



**NYSDC AND
EAST COAST ELITE
DANCE CHALLENGE
RULES
AND REGULATIONS**

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REGISTRATION

Please complete your registration process online with our online registration system, which is the easiest way to register at www.nysdancechallenge.com
Create your account today at www.nysdancechallenge.com or at: www.dancebug.com

You will begin by creating a listing of all your students and then you can begin to enter your routines. Students can be added, deleted or edited by the studio at any time until the event is closed. Be precise when doing online registration. Dancer's birth dates must be entered correctly or they will not be able to see their personal schedules and parents will not be able to download their videos. The Online Registration is open to you 24/7 until the event is closed in order to do scheduling for your regional city or cities that you have registered for. Once the event is closed you will not be able to add entries or make changes.

ALL REGISTRATIONS FOR THE 2024-2025 SEASON MUST BE DONE ONLINE!

Please note registration will not be complete until payment is received. There is no automatic option for payment on the registration site.

A team member will be in touch for credit card payment. Entries will be accepted after the registration deadline when available. All funds must be paid in U.S. currency only.

N.Y.S.D.C.Toll Free #: 1-877-456-9732 *N.Y.S.D.C. assumes no responsibility for entries not received*

Rules and Regulations are subject to change at any time and the most updated version can always be found on our website:

All entries are to be postmarked 30 days before the 1st day of competition. In order for programs to be printed, this deadline must be followed.

Entries are accepted from both studios and independent entries and will be accepted, on a first come, first serve basis. All studio/independent entries are limited to the amount of performance time available. Absolutely no personal checks/business checks for entries will be taken at the event, and any unpaid entries will not be allowed to perform.

Additional entries that are requested after invoices have been issued will be accepted on a case by case basis and will be charged at full amount, including late fees if applicable regardless of previously applied discounts. If these late entries are approved, payment must be received before they are included in the final scheduling. All entries must be accompanied by full entry fee payments. A \$40.00 service fee will be automatically assessed for any and all checks returned to N.Y.S.D.C. from the bank. Rebate Programs will be voided if a check is returned for any reason.

Online registration must be confirmed and paid for in order for entries to be processed. All competition fees are to be submitted on (1) cashier's check/money order. Bank money orders must be payable in U.S. funds only. Credit Card payments will also be accepted for payment. *Please Note that there is a 4% processing fee on all credit card transactions.

ABSOLUTELY NO CASH REFUNDS!! A credit will be administered for a future regional event. If a dancer cannot attend due to injury or illness, you must contact the NYSDC office at least 24 hours prior to the start of the event. NYSDC will issue a credit to be used up to one year from the date of issue for any regional fees, provided the dancer submits a doctor's note within 30 days via email to newyorkstatedancechallenge@yahoo.com If eligible, a rebate check will be made payable to the name of the studio that originally registered. The rebate check will be mailed to the studio to the attention of the studio director. A \$15.00 late fee per entry will be assessed for each entry received after the 30 day deadline as well as omissions and changes made at your request. All competition fees are per person, per entry.

Studios who received gift certificates in the 2024 dance competition season to be used in the 2024-2025 competition season must deduct the gift certificates from your total entry fees before deducting any discounts or promotional offers. *Studio Owners who mailed in their deposit and are receiving a discount, discounts are only honored when you have mailed in your entry fees by the competition deadline date. *Gift Certificates awarded to studio owners hold no cash value. Gift Certificates are only to be used towards future

entry fees in the immediate next competition season or the current upcoming National. (2025 National or 2025 Regional Season) *Studio Discounts or promotional offers is per regional event and cannot be combined with multiple regional dance competitions. *Gift Certificates will not be accepted after the deadline date of any Regional dance competition you are registering for your studio.

SPECIFIC SCHEDULING REQUESTS MUST BE INDICATED VIA EMAIL TO:

NEWYORKSTATEDANCECHALLENGE@YAHOO.COM

REQUESTS WILL BE TAKEN ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE BASIS AND CANNOT BE GUARANTEED.

We highly recommend that each studio be flexible when it comes to each regional city and the scheduling. If a competitor does not compete on the scheduled day for their division, their performance will be judged for adjudication but not for an overall top score award. Please set aside the entire weekend you are planning on attending to prevent scheduling conflicts with dancers. *Please note if using a NYSDC award certificate (s) as form of payment, a photo of the original certificate must be emailed to the office prior to registering for an event. The amount of the certificate will then be added as a credit to your studio account. Changes cannot be accepted 14 days prior to an event!! You will receive an email informing you of your competition/performance times/routine numbers one week prior to the first day of competition. Directors will receive their schedules one week prior to each regional. We ask that studios make all changes and edit to entries, via email to newyorkstatedancechallenge@yahoo.com. Changes may be made online until entries are frozen for scheduling approximately 12 days prior to the competition. Any entries that require changes once the schedule is complete will incur a \$5 fee, per change. Once schedules are posted, no routines will be moved. N.Y.S.D.C. has their regional schedules setup based on the breakdown by solos, duos/trios, groups and lines for that particular regional city. We do not have breakdown in numbers until all of the entries have been processed, and at that time we set up a schedule which will best accommodate the participants at that particular regional city/location. Extra breaks may be added if the competition is running more than 45 minutes ahead of schedule. If there are major scheduling conflicts, for example proms, weddings, within your studio, the requests due to the conflicts should be included with your online registration. If you find out after registration has been submitted, we must be informed via email of your scheduling requests no less than **TWO WEEKS** ahead of competition to appropriately schedule the routines (newyorkstatedancechallenge@yahoo.com).

*Any requests that come in after two weeks in advance cannot be guaranteed.

LIVE EVENT PLAN A: If there are no CDC, local, state or federal mandates, we proceed as normal (prior to COVID-19) regarding the design and scheduling of the event. We will continue the safety protocols we have put into place regarding cleaning and disinfecting since COVID-19. However, our event schedule may be designed as a hybrid allowing for the blocking of ages and/or performance divisions during specific events. If a studio needs a specific accommodation, please contact our office for further information. **LIVE EVENT PLAN B:** If there are CDC, local state and/or federal government mandates, we will utilize Block Scheduling of studios which will limit the number of people in the venue at any one given time. The guidelines at that time will define our abilities and limitations and each Studio Owner/Director will be notified in advance of the directives, should we have to operate Under Plan B. Release forms will be attached to your scheduling detail that you will receive before your regional date. Release forms must be complete and handed in at our Registration Station at check-in at each of our regional locations. You may make a master sheet listing of all your dancers' with parent signatures. If N.Y.S.D.C. does not receive parent signature forms, dancers will not be allowed to compete.

AGE GROUPS

MINI STAR DIVISION: 3-4 YRS.

PETITE STAR DIVISION: 5-6 YRS.

RISING STAR DIVISION: 7-8 YRS.

NEW FOR 2025! PRE-JUNIOR STAR DIVISION: 9-10 YRS.

JUNIOR STAR DIVISION: 11-12 YRS.

TEEN STAR DIVISION: 13-15 YRS.

SENIOR STAR DIVISION: 16-19 YRS.

PARENT DIVISION: A ROUTINE THAT HAS PARENTS ONLY. (THESE ROUTINES ARE ADJUDICATED ONLY AND COMPETE FOR THE TOP PARENT AWARD)

ADULT DIVISION/PRO-AM DIVISION: 20 YRS. & OLDER—WHICH MAY INCLUDE

ANY STUDIO DIRECTOR, FULL TIME INSTRUCTOR, STUDENT INSTRUCTOR,
CHOREOGRAPHER AND/OR WORKING PERFORMER WHO IS 20 YRS. AND
OLDER. (THESE ROUTINES ARE ADJUDICATED ONLY AND COMPETE FOR THE
TOP ADULT/PRO-AM AWARD)

***THERE ARE NO CASH AWARDS PRESENTED FOR THE PARENT OR ADULT DIVISION.**

ALL AGES ARE AS OF JANUARY 1ST 2025. For example: Ages for November 2024 events will be as of January 1 of 2025, and ages for April 2025 events will be as of January 1 2025. To reach the average age of an entry, add all the ages and always drop the decimal point. For example, if a routine average is 12.5, you would drop the decimal, therefore the routine would compete in the 11-12 Yrs. Junior Star Division. For Duos, Trios and Groups, the average age determines the age group in which they perform. Competitors will be responsible for producing proof of age (ex. Birth Certificate, Drivers License, etc.) to the competition directors should an age question arise. All protests must be presented in writing within one half hour of the incident to the directors of N.Y.S.D.C. All protests must be signed. Group and higher routines are allowed to go into a higher age category than the average age of that particular group. All names and ages of all dancers must appear on the registration for any given entry or it will not be accepted. In the event of a tie, ties will be broken by the highest technical score.

