



RSDS Competition Team Commitment Information

1. CRITERIA & AUDITIONS

- a) Dancers auditioning for Rhythm & Soul Competition Team must enroll in ongoing dance classes at Rhythm & Soul Dance Studio (summer session included).
- b) All dancers auditioning must be 7 years of age by the day of auditions, unless approved by Director, Beth Ith. Dancers must have a minimum of 3 years dance training (start counting at age 4), and at least 1 year experience in the discipline that they are auditioning for (2-3 years is recommended). Competition Team is not recommended for dancers with, only, Combination Class or Beginning Dance (1-2 year's) experience.
- c) Auditions are held annually in June by the Group's instructor. They are a 30 min closed class, meaning parents need to stay outside of studio, no viewing. There is a small cost to audition.
- d) Each dancer must audition in the age division he/she is on the day of auditions (unless pre-approved by Director):

MINI Group (ages 7-10): 1 Group (Jazz)
PETITE Groups (ages 9-12): 1-3 Groups (Tap/Jazz/Lyrical)
JUNIOR/PRETEEN (ages 10-13) & TEEN/SENIOR (ages 12-18) Groups: 1-3 Groups (Tap/Jazz/Lyrical)
Lyrical Groups require Jazz Group participation, as they are a combined commitment

- e) Appropriate Audition Attire: Black Leotard or Black fitted tank top, black sports bra or black crop top, black leggings or capris or black booty shorts. Tights are optional. BOYS: Black basketball shorts or black sweat pants, plain black tank top or t-shirt. Hair must be pulled back for Auditions and appropriate dance shoes are required: foot undeeze, pirouette shoes, tap shoes.
- f) Auditions and Announcements: At auditions, the dancers will be taught a dance combination and broken up into small groups to perform for the teacher. Each teacher has the discretion to place dancers in their groups, where they see fit, with Director's final approval. An email will be sent out within 7-10 days to parent's email, notifying each dancer if he/she has made our Competition Team. Not everyone who auditions makes the Competition Team. All Team placements are Final; no discussion.
 - a. Team placement is based on technique and style, focus and effort, ability to pick up choreography accurately, ability to dance within the group, and showmanship/stage presence.
 - b. Rhythm & Soul Competition Team requires each Group to have a minimum of 4 dancers. Any group with less than 4 students has the option to continue with Private Lessons (as a Trio/Duo) or will need to wait until the following year to audition again.

2. COMMITMENT

- a) RSDS Competition Team is a yearlong (12 months) commitment starting with the current summer session (following auditions) and continuing through the following summer session (the next year) where dancers are required to take dance classes at Rhythm & Soul Dance Studio.
- b) All JAZZ and LYRICAL Group dancers must be enrolled in their corresponding group style of dance AND a Ballet Class (2 ballet classes if placed in level 3 or above).
- c) TAP Group dancers must enroll in a Tap class PLUS one other class: Ballet, Jazz, Hip Hop or Turns and Progressions at Rhythm & Soul Dance Studio (unless excused by Director)

- a. Teen and Senior Jazz and Lyrical dancers must also be enrolled in Turns and Progressions Class at Rhythm & Soul Dance Studio.
- b. Mandatory 7-day Choreography Camp (end of August) to learn our group choreography. See Beth Ith (Director) for specific Dates/Times. No Exceptions.
- d) Practicing outside of dance class/rehearsal is required for our Competition Dance Team. Parents need to be involved to make sure dancer is practicing and stretching at home on a regular basis. For our Mini and Petite ages, we need parent involvement at home for improving memorizing and applying teacher corrections.
- e) Absences: Each dancer is only allowed to miss 4 Competition Team Group Rehearsals (Sept-June), no exceptions. The last competition team group rehearsal of the year (in June) is Mandatory, unless excused by a required school function; a private lesson may be required as a make-up. The Director and Choreographer's need to receive notice of any absence at least 1 week before rehearsal. Do not call the day of rehearsals. If we continue rehearsing competition team groups in the summer, a new policy will be assigned. All dancers must participate in all of their dance classes the week prior to a competition/performance, unless pre-excused due to illness/school/family function by the Director. Make-up classes are required. Dismissal from Team will occur on the fifth absence.
- f) Injuries/Severe Illness: If an injury or severe illness occurs and your dancer is forced to sit out (and watch) competition team group rehearsals, the choreographer has the right to omit them from current sections of the group dance. Also, sitting out/watching competition team group rehearsals 3 times (non-consecutively) will result in 1 marked absence (towards your allowed 4 absences). Doctor's notes need to be given to the Director and Choreographer when injuries/severe illnesses occur. Private lessons may also need to be coordinated with choreographer.
 - a. All Competition Team members are required to participate in all dance classes the week prior to any and all competition/performance or the choreographer can omit them from the upcoming competition/performance. If a dancer must sit out of class the week before a competition/performance (due to an illness or injury) a make-up class or private lesson that same week needs to be attended in order to participate in the upcoming competition/performance.
 - i. All injuries lasting more than 1 week need to be addressed to doctor and a doctor's note needs to be presented to the Director.
- g) Alcohol, cigarettes, and drugs are not tolerated. Use of these items will result in probation or dismissal from Competition Team.
- h) Rhythm & Soul Dance Studio Competition Team dancers are not allowed to compete or perform with any other dance studio.

