get you to where you are today. Thank them before patting yourself on the back. Stay grounded, humble, and aware of other dancer's feelings....and after all that, THEN be proud of yourself because everyone else is.

9) **Theater etiquette ● ● ● ● ● No videotaping or flash photography of any kind is allowed at most dance competitions.** It is for the safety of both student and teacher's choreography. It can also cause disqualification. It is illegal to post choreography on social media without express consent of director, choreographer and dancers. Please turn off your cell phones and enjoy watching the wonderful world of dance. Please do not enter or exit during performances, wait until they have completed the routine before leaving your seat. The opening and closing of the doors can be distracting and is disrespectful to the dancer/s. No photography of any kind is allowed in the theater. This includes video, if you are caught you risk disqualifying the dancers you represent. Please be courteous in the theater: turn off cell phones, do not enter the theater when music is playing, and do not walk up and down aisles while dancers are performing on stage. Please applaud everyone with the same genuine expression. Never approach a judge with questions regarding an adjudication or mark. Never speak negatively about another dancer/routine, you never know whose family is sitting next to you.

In short, Be kind and respectful. We look forward to an inspiring season!

I understand that team placement is final for the full competition year and will be determined by studio director.

Parent _____ . Date _____

Dancer _____ Date _____

I am willing and able to travel out of state if placed on travel team:

_____yes. _____no