LEVELS

PLEASE ENSURE THAT ALL ENTRIES ARE ENTERED CORRECTLY INTO THE CORRECT CATEGORIES, AGE DIVISION AND CLASSIFICATIONS!!! EACH ENTRY LEVEL IS ELIGIBLE FOR HIGH SCORE AWARDS INCLUDING OUR RISING CHALLENGER/CHALLENGER/RECREATIONAL CLASSIFICATION!

RISING CHALLENGER CLASSIFICATION/FOR THE BEGINNER STUDENT WHO HAS NEVER HAD ANY COMPETITION EXPERIENCE! (1-1.5 HOURS OR LESS OF DANCE INSTRUCTION PER WEEK) This Level is for the beginner student who has NEVER competed! This level is for the dancer who is new to all styles of dance with limited time in the studio. Basic movements that have recently been introduced to the Rising Challenger Student or Students! *PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS CLASSIFICATION WILL BE CLOSELY MONITORED AND ANY STUDENTS THAT ARE MISPLACED IN THIS CLASSIFICATION WILL BE MOVED UP TO THE NEXT LEVEL IF NECESSARY!

CHALLENGER CLASSIFICATION/RECREATIONAL (2-3 HOURS OR LESS OF DANCE INSTRUCTION PER WEEK) This level is recommended for students coming into the competition dancing world with limited competition experience. No dancers in the Challenger Level may compete in the Top Challenger Level. *Average of all Dancers in a Group* Basic foundation movements include: Single Pirouettes, Double Pirouettes, Battements, Fan Kicks, Pivot Turns, Chaine Turns, Pique Turns, Simple jumps and leaps (grande jete, side leap, calypso and attempting of intermediate leaps without mastery, Basic Tumbling Skills: Cartwheel, Roundoff, Forward and back rolls, Split, Handstand, Front walkover and Back bends) For Tap: Dancing on the balls of the feet: Ex. Shuffles, Flaps, Ball Change, Cramp rolls/double cramp rolls, Toe heel, Beginner Time Steps etc. Choreography should be simple for dancers focusing on musicality and clean execution. In the Challenger Classification the dancer should be able to show the ability to perform Front and side battements, Front and side extensions and Penche. In this level, the dancer shows the understanding of the movements, technique and expression in a routine but skills are not yet mastered.

HIGH CHALLENGER CLASSIFICATION/INTERMEDIATE (3.5-5.5 HOURS OF DANCE INSTRUCTION PER WEEK) This level is designed for dancers with moderate competition experience. *Average of all Dancers in a Group* Dancers in this level should be able to properly execute basic dance skills and begin some advanced movements. Movements include: Double and Triple Pirouettes, Fouette Turn Sequences. Leap and Jumps should include: Reverse leap, Open pas de chat, Switch leaps. For Acro: Front and back walkovers, Back tucks, Front Limber, Front and Back Handspring, Aerial, Dive Rolls and Tumbling Passes. For Tap: Intermediate to Advanced time steps, Paradiddle, Single and double pullbacks, Alternating cramp rolls, Wings/switching wings, Paddle Turns, Time steps with turns (Maxie Ford), Turning riffs, Syncopation and Toe Stands. In the High Challenger Classification the dancer should show understanding of the movements, technique and expression in a routine. Skills are executed with minor inconsistencies in control and balance. The Dancer appears to perform at an intermediate level.

TOP CHALLENGER CLASSIFICATION/ADVANCED (6 OR MORE HOURS OR MORE OF DANCE INSTRUCTION PER WEEK) This level is designed for dancers with a higher level of technical abilities and significant

competition experience. *Average of all Dancers in a Group *Dancers in this classification should have the necessary skills to compete and excel in their chosen discipline. In this level, Dancers should be able to execute Multiple pirouettes, Fouette turns three or more in a continuous sequence, Turns a la seconde, Double Attitude Turns, Hinge, Advanced extensions, Switch leaps, Switch tilt, Aerials, Scorpions, Switch arabesque, Leg catches. For Acro: Front and Back Flips, Back Tuck, Flat Isolations, Layouts and more intricate tumbling passes. For Tap: Advanced Time Steps, Double pullbacks, Wings, Switching wings, Single leg wings, Alternating cramp rolls, etc. In the Top Challenger Classification the dancer should have a core strength, visual lines and expression through movement in all skills and movement. Skills are executed with little to no inconsistencies in steadiness, control or precision. Please note this is only a small sampling of skills and is not meant to be a complete list.

***PLEASE MAKE SURE TO PLACE YOUR STUDENTS IN THE CORRECT PERFORMANCE CLASSIFICATION. CRITIQUES WILL BE GEARED TOWARD THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION.**

Studio Directors: Please note you may need to adjust the level of each dancer before registering for a competition. Please be sure to reevaluate and update your dancers experience levels prior to registration for a new season.

ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES FOR PERFORMANCE LEVELS:

*Class time includes any and all rehearsal time as well as scheduled weekly classes. *Any entry that contains 50% or more of the next level of dancers must be entered into the high level. For example, Two Top Challenger dancers and 3 High Challenger dancers must be entered in the High Challenger Level. N.Y.S.D.C. Judges reserve the right to change the performance division of an entry if they feel it is incorrectly placed. N.Y.S.D.C. and their judges reserve the right to bump up any routine deemed improperly placed, making a routine ineligible for Overall Awards. In a routine that has dancers from different classification levels, more than 50% of the dancers must be from the classification level that they are competing in. Group routines placed in the Challenger/Recreational Classification must consist of all Challenger/Recreational Dancers

ROUTINE CATEGORIES

ACRO/GYMNASTICS: This category must contain controlled moves (ex. Limbers, handstands, walkovers, chest rolls, etc.) This entry may also contain gymnastic passes, flexibility moves and or contortionist moves. Choreography should have dance and Acro/Gymnastics combined together.

ADULT CATEGORY/PRO-AM: 20 Yrs. & Older—Which may include any studio director, full time instructor, student instructor, choreographer and/or working performer who is 20 yrs. and older. Please note that this is the Only Category that the above listed may enter. Any style of dance will be accepted into this category. Any and all dance styles are permitted under the Adult Category. Teachers cannot compete in student categories. Adult Groups are not eligible for any High Score, Overall High Score or Choreography Awards. The Adult Category will compete for the TOP ADULT AWARD which will include a trophy or plaque and a \$25.00 Gift Certificate to be used towards 2025 Nationals or 2025 NYSDC Fees.

ALL MALE GROUP/MALE SOLOIST: This category must include all male dancers. Any style of dance will be accepted into this category. **Any number of Acrobatic tricks are allowed in this category.

BALLET: This category must include classical or contemporary ballet movements and technique. Ballet slippers only, no Pointe shoes allowed in this division. **No gymnastic/acrobatic tricks are allowed in this category.

BALLROOM: This category must consist of core elements of ballroom repertoire showcasing Traditional or Latin techniques.

BATON: This category consist of a routine using a baton (s). **Any number of Acrobatic tricks are allowed in this category.

CHARACTER: This category must portray a character throughout the entirety of the routine. This character can be from a movie, play, television, Broadway etc. or a stereotype such as a doctor, animal, cowboy etc. Lip syncing is acceptable in this category. Any form of dance can be included. **Any number of Acrobatic tricks are allowed in this category.

CHEER-DANCE: This category consists of cheerleading or dance team technique. May incorporate the use of hand props.

CLOGGING: This category consists of clogging technique and the routine performed in clogging shoes.
**Three acrobatic/gymnastic tricks are allowed in this category.

CONTEMPORARY: This category must have lyrical or jazz movements fused with modern elements throughout the choreography. The entry should show extension and balance. **Any number of Acrobatic tricks are allowed in this category.

ETHNIC/FOLKLORIC: This category must contain an ethnic style of dance such as Hawaiian, Spanish, Polka, Irish, etc. **Any number of Acrobatic tricks are allowed in this category.