3. **TEAM GROUP REHEARSALS & FEES**- Competition team group rehearsals are held weekly on Fridays. Mini, Petite, Junior, Preteen group rehearsals are 30 min weekly (Sept-June). Teen, Senior group rehearsals are 45 min (Sept-Dec) and then 30 min weekly (Jan-June). Competition rehearsal fees are separate than monthly tuition and are due at the beginning of each month, regardless of attendance.

- a) An Annual **Non-Refundable Competition Team Commitment Fee** will be due to Rhythm & Soul Dance Studio, no later than September 1st. This Commitment fee helps to offset added registration fees, time, and competition expenses for the director and studio. This fee accompanies the contract each year as your dedication to the RSDS Competition Team.
- b) Competition Group Choreography Fee per dancer/per group needs to be paid directly to your group Choreographer by the first day of our August choreography camp.
- c) Competition Team Jacket: All dancers are required to purchase a Rhythm & Soul Competition Team Jacket, to be worn at competition award ceremonies.
- d) Costumes: Competition team costumes are ordered through Rhythm & Soul Dance Studio and fees placed on your dance account for payment, unless otherwise notified. Adding rhinestones to costumes will be at the discretion of the Group's teacher, but parents will need to purchase and apply. Information/directions on how to will be communicated.

4. **COMPETITIONS, RECITALS, TEAM PERFORMANCES**- All Dance Team members are required to attend and perform in all preset competitions, Dec & June RSDS Shows, and Team Performances, such as our Annual CF Walk. Competition schedule will be set by/before Sept 1st, so please wait to make family vacation plans until you have competition schedule.

- a) Competitions: Rhythm & Soul Competition Team attends 6-9 competitions and 1-2 dance workshops per competition season (Jan-May). We end each competition season with a Nationals Competition in late June, early July. If director, Beth Ith, decides to have the Team perform at Disneyland (Spring Break), then there would be no Nationals that year. Locations of Nationals range from Seaside Oregon, Anaheim Ca, Las Vegas, or Texas. You are notified of the competition schedule by end of Aug/Sept and they are required, not optional. Competition fees are posted on your account for payment approx. 8 weeks before each competition.
- b) Performances: Rhythm & Soul Competition Team is required to participate at the CF Walk in May (3rd Sunday). Team CF shirts are required for this performance. We sometimes also perform at community events and local schools, if given the opportunity. Participation is mandatory, unless pre-excused through Director due to family/school conflict/illness/injury.
- c) Extra Dances: All Competition Team members are required to participate in our Opener and Finale routines for our June Recital shows. Rehearsals start in April, on Fridays and have an added fee. Competition Team dancers will perform in all RSDS holiday and June shows.

5. **ADDITIONAL SOLOS, DUOS, TRIOS**- All Dancers must have at least 1 year of dance team experience before committing to a Solo, Duo, or Trio, unless pre-approved by Director. If you are interested in committing to one, contact the Director for more information and to see if you dancer is ready. Solos, duos, trios are beneficial for all dancers of any level, but a dancer and parent must be ready to put in the added extra work at home. The dancer's solos, duos, trios must reflect the same style of dance as their current group team style (unless your Team age doesn't have that style of group dance, then Director will excuse requirement). If your dancer would like to do any special dance such as a solo, duo, trio, he/she must commit to hourly private lessons until the dance is finished and continue weekly rehearsal private lessons with choreographer throughout the dance year. March/April is best time to start conversations with Director about possible solo, duo, trio for following season.

- a) Private Lessons- Private Lessons need to be pre-paid monthly and pre-arranged with your specific teacher. If a dancer fails to come to a scheduled private lesson, without notifying your instructor, they will need to pay the teacher for their time.
- b) Choreography Fee- There is a one-time Choreography Fee for solos, duos, trios, and private small groups. The choreography fee is paid directly to the choreographer and needs to be paid on/before the first private lesson. Duos, Trios, and Small Groups divide evenly, amongst each other.

Participating on Rhythm & Soul Competition Team is a serious time and financial commitment for both dancer and parent. Our goal is to give our Team dancers more focused technical training and performance opportunities to further their growth in the art of dance. Each dancer is a valid member of their group and therefore your family's full year commitment (summer-summer) is required.