GRAND LINE/PRODUCTION (40+PERFORMERS): This entry must include at least 40 competitors incorporating any style of dance and/or Acro/Gymnastics. Grand Production Lines have a time limit of 7:00 minutes. Any entry consisting of oversized floor props and sets must be placed in this category and or the Line/Production Category regardless of the style of dance. All Production entries are automatically eligible for Top Score Awards in their age class and classification.

HIPHOP: This category must consist of street, funk, or MTV video style jazz technique. This routine should represent the current trendy style of today's dance. The entry must contain 80% hip-hop style. Entries that are also suggestive, sexual, violent, or otherwise not age appropriate will be disqualified at the N.Y.S.D.C. directors' discretion including the use of inappropriate music. **Any number of Acrobatic tricks are allowed in this category.

JAZZ: This category must contain primarily classic jazz technique incorporating the foundation of fundamental jazz style and combinations. Kicks, splits, isolations, etc. are examples of fundamental jazz style. Basic jazz choreography must be used and no more than 20% hip-hop styles. **Three gymnastic/acrobatic tricks are allowed in this category.

JAZZ FUNK: This category contains elements of hip hop and or street jazz.

KICK!: A kick routine incorporating the creative use of kick styles with an inclusion of a variety of dance skills/choreography and staging. Kicks must be utilized for a minimum of 75% of the routine.

LINE/PRODUCTION (20-39 PERFORMERS): This entry must include at least 20 competitors incorporating any style/styles of dance or Acro/Gymnastics. Production Lines have a time limit of 5:00 minutes. Any entry consisting of oversized floor props and sets must be placed in this category and or the Line/Production category regardless of the style of dance. All Production entries are automatically eligible for Top Score Awards in their age class and classification.

LITURGICAL: A style of dance in the religious theme, which may incorporate any of the above styles of dance. **Any number of Acrobatic tricks is allowed in this category.

LYRICAL: The competitor must interpret the lyrics, mood and content of the music used in this category. The entry should tell the story of the music. The entry must also include the elements of balance, flexibility and control. **Three acrobatic/gymnastic tricks are allowed in this category.

MILITARY: A military routine is a form of percussive dance that emphasizes a significant level of control and focus. It should contain but not be limited to clean, crisp movements with visually complex arm, hand and or leg lines.

MODERN: This category must consist of stretch and flex in the legs and feet, combined with the use of contraction and extension in the body. The competitor must also have the ability to work both on and off center to create interesting lines. This entry should also include balance, control and extension movements.
**Any number of Acrobatic tricks is allowed in this category.

MUSICAL THEATRE: This category must consist of movements interpreting a song from a Broadway or Movie Musical past or present. The music selection should incorporate dance, characters and or costumes.
**Any number of Acrobatic tricks are allowed in this category.

OPEN: This category is for any routines that do not fit existing categories or a routine which is a combination of 2 or more of our dance categories (excluding Acro/Gymnastics) Open entries would include Cheerleading,

Clogging, Belly Dance, Ballroom, Baton, Novelty, Pompon, etc. **Any number of Acrobatic tricks are allowed in this category.

PARENT CATEGORY: All Parent Entries will compete under this category. Any and all dance styles are permitted under the Parent Category. Parent Groups are not eligible for any High Score, Overall High Score or Choreography Awards. No professional dancers or dancers under the age of 18 are allowed to compete in this category. The Parent Category will compete for the TOP PARENT AWARD which will include a trophy or plaque and a Gift Certificate that can be used at 2025 Nationals!

POINTE: This category must include classical or contemporary Pointe technique and steps. Pointe Shoes Only. **No gymnastic/acrobatic tricks are allowed in this category.

POM/DRILL TEAM: A routine consisting of cheerleading or dance team technique. Sharp clean movements including kicks, jump and formation changes with the use of poms. **Any number of Acrobatic tricks are allowed in this category.

SONG & DANCE: This category must contain both live singing and any category of dance. (50% Dance, 50% Singing) No LipSyncing Allowed. Accompaniment must be on CD and there must be no lead voices on the CD. (5 points will be deducted for lead voices on CD. Back-Up vocals are permitted.) Judging will be based on both singing and dancing. *Props and Acro/Gymnastics are permitted in this category. New York State Dance Challenge Inc. will provide up to two microphones for competitor's use to be used in the Song/Dance category. N.Y.S.D.C. does not allow any additional equipment to be hooked into the sound system, therefore, no personal microphones, headsets, etc. will be permitted.

STUDENT CHOREOGRAPHY: A routine choreographed by students with minimal assistance from an instructor. **Any number of Acrobatic tricks are allowed in this category. The Student Choreography winner receives a trophy or plaque and a NYSDC gift certificate. Student Choreography Award: To be eligible for this award, the routine must be choreographed by a student participating as a dancer at this competition. If a routine is choreographed by a student, it can be noted on the entry form. The best student choreographed routine will be recognized at the final awards ceremony of the event.

TAP: This category must consist of tap technique and primarily tap work. Tap shoes only. No tap sounds in the music will be permitted. **Three gymnastic/acrobatic tricks are allowed in this category.

VOCAL: A routine that is any type of vocal presentation, no lead vocals are allowed, however, backup vocals are permitted. Vocal categories will have their own set of high scores. Identical to dance high score rules: *Vocal entries are not eligible for high score awards unless there are 5 or more in the division. If there are 5 or more, a vocal overall will be awarded.

IMPROVISATION REGIONAL DANCE OFF: In the Improvisation Dance Off, the dancer is entered in the style of NYSDC Judges' Choice. Dancers can register for the Improvisation Dance-Off upon arriving in each Regional City. Limited entrants are accepted and the cost is \$25.00 Per Dancer and can be paid at the each event. The Improvisation Dance-Off will be held before each Final Awards Ceremony in each City. Judges will choose a song in that genre, dancers will get to listen to 10-15 seconds of the music before performing a 45 second improvisation combination of their creation. Attire for Category: The dress code for the Improvisation is at each dancer's discretion. Depending on the selected category division shoes are optional. We do strongly encourage dancers to wear clothing that will allow the judges to see your body lines and that will not restrict your movements. Dancers from this category division will not be eligible for High Score or Overall High Score Awards.

INSPIRATIONAL STAR! This category is designed to celebrate and recognize dancers that have exceptional mental and/or physical disabilities or special needs. If registered in this Inspirational Star Category, all solos must compete in this category specifically. Dancers that register for this Category must be placed under the Challenger Classification. Dancers registered in this category are eligible for Overall Top Scores and Cash Prizes. Dancers registered under the Inspirational Star Category are eligible to register for Title.

PHOTOGENIC CATEGORY: For each Regional competition, there will be one photogenic winner selected from each age division that has entered the photogenic category. **MINI STAR DIVISION:** 3-4 YRS., **PETITE STAR DIVISION:** 5-6 YRS., **RISING STAR DIVISION:** 7-8 YRS., **PRE-JUNIOR STAR DIVISION:** 9-10 YRS., **JUNIOR STAR DIVISION:** 11-12 YRS., **TEEN STAR DIVISION:** 13-15 YRS. and our **SENIOR STAR DIVISION:** 16-19 YRS.

All entries must submit a recent photo – no larger than 8' x 10' – labeled with name, age, address, phone

number and studio name on the back. Photos may be in Color or Black and White. All contestants must be registered at the Regional/National event to enter the Most Photogenic competition. The entry fee for the Photogenic Category is *\$30.00 Per Picture. PLEASE UPLOAD PICTURE/PICTURES TO EACH REGIONAL CITY TO BE CONSIDERED. One Picture Submitted Per Entry. Each winner will be announced and presented with a plaque or trophy, gift certificate and Cash Prize based on 10 or more entries per age division. All Regional winning photographs will not be returned. NYSDC is not responsible for loss or damage to any photograph not picked up at the end of the competition. These awards will be presented to the contestants judged to be most photogenic based on the following criteria: Visual appeal, Expressiveness of the dancer, Age appropriateness, Composition, Lighting and Quality of the photo. There must be a minimum of (10) entries in this division in order to award a Cash Prize based on 10 entries per age division. Winners will be announced on stage at final awards for each age group.

TOP COSTUME AWARD: If you wish to enter the Costume Category, please check appropriate box when you register that routine online. The participant must be a registered NYSDC contestant during the current competition season. All entries in the costume contest will be judged during the performance of their routine. The Top Costume Award will be presented to registrants who receive the highest scores based on design, overall impression, fit, etc. in all Age Levels. The cost to enter the Costume Contest is \$40.00 per entry. This registration must be done in advance during the Registration Process. Winners will be announced at the Final Awards Ceremony.

TITLE: Title is scored separately for each participant on a scale of 70-100 taking Stage Presence, Overall Appeal, Uniqueness, Showmanship, Costuming, Technique, etc. into consideration. TITLE IS A NON-GENDER SPECIFIC CATEGORY for the Title Competition. Title Participants must register the same solo(s) that they competed with at Regionals for National Title.

Title Age Divisions: MINI STAR DIVISION/MINI STAR REGIONAL TITLE CHAMPION: 3-4 YRS., PETITE STAR DIVISION/PETITE STAR REGIONAL TITLE CHAMPION: 5-6 YRS., RISING STAR DIVISION/RISING STAR REGIONAL TITLE CHAMPION: 7-8 YRS., PRE-JUNIOR/PRE-JUNIOR STAR REGIONAL TITLE CHAMPION: 9-10 YRS., JUNIOR STAR DIVISION/JUNIOR STAR REGIONAL TITLE CHAMPION: 11-12 YRS., TEEN STAR DIVISION/TEEN STAR REGIONAL TITLE CHAMPION: 13-15 YRS., SENIOR STAR DIVISION/SENIOR STAR REGIONAL TITLE CHAMPION: 16-19 YRS.

At the NYSDC/East Coast Elite Dance Challenge Regional Title Competition, each dancer will take the stage prior to their performance to introduce themselves. They will share their name, the age category in which they are competing, the title of their entry, the style of their performance and an interesting fact about themselves. Following this introduction, they will present their entry for adjudication.

This Regional Title Competition is exclusively for solo performances across all age levels and classifications. Please review the following guidelines:

- The Title Competition is limited to entries registered in the title Dance category, which must be selected during registration.
- Competitors will be categorized by performance level.
- Each dancer may submit up to three entries for the Regional Title Competition; however.
- Every contestant must provide a headshot, to be submitted on the day of the competition. The contestant's name and age should be clearly printed on the back of the headshot.
- Awards will be presented to the title winner and runner-up in all age divisions and classifications.
- Title divisions are a separate category and incur an additional fee beyond the standard solo categories. Routines entered in the standard solo categories may be duplicated and performed again in the title division.
- All title solos will be considered for the overall top score.

Types of Entries: Solo's, Duo's & Trio's (Duo's & Trio's compete against one another), Small Group (4-9 competitors), Large Group (10-19 competitors), Line/Production Group (20-39 competitors) & Grand Line/Production Group (40+ Competitors) Time Limits: The time limit for all Solos are (2:45) minutes, Duos and Trios are (3:00) minutes each. Small Groups are limited to three minutes (3:00) in length. Large Groups have a time limit of three minutes, 30 seconds (3:30). Line/Production Groups have a time limit of five minutes (5:00) and Grand Line/Production Groups have a time limit of up to seven minutes (7:00). One point will be deducted for every five seconds over the time limit. *NYSDC AND FSDC will allow a 10 second Grace Period for each routine. After a routine is 10 seconds over the time limit, 1 point will be deducted for each second past the Given Grace Period. (If you need additional time, you may purchase up to 3 additional minutes of time for any Group, Line, Production/Grand Line Production Only for \$5.00 per dancer, per additional minute. Additional Guidelines: *Any person who is visible on stage once the routine has started, and prior to the end of the routine, will be considered a performer and is subject to age division and group size rules.

- There is no limit to the overall number of entries a studio may submit, however competing dancers cannot compete against themselves in the same category with identical performers.
- The same competitor cannot compete more than once in the same category and age group in a SOLO entry.
- Soloists may compete in up to three solos. Only the highest scoring solo will be taken into consideration when placing for Top Overall High Scores awards. Solos may not be registered for solos in multiple levels.
- If a Soloist receives a 1st Placement award in one NYSDC/FSDC city, they ARE able to compete the same solo at any other NYSDC/FSDC for the remainder of the season.
- In a Duo/Trio, at least one dancer must be different when competing in the same category. Competitors are allowed to compete against themselves in Groups and Lines.
- The exact same performers may not place more than once for High Score in the Solo, Duo, or Trio Division.
- Competing dancers are to compete for one studio only.
- Dancers and Routines may compete in more than one NYSDC/FSDC Regional City.
- Entries must compete prior to their awards ceremony to be eligible for High Score Awards. ● High Score Awards will be given in each competition level, age and size division.

• Vocal routines are not eligible for high score awards unless there are 6 or more in the division. If there are 6 or more, a vocal overall will be awarded.

NYSDC/FSDC DOES allow for Independent Entries However, if the dancer is from a studio, we ask that they register under their studio and director. A dancer cannot compete as an independent if they have previously competed under a studio in the same season.

2024-2025 CLASSIFICATIONS & AGE DIVISIONS:

PLEASE ENSURE THAT ALL ENTRIES ARE ENTERED CORRECTLY INTO THE CORRECT CATEGORIES, AGE

DIVISION AND CLASSIFICATIONS!!! EACH ENTRY LEVEL IS ELIGIBLE FOR HIGH SCORE AWARDS

INCLUDING OUR RISING CHALLENGER/CHALLENGER/RECREATIONAL CLASSIFICATION!

RISING CHALLENGER CLASSIFICATION/FOR THE BEGINNER STUDENT WHO HAS NEVER HAD ANY

COMPETITION EXPERIENCE! (1-1.5 HOURS OR LESS OF DANCE INSTRUCTION PER WEEK) This Level is for

the beginner student who has NEVER competed! This level is for the dancer who is new to all styles of dance

DIVISIONS & TIME LIMITS

Types of Entries:

Solo's, Duo's & Trio's (Duo's & Trio's compete against one another), Small Group (4-9 competitors), Large Group (10-19 competitors), Line/Production Group (20-39 competitors) & Grand Line/Production Group (40+ Competitors)

Time Limits:

The time limit for all Solos are (2:45) minutes

The time limit for all Duos and Trios are (3:00) minutes

The time limit for all Small Groups is (3:00) minutes

The time limit for Large Groups is (3:30) minutes

The time for Line/Production Groups is (5:00) minutes

The time for Grand Line/Production Groups is (7:00) minutes

- One point will be deducted for every five seconds over the time limit.
***NYSDC will allow a 10 second Grace Period for each routine. After a routine is 10 seconds over the time limit, 1 point will be deducted for each**

second past the Given Grace Period. (If you need additional time, you may purchase up to 3 additional minutes of time for any Group, Line, Production/Grand Line Production Only for \$5.00 per dancer, per additional minute. Additional Guidelines: *Any person who is visible on stage once the routine has started, and prior to the end of the routine, will be considered a performer and is subject to age division and group size rules.

- **There is no limit to the overall number of entries a studio may submit, however competing dancers cannot compete against themselves in the same category with identical performers.**
 - **The same competitor cannot compete more than once in the same category and age group in a SOLO entry.**
 - **Soloists may compete in up to three solos. Only the highest scoring solo will appear in the highest score awards. Solos may not be registered for solos in multiple levels.**
 - **If a Soloist receives a 1st Placement award in one NYSDC city, they ARE able to compete the same solo at any other NYSDC for the remainder of the season.**
 - **In a Duo/Trio, at least one dancer must be different when competing in the same category. Competitors are allowed to compete against themselves in Groups and Lines.**
 - **The exact same performers may not place more than once for High Score in the Solo, Duo, or Trio Division.**
 - **Competing dancers are to compete for one studio only.**
 - **Dancers and Routines may compete in more than one NYSDC Regional City.**
 - **Entries must compete prior to their awards ceremony to be eligible for High Score Awards.**
 - **High Score Awards will be given in each competition level, age and size division.**
 - **Vocal routines are not eligible for high score awards unless there are 6 or more in the division. If there are 6 or more, a vocal overall will be awarded.**
- *NYSDC DOES allow for Independent Entries* However, if the dancer is from a studio, we ask that they register under their studio and director. A dancer cannot compete as an independent if they have previously competed under a studio in the same season.**

JUDGING INFORMATION

New York State Dance Challenge's panel of judges are well-trained professionals with a strong knowledge of all facets of dance. N.Y.S.D.C. Judges Qualifications must include: academic training and certification, practical and diverse training, industry work experience and a likable personality. Our judges will take choreography, technique, showmanship and precision into consideration while judging. Each judge will award up to 100 points per entry. The total score of the three judges will determine the ranking of the entry. In the case of a tie, the tie will be broken based on the highest technical score of all three judges combined. Adjudications will be uploaded to your account within 3-4 days of each regional event.

TECHNIQUE UP TO 35 POINTS, SHOWMANSHIP UP TO 25 POINTS, CHOREOGRAPHY & CONTENT UP TO 15 POINTS, PRECISION UP TO 15 POINTS, COSTUME/MUSIC/OVERALL APPEARANCE UP TO 10 POINTS. EACH JUDGE CAN AWARD UP TO 100 POINTS PER ENTRY BASED ON A PANEL OF (3) JUDGES.

All decisions made by the panel of judges will be final. Studio Owners, Studio Teachers, Competitors and or Parents are not permitted to discuss scoring, comments or results with the panel of judges. A protest may only be initiated by a Studio Director. It must be signed and submitted in writing to the director of the show within 30 minutes of the incident involved. Protests may not be submitted after an awards ceremony. N.Y.S.D.C. judges will also take into consideration whether routine or age appropriate and placed into the correct classification level. Within 24 hours after each event, all score sheets and online critiques will be made available to Studio Directors.

AWARDS

The team at NYSDC feels that EVERYONE should be recognized for their achievement in performing on stage!!

♡ N.Y.S.D.C. WILL RECOGNIZE THE HIGHEST SCORE FOR THE FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD POSITIONS IN ALL FOUR COMPETITION LEVELS, AGE AND SIZE DIVISION (RISING CHALLENGER, CHALLENGER, HIGH & TOP CHALLENGER CLASSIFICATIONS)

♡ FOR SOLOS (FIGURED BY JUST THE SOLO ENTRIES), DUOS/TRIOS (THE HIGHEST SCORE IS FIGURED OUT BETWEEN THE DUOS & TRIOS), SMALL GROUPS, LARGE GROUPS, LINE/PRODUCTION GROUPS & GRAND LINE/PRODUCTION GROUPS.

♡ ALL FIRST PLACE HIGH SCORE ENTRIES WILL BE COMMEMORATED WITH A HIGH SCORE PLAQUE OR TROPHY ALONG WITH A \$50.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE

TO BE USED FOR REGIONAL FEES IN THE 2026 SEASON. THERE MUST BE A MINIMUM OF (6) ENTRIES IN EACH AGE DIVISION AND CLASSIFICATION TO RECEIVE A \$50.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE. IF THERE ARE LESS THAN (6) ROUTINES, A \$25.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE WILL BE ISSUED FOR 2026'S DANCE CHALLENGE TO THE FIRST PLACEMENT OF THE HIGHEST SCORING ENTRY IN EACH AGE DIVISION IN ALL FOUR CLASSIFICATIONS. FOR SECOND AND THIRD PLACEMENT, A PLAQUE OR TROPHY WILL BE ISSUED.

♡ **COMPETITORS MUST COMPETE ON THE DAY AND TIME ASSIGNED TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR OVERALL AWARDS.**

Awards ceremonies will be held for Judges Awards, Choreography/Entertainment Awards, Exclusive NYSDC Awards, Titles & Overalls.

♡ **All solos, duos, trios and groups will be judged on a point system. Based upon the total score of three judges, each entry will receive a high-silver, gold, high-gold, platinum ranking or empire platinum ranking.**

♡ **In a routine that has dancers from different classification levels, more than 50% of the dancers must be from the classification level that they are competing in. Group routines placed in the Rising Challenger Classification must consist of all Rising Challenger Dancers. Group routines placed in the Challenger/Recreational Classification must consist of all Challenger/Recreational Dancers.**

MINI STAR DIVISION: 3-4 YRS. PETITE STAR DIVISION: 5-6 YRS. RISING STAR DIVISION: 7-8 YRS. **NEW FOR 2025! PRE-JUNIOR STAR DIVISION: 9-10 YRS. JUNIOR STAR DIVISION: 11-12 YRS. TEEN STAR DIVISION: 13-15 YRS. SENIOR STAR DIVISION: 16-19 YRS. PARENT DIVISION: A ROUTINE THAT HAS PARENTS ONLY. (THESE ROUTINES ARE ADJUDICATED ONLY AND COMPETE FOR THE TOP PARENT AWARD) ADULT DIVISION: 20 YRS. & OLDER—WHICH MAY INCLUDE ANY STUDIO DIRECTOR, FULL TIME INSTRUCTOR, STUDENT INSTRUCTOR, CHOREOGRAPHER AND/OR WORKING PERFORMER WHO IS 20 YRS. AND OLDER. (THESE ROUTINES ARE ADJUDICATED ONLY AND COMPETE FOR THE TOP ADULT AWARD)**

NYSDC SCORING SYSTEM

RISING CHALLENGER DIVISION

HIGH GOLD 265-275

GOLD 250-264.9

HIGH SILVER 240-249.9

CHALLENGER DIVISION

PLATINUM 290-300

HIGH GOLD 275-290

GOLD 265-274.9

HIGH SILVER 250-264.9

HIGH CHALLENGER DIVISION

EMPIRE ELITE PLATINUM 293-300

PLATINUM 285-292.9

HIGH GOLD 275-284.9

GOLD 263-274.9

HIGH SILVER 255-262.9

TOP CHALLENGER DIVISION

EMPIRE ELITE PLATINUM 295-300

PLATINUM 290-294.9

HIGH GOLD 278-289.9

GOLD 263-279.9

HIGH SILVER 258-262.9

N.Y.S.D.C. SPECIAL AWARDS WILL BE PRESENTED AT EVERY AWARDS CEREMONY THROUGHOUT EACH REGIONAL!!

ADJUDICATED AWARDS

- ♡ Each Solo will receive a Sash Pin for each routine entered at the N.Y.S.D.C.
- ♡ Each Duo/Trio will receive a trophy or plaque and each Duo/Trio competitor will receive a N.Y.S.D.C. exclusive lapel pin for participating.
- ♡ Studios/Dancers will receive a trophy or plaque to commemorate each of its group routines. All group dancers will receive a N.Y.S.D.C. exclusive lapel pin for each of their entries.
- ♡ Vocal High Score Awards will be presented in three separate divisions: Solos, Duos/Trios and Groups.

♡ Student Choreography Awards (Minimum of 3 Student Choreographed routines required)

♡ Judges awards are not based on adjudicated scores. Entries of all ages, levels and divisions are eligible to be nominated for judges award by our judges.

♡ Awards are available for purchase at the conclusion of each Regional and National Competition. Please note however, that they are on a first come first served basis.

2025 AWARDS HIGH SCORE AWARD INFORMATION

SOLOS, DUOS/TRIOS ALL FIRST PLACE HIGH SCORE ENTRIES WILL BE COMMEMORATED WITH A HIGH SCORE PLAQUE OR TROPHY ALONG WITH A \$50.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE TO BE USED FOR REGIONAL FEES IN THE 2026 SEASON. THERE MUST BE A MINIMUM OF (6) ENTRIES IN EACH AGE DIVISION AND CLASSIFICATION TO RECEIVE A \$50.00 Gift Certificate. IF THERE ARE LESS THAN (6) ROUTINES, A \$25.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE WILL BE ISSUED FOR 2026'S DANCE CHALLENGE TO THE FIRST PLACEMENT OF THE HIGHEST SCORING ENTRY IN EACH AGE DIVISION IN ALL FOUR CLASSIFICATIONS. FOR SECOND AND THIRD PLACEMENT, A GIFT \$25.00 CERTIFICATE WILL BE ISSUED FOR 2026'S DANCE CHALLENGE IF THERE ARE (6) OR MORE ENTRIES IN EACH AGE DIVISION AND CLASSIFICATION. N.Y.S.D.C. WILL RECOGNIZE UP TO THE TOP 10 HIGHEST SCORING ENTRIES IN EACH CLASSIFICATION AND AGE DIVISION. SMALL AND LARGE GROUPS ALL FIRST PLACE HIGH SCORE ENTRIES WILL BE COMMEMORATED WITH A HIGH SCORE PLAQUE OR TROPHY ALONG WITH A \$50.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE TO BE USED FOR REGIONAL FEES IN THE 2026 SEASON. THERE MUST BE A MINIMUM OF (6) ENTRIES IN EACH AGE DIVISION AND CLASSIFICATION TO RECEIVE A \$50.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE. IF THERE ARE LESS THAN (6) ROUTINES, A \$25.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE WILL BE ISSUED FOR 2026'S DANCE CHALLENGE TO THE FIRST PLACEMENT OF THE HIGHEST SCORING ENTRY IN EACH AGE DIVISION IN ALL FOUR CLASSIFICATIONS. FOR SECOND AND THIRD PLACEMENT, A GIFT CERTIFICATE WILL BE ISSUED FOR 2026'S DANCE CHALLENGE IF THERE ARE (6) OR MORE ENTRIES IN EACH AGE DIVISION AND CLASSIFICATION. N.Y.S.D.C. WILL RECOGNIZE UP TO THE TOP 10 HIGHEST SCORING ENTRIES IN EACH CLASSIFICATION AND AGE DIVISION. LINE/PRODUCTION GROUPS (20-39 PERFORMERS) ALL FIRST PLACE HIGH SCORE ENTRIES WILL BE COMMEMORATED WITH A HIGH SCORE PLAQUE OR TROPHY ALONG WITH A \$75.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE TO BE USED FOR REGIONAL FEES IN THE 2026 SEASON. THERE MUST BE A MINIMUM OF (6) ENTRIES IN EACH AGE DIVISION AND CLASSIFICATION TO RECEIVE A CASH PRIZE. IF THERE ARE LESS THAN (6) ROUTINES, A \$50.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE WILL BE ISSUED FOR 2026'S DANCE CHALLENGE TO THE FIRST PLACEMENT OF THE

HIGHEST SCORING ENTRY IN EACH AGE DIVISION IN ALL FOUR CLASSIFICATIONS. FOR SECOND AND THIRD PLACEMENT, A GIFT CERTIFICATE WILL BE ISSUED FOR 2026'S DANCE CHALLENGE IF THERE ARE (6) OR MORE ENTRIES IN EACH AGE DIVISION AND CLASSIFICATION. N.Y.S.D.C. WILL RECOGNIZE UP TO THE TOP 10 HIGHEST SCORING ENTRIES IN EACH CLASSIFICATION AND AGE DIVISION. GRAND LINE/PRODUCTION GROUPS (40+ PERFORMERS) ALL FIRST PLACE HIGH SCORE ENTRIES WILL BE COMMEMORATED WITH A HIGH SCORE PLAQUE OR TROPHY ALONG WITH A \$100.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE TO BE USED FOR REGIONAL FEES IN THE 2026 SEASON. THERE MUST BE A MINIMUM OF (6) ENTRIES IN EACH AGE DIVISION AND CLASSIFICATION TO RECEIVE A \$100.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE. IF THERE ARE LESS THAN (6) ROUTINES, A \$75.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE WILL BE ISSUED FOR 2026'S DANCE CHALLENGE TO THE FIRST PLACEMENT OF THE HIGHEST SCORING ENTRY IN EACH AGE DIVISION IN ALL FOUR CLASSIFICATIONS. FOR SECOND AND THIRD PLACEMENT, A GIFT CERTIFICATE WILL BE ISSUED FOR 2026'S DANCE CHALLENGE IF THERE ARE (6) OR MORE ENTRIES IN EACH AGE DIVISION AND CLASSIFICATION. N.Y.S.D.C. WILL RECOGNIZE UP TO THE TOP 10 HIGHEST SCORING ENTRIES IN EACH CLASSIFICATION AND AGE DIVISION. TOP STUDIO AWARD: A TROPHY OR PLAQUE AND A \$75.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE TO BE USED TOWARDS 2026 N.Y.S.D.C. REGIONALS.

THE **TOP STUDIO AWARD** WILL BE AWARDED TO THE STUDIO EARNING THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF PLATINUM AWARDS OR HIGHEST SCORING CUMULATIVE TOTAL OF THE TOP 10 SCORES/ROUTINES OF A STUDIO.

TOP COSTUME AWARD: A TROPHY OR PLAQUE AND A \$75.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE TO BE USED TOWARDS 2026 N.Y.S.D.C./F.S.D.C. REGIONALS WILL BE AWARDED TO THE WINNING STUDIO. (THERE IS A \$40.00 FEE PER ROUTINE FOR THE COSTUME ENTRY TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE TOP COSTUME AWARD) *THERE MUST BE A MINIMUM OF (10) ENTRIES ENTERED TO RECEIVE THE TOP COSTUME AWARD.

TOP CHOREOGRAPHY AWARD: A TROPHY OR PLAQUE AND A \$75.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE TO BE USED TOWARDS 2026 N.Y.S.D.C./F.S.D.C. REGIONALS WILL BE AWARDED TO THE WINNING STUDIO.

TOP CLASS STUDIO AWARD: A TROPHY OR PLAQUE AND A \$100.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE TO BE USED TOWARDS 2026 N.Y.S.D.C. REGIONALS WILL BE AWARDED TO THE WINNING STUDIO THAT DISPLAYS POSITIVE ATTITUDES, A WILLINGNESS TO HELP OTHERS, AGE-APPROPRIATE COSTUMING AND CHOREOGRAPHY THROUGHOUT THE COMPETITION.

WELL-ROUNDED STUDIO AWARD: A TROPHY OR PLAQUE AND A \$75.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE TO BE USED TOWARDS 2026 N.Y.S.D.C. REGIONALS. TRAVELING WITH OUR REGIONALS IN NEW YORK STATE, WE HAVE OBSERVED THAT MANY STUDIOS ONLY FOCUS ON A SELECT FEW DANCE STYLES. TO ENCOURAGE DANCERS TO BE MORE DIVERSE IN VARIOUS DANCE STYLES, ONE STUDIO IN EACH CITY WILL BE AWARDED THE WELL ROUNDED STUDIO AWARD.

TOP ADULT AWARD: A TROPHY OR PLAQUE AND A \$25.00 Gift Certificate to be used towards 2026 N.Y.S.D.C. Regionals.

OUR EXCLUSIVE NYSDC PREMIERE STAR AWARD!: This is a hand-picked award given to one student from every studio participating at each Regional. This award goes to the student that demonstrates a positive attitude, is hardworking and strives to become better not only as a dancer but as a person. A TROPHY OR PLAQUE AND A \$25.00 RETAIL CERTIFICATE

OVERALL STUDENT CHOREOGRAPHY AWARD: THIS AWARD GOES TO THE STUDENT CHOREOGRAPHY ROUTINE WITH THE HIGHEST SCORE. NOTE: IN ORDER FOR A ROUTINE TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR OVERALL STUDENT CHOREOGRAPHY, WHEN REGISTERING THE ROUTINE, YOU MUST SELECT "STUDENT CHOREOGRAPHY" FOR THE CATEGORY INSTEAD OF THE STYLE OF DANCE (JAZZ, LYRICAL, BALLET ETC.)

2025 EXCLUSIVE JUDGES AWARDS: N.Y.S.D.C. SPECIAL AWARDS ARE GIVEN BY JUDGES FOR UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS OF AN INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP!!! PLEASE NOTE, JUDGES AWARDS ARE NOT BASED ON ADJUDICATED AWARDS.

Solo, Duo and Trio Stand-Out Awards! Group Stand-Out Awards!

OVERALL "FANTASTIC FOOTWORK" AWARD: A TROPHY OR PLAQUE AND A \$75.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE TO BE USED TOWARDS 2026 N.Y.S.D.C. REGIONALS AWARDED TO THE STUDIO THAT DISPLAYS HIGHLY PROFICIENT TAP TECHNIQUE. THE WINNING ENTRY MUST HAVE REGISTERED UNDER THE TAP CATEGORY TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS AWARD.

I LOVE NY AWARD! AWARDS FOR ROUTINES THAT ARE ESPECIALLY ENTERTAINING AND DESERVING OF ADDITIONAL RECOGNATION.

N.Y.S.D.C. "TOTAL TECHNIQUE" AWARD: A TROPHY OR PLAQUE AND A \$75.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE TO BE USED TOWARDS 2026 N.Y.S.D.C. REGIONALS AWARDED TO THE STUDIO THAT DISPLAYS SOLID, STRONG AND WELL-EXECUTED TECHNIQUE THROUGHOUT THEIR ENTRIES.

THE VISIONARY AWARD: PRESENTED TO THE STUDIO DIRECTOR THAT WE FEEL BRINGS THE MOST DIVERSITY INTO THEIR STUDIO'S COMP CHOREOGRAPHY AND ROUTINE PERFORMANCES.

THE TOTAL COMMITMENT AWARD: JUDGES WILL SELECT A ROUTINE AT EVERY REGIONAL THAT THEY HAVE SEEN TOTAL COMMITMENT FROM THE CREATIVITY, COSTUMING, EXECUTION AND STAGE PERFORMANCE.

THE ARTIST & ATHLETE AWARD: THIS AWARD WILL BE GIVEN IN EVERY REGIONAL CITY TO THE ROUTINE THAT DISPLAYS NOT ONLY STRONG CHOREOGRAPHY BUT AN ENTRY THAT REQUIRES SIGNIFICANT ENDURANCE.

NYSDC/FSDC SPIRIT AWARD GIVEN IN EVERY REGIONAL CITY!

IMPROVISATION DANCE OFF! THIS CONTEST IS OPEN TO FOUR DIFFERENT AGE BRACKETS: 4-7 Yrs., 8-10 Yrs., 11-13 Yrs., and 14 Yrs. and Up. The Cost to enter this Contest is \$20.00 Per Dancer and all registrations can be done at each Regional City. The Winner and RunnerUp will be awarded a trophy and a gift certificate.

THE EVER UPWARD AWARD: Is awarded to the highest scoring routine of the entire competition. Award winners will be invited to dance in our opening number at Nationals.

N.Y.S.D.C. OVERALL "MOST ENTERTAINING" AWARD FOR SOLOS, DUOS OR TRIOS: A TROPHY OR PLAQUE AND A \$75.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE TO BE USED TOWARDS 2026 N.Y.S.D.C. REGIONALS AWARDED TO THE ENTRY (SOLO, DUO OR TRIO) WHICH DISPLAYS A HIGH QUALITY OF ENTERTAINMENT WHILE PERFORMING THEIR ENTRIES.

N.Y.S.D.C. OVERALL "MOST ENTERTAINING" AWARD FOR SMALL, LARGE OR LINE GROUPS: A TROPHY OR PLAQUE AND A \$75.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE TO BE USED TOWARDS 2026 N.Y.S.D.C. REGIONALS AWARDED TO THE ENTRY (SMALL, LARGE OR LINE GROUP) WHICH DISPLAYS A HIGH QUALITY OF ENTERTAINMENT WHILE PERFORMING THEIR ENTRIES.

AT NATIONALS! THE CALL BACK CHALLENGE: Is a lightning round of encore performances by solos, duos, trios, small and large groups chosen by the judges.

STAND-OUT STARS WILL BE HAND PICKED AT EACH REGIONAL LEADING UP TO NATIONALS! THESE ARE DANCERS THAT STAND OUT TO THE JUDGES AND OR THE NYSDC CREWS. STAND OUT STARS WILL BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE AT NATIONALS! THEY WILL PERFORM A PRODUCTION NUMBER TO KICKOFF OUR NATIONAL EVENT!

SPOTLIGHT WINNERS AWARDED IN EVERY REGIONAL CITY!!

AT NATIONALS! Best in Entertainment Showdown Runner Up and Winner: Are routines that have been nominated to re-perform at the end of the competition based on entertainment value. Runner Up and Winner will receive prizes.

AT NATIONALS! Choreography Showdown Runner Up and Winner: Are routines that have been nominated to re-perform at the end of the competition based on choreography innovation, storytelling and composition. Runner Up and Winner will receive prizes!

NEW YORK STATE DANCE CHALLENGE PRESENTS THEIR “EXCLUSIVE SPECIAL AWARDS” RECOGNITION OF SENIOR DANCERS AT ALL EVENTS!

N.Y.S.DC. RETAIL COUPONS FOR REMEMBERABLE ENTRIES!

AWARDS WILL BE PRESENTED TO INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP ACHIEVEMENTS!

SPECIAL NYSDC AWARDS HANDPICKED BY THE COMPETITION DIRECTOR AND ITS STAFF!

NATIONAL DOLLARS AWARDED IN EVERY REGIONAL CITY!

BEST USE OF PROP AWARD GIVEN AT EVERY REGIONAL!

EXCLUSIVE AWARDS FOR FIRST TIME COMPETITORS!

TOP NEW YORK STYLE AWARDS!

BEST MUSIC SELECTION AWARDS GIVEN AT EVERY REGIONAL!!

TOP SOLOIST, DUO, TRIO, SMALL, LARGE AND GRAND LINE PRODUCTION AWARD GIVEN AT NATIONALS!

*Award Donations: Rather than accepting trophies for your 2026 NYSDC awards, The New York State Dance Challenge gives each studio the option to donate their awards to charity at \$5.00 per award. Of course, you have the option to keep your awards to, you have every right to this!

Participants are in understanding to recognize the risks of physical injury inherent in dance and dance performances and be willing to assume those said risks. It is agreed that participants will not hold New York State Dance Challenge, Inc. or its directors or employees liable for injuries sustained or illnesses contracted by them while in attendance and/or performing in any activity at a New York State Dance Challenge competition. I also grant permission to use photographs, video tape, or recording for any promotional purposes without any obligation, compensation or written consent. Your registration with New York State Dance Challenge demonstrates that you have read and fully accept our RULES, REGULATIONS, TERMS and CONDITIONS. Any violation of the above rules and regulations may result in the act/routine ineligible for the TOP TEN

or OVERALL AWARDS. N.Y.S.D.C. awards can be purchased at an event or ordered after an event, please email newyorkstatedancechallenge@yahoo.com to place your order.

PROPS

Fire, Swords & Knives are prohibited. No liquid, gel, aerosol, glitter, paint, powder, chalk or similar substance that would affect the dancing surface is allowed unless specifically approved by N.Y.S.D.C. Props are allowed, however they must be freestanding. Hand Props are also permitted in all categories. Scenery or backdrops requiring the use of theater fly bars may not be used. Special fog or smoke is not permitted unless specifically approved by N.Y.S.D.C. If the stage is littered during a routine, please be prepared to clean it up immediately after the routine is finished. Props requiring an electric outlet are strictly prohibited!! N.Y.S.D.C. will not supply power. Please do not build props backstage as this presents a danger to our competitors. Competitors cannot stand above 6'6" on the prop. Props which exceed 10'6" in height cannot be guaranteed to fit on stage. No props or costume pieces are to be thrown into the judge's area or audience. Safety of our competitors, judges, staff and spectators is our number one priority. N.Y.S.D.C. reserves the right to not allow a prop. No baby powder, confetti, glitter, hairspray, unweighted helium balloons, gels, water or paint will be allowed due to safety concerns. Any props, including mats, are welcomed at the New York State Dance Challenge. To avoid delays, we ask that you keep setup and removal time to a one minute maximum. All Props must be marley floor safe. A Human Prop is a person acting as a prop and one that can be seen clearly by the audience, but does not dance with the group. Human props must pay as a participant, however, they will not be factored into the age level of the routine. If a person enters the stage simply to hold up a prop from the back and cannot be seen by the audience, they are not considered a human prop and do not have to pay as a participant.

MUSIC

The staff at New York State Dance Challenge Inc. sound technicians, and/or venue staff assume no responsibility for poorly recorded music. *ALL MUSIC MUST BE UPLOADED ONLINE THROUGH DANCEBUG NO LATER THAN 10 DAYS FROM THE START OF EACH REGIONAL*** Always have a back-up of music with you in another format (ex. IPOD/IPHONE) just in case. Music Performance Licensing: All Studios and Independent Competitors shall procure, in advance, all licenses required by any music performance societies, such as ASCAP, BMI and SESAC, for music or other works to be utilized or displayed in connection with the Event. Licensee agrees to make direct payment and accounting to ASCAP, BMI, SESAC**

and any other similar organizations for the use of musicians and/or musical works in the Event and at the request of the Licensor to furnish proof of payment.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

2025-2026 VIDEO/PHOTOGRAPHY VIDEO TAPING, MOVIE CAMERAS AND ALL STILL CAMERAS ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED This includes FaceTime and Video Chats of any kind and any cellular devices. (Disqualification could result if rules are not followed) This rule has been implemented to protect the artistic rights of the choreographers and competitors that have worked hard to produce their pieces of work. Videotaping and Picture taking is also prohibited in the dressing room areas. Studio directors and teachers, please inform your students and parents of this rule, Thank You! It is the dance studio's responsibility to inform their students and parents of the NO video or photography rules that N.Y.S.D.C./F.S.D.C. has set in place. **THE NEW YORK STATE DANCE CHALLENGE MAY PROVIDE EACH COMPETITOR WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE ACTION PICTURES OF COMPETITORS WHILE PERFORMING AND VIDEOS OF ENTRIES. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE AT EACH REGIONAL.** By performing at THE NEW YORK STATE DANCE CHALLENGE, you are consenting to the use of photographs and/or video footage for promotional purposes. A LIVESTREAM MAY OR MAY NOT be provided in each Regional City during the 2025-2026 Season. NYSDC cannot guarantee a good enough connection from the venue to do the live stream or the connection is intermittent. NYSDC will be unable to give advanced notice on whether an event will be Live Streamed or not.

IMPORTANT COMPETITOR/STUDIO DIRECTOR INFORMATION

Competitors please be ready to perform 1 hour prior to your performance time. You must be prepared to perform when scheduled.

In the interest of running on time, NEW YORK STATE DANCE CHALLENGE, reserves the right to modify the schedule.

Please note that AWARDS could run ahead of schedule on any given day of competition. *Please plan on being at awards one and a half hours (1.5) before the start of awards in case of running ahead of schedule.

No competitor will be allowed to perform out of order UNLESS it is accepted by the back-stage manager and or competition directors.

The back-stage manager will need to be notified of any changes to the schedule by the studio director.

During the duration of the competition, a delay on any routine will only be for a reasonable costume change. Competitors will be allowed 10 minutes for costume changes and then should go directly backstage.

A twopoint deduction will be made for dancers that leave the stage without completing the performance. Dancers will have the option to re-perform the routine, but for adjudication only. If they choose to perform again, they will not be eligible for overalls.

ALL ROUTINES MUST COMPETE ON THE DAY AND TIME ASSIGNED. ALL ENTRIES WHICH DO NOT COMPETE ON THEIR ASSIGNED DAY AND TIME WILL BE ADJUDICATED ONLY AND WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR TOP SCORE AWARDS.

The venue address and other important information will be available on the event page. The doors to the venue will open one hour prior to the start of competition as shown on your schedules when you receive them. This will allow dancers and spectators access to the lobby, dressing rooms and the N.Y.S.D.C. Merchandising area!! The doors to the auditorium/theater will open 30 minutes prior to the competition start time. For the start of each day, please do not arrive earlier than 45 minutes as you will be asked to wait outside while the venue and NYSDC Staff prepare for the event.

Only performers, teachers and staff are allowed on stage before, during and after a competition

Rosin IS permitted in the stage area of the N.Y.S.D.C.Venue Location.

Access for crossovers will depend on each venue setup. Please plan entrances and exits accordingly for all situations.

Dancers may not jump on or off the stage.

For safety reasons, dancers should stay at least 1 foot back from the edge of the marley floor. For their safety, dancers should never dance off the marley floor.

Only same gender parents and teachers are allowed in the designated dressing areas—NO EXCEPTIONS!!

Any studio that delays the competition because they are rehearsing will have 10 points deducted from their total score.

A positive attitude and professional sportsmanship is expected at all times from competitors, studio teachers, studio directors and spectators.

Any questions regarding routines should be brought to the attention of the competition directors and or the back-stage director by studio director only.

All entrances and exits must be done from Stage Left or Stage Right. NO entrances or exits from the front or back of the stage will be permitted. Exiting into the audience is strictly prohibited.

Our Backstage Team works diligently to make sure that our events run smoothly and safely. To prevent overcrowding and congestion, our backstage area is reserved for NYSDC Staff, performers, teachers and studio directors only. We ask every number to check in backstage with one of our Team Members 5-7 numbers prior to their dance.

Prop Parents are allowed backstage 3 numbers prior to the entry to help load and unload props.

For the safety of all participating in the N.Y.S.D.C., please keep all aisles and stairwells clear and do not block emergency exits.

Cellular Phones need to be turned off or put on vibrate mode while seated in the house section of the theater during competition.

When possible, Stage Dimensions will be provided in each Regional City.

Please be prepared to share dressing rooms or facilities at the N.Y.S.D.C. Venue space and availability may not allow for individual dressings areas. We will however, try to accommodate each studio with their own personal dressing room area. Studios do not have the right to reserve a dressing area. Please, no claiming of an area for changing or private warm-up. Any studio, dancer or parent that abuses the designated dressing area will be disqualified from the competition. All competitors, teachers and directors are responsible for cleaning their dressing area and disposing of all garbage. NYSDC ask that you bring only what is necessary, please leave blankets, ipads, etc. at home. Please, no food, snacks, drinks are allowed in the dressing room areas. (Water Only will be permitted) We ask that you clear out all of your personal items from the dressing room spaces after your last performed routine BEFORE your awards ceremony. This helps the NYSDC Teams to free up more space for the students arriving for the next session. If you are NOT in consecutive performance sessions, we ask you to clear your dressing space and return prior to your next session. For example, if your child is in Section 1 and Section 4, we do ask that you clear your items to provide space for dancers participating in Section 2 or 3.

Stretches, spacing, placement of competitors, etc. may not be done on the competition floor/stage prior to, during, or following any event. This activity will

only be allowed during breaks. Please be respectful of others if practicing in hallways or other outside areas.

There is no admission fee into the event by spectators. There will be limited programs available for sale at a cost of \$8.00 each to spectators in each regional city. We will also provide an upload feature at \$7.00 per upload of the program book.

Studio Directors and Teachers will have Special Reserved Seating at all of our Regionals and at our National!

Air horns, clappers and other noise makers are strictly prohibited at all NYSDC events.

No special lighting request can be accepted at competitions. All routines must perform in full stage light (full wash).

Studio Owners, please log into your NYSDC registration account for fee pricing. Pricing is not given over the phone or via email.

Each studio director upon registering, will receive a welcome packet including a complimentary gift bag full of goodies and a program of each day's events. All dancers will also receive a Retail Gift Certificate. Studio Directors will be responsible for dispersing their group's certificates.

N.Y.S.D.C. reserves the right to extend, decrease or delete regional city days/date or change the location of the event if need be. N.Y.S.D.C. reserves the right to adjust the competition schedule if necessary. If for some reason a venue does not run, a full refund will be disbursed. The Staff at the N.Y.S.D.C. asks that only Studio Directors call or email our offices and not parents. Solicitation and or advertising of any kind is strictly prohibited by N.Y.S.D.C./F.S.D.C. With the exception of judges and the N.Y.S.D.C. staff, there is to be no food or drink in the auditorium or theater space including all awards ceremonies. Dancers, Directors/Teachers, Spectators will not be allowed to sit on the floor in the vicinity of the judge's tables in any auditorium or ballroom space. N.Y.S.D.C. reserves the right to refuse the entry of any studio. N.Y.S.D.C. Participants can compete in more than one city. N.Y.S.D.C. and each hosting venue location are not responsible for any kind of damage, loss or injury sustained by competitors or spectators or their property while attending any area of the venue premises. Dancers competing take certain inherent risks when engaged in any physical activity. Participation in this competition indicates the acceptance of such risks by the performers. Therefore, upon registration to any N.Y.S.D.C. event, it is agreed that participants will not hold New York State Dance Challenge Inc., it's directors or staff responsible for injuries that occur or illnesses that may be

contracted during the competition event. Studio Owner Directors agree to adhere to the Release of Liability Clause which is completed during the registration process. Due to N.Y.S.D.C. being a public event, N.Y.S.D.C. encourages all attendees to: *Supervise children at all times *Be responsible for personal belongings *Be aware of surroundings and inform a N.Y.S.D.C. staff member of unsuitable or suspicious activity *Stay safe and have fun while attending N.Y.S.D.C. events! Any person (s) who damages venue property either inside the venue or outside, will disqualify the entire group with which he or she is affiliated. Any person(s) who causes damage as mentioned, will assume full responsibility for repair, replacement and/or restitution.

Typical Scheduling for NYSDC Events for the 2025 Season will be as follows: NYSDC does not have a set scheduling format. Scheduled are determined based on the number and type of entries received and takes into consideration scheduling requests and conflicts submitted during the registration process. NYSDC events begin no earlier than 7:30a.m. and end no later than 10:30p.m. Friday events will start after school hours. NYSDC reserves the right to structure its competitions in a nontraditional scheduling format (such as block scheduling) if the circumstances warrant it. NYSDC must follow state, local, and venue guidelines regarding mask policies and capacity limitations and will inform studio directors of related requirements or scheduling format changes prior to the show. Changes in scheduling format or mask policies are not grounds for a refund.