

As a new parent on the DancePlus Performance Team, you probably have a lot of questions about what to expect your first year! Hopefully this “parent’s perspective” will answer a lot of the questions you may have!

### **When will we get competition costumes?**

Competition costumes usually arrive a few weeks prior to the first competition along with an accessory list of shoes, tights, jewelry, hair pieces, etc. for the dance.

### **What do we do with costumes when we get them?**

Check that the costume fits and has all the accessories and start gathering the right shoes and tights.

Putting your child’s name or initials on the tag inside each costume is a good idea.

It’s a great idea to have either a [Dream Duffel](#) or a garment bag dedicated to your competition costumes so that everything stays neat, clean, and together. Some people have [plastic garment bags with pockets](#) for each costume so that you can store the right shoes, tights, and accessories with the costume. Others just use a large ziploc bag hung on the hanger for each costume. Whichever way you do it, label each costume with the name of the dance, the tights, the shoes, the accessories, and the jewelry. It makes costume changes much easier!

### **What do the kids wear at competition when they are not in costume?**

When not in costume at a competition, kids should be in team tank and/or jacket and black leggings or dance shorts!

### **What is competition jewelry and how do I get some?**

Team jewelry consists of earrings, necklace, and hair clip. Different jewelry is used for different dances and will be listed on the accessory list.

You will purchase necessary team jewelry (or all of it if you want to have it) from the front desk.

### **What if my child does not have pierced ears?**

Don’t worry! The team earrings are large diamond studs and [craft crystals](#) work just as well! Select the largest round diamond flatback crystal that goes on your child’s ear and attach with eyelash glue!

### **How do I know what hairstyle to use?**

All dancers will be in two french/dutch braids into a low bun.

**What kind of makeup do we need?**

A list of team makeup is provided each year before competition season. It rarely changes so you are usually good with the same products for a few years. A tutorial will be provided when you get the makeup list so you know how to apply it.

**Where do I keep all of my hair and makeup stuff?**

You will want to keep all of your makeup, hair stuff, etc. in a [Caboodle](#). You will get a great list of other things you might want to keep in your Kaboodle like liquid bandage, Tylenol, makeup remover, etc.

**I am not good at hair and/or makeup!**

Your first try at hair and makeup might be scary! For both of you! Veteran moms can help but your real gold mine is the older girls! They love doing makeup and the little kids seem to be much more patient with them than with mom! Or you may find that doing hair and makeup before you leave the house is more peaceful. Either way... leave plenty of time to get it done until you are both pros! (By the way most of the kids can do their own competition makeup by age 11 so hang in there!)

**When will I know when my child is competing?**

Competition schedules don't come out until a week before the competition. So you have to keep your whole weekend clear until you know! Sorry!

Another little note, there are sometimes ridiculously early or late performance times. Just breathe through it! The kids always do better than you would expect because they are so excited. We have all been there. We can help you through!

You will usually just get a schedule of DancePlus dances sent to you but you can buy a program of all the dances at the competition so you can follow along! They are usually about \$10.

**When do I have to be at the competition?**

You will have to report to the competition at least 2 hours prior to your first dance, dressed with hair and makeup done. If you get delayed, call another parent or teacher or even the studio to let them know!

**What happens when I get to the competition?**

Arriving at a competition venue for the first time can be a bit overwhelming! You can either find the team in the dressing room first or the teachers in the theater or hallways. Or you will probably just run into a kid roaming the halls in a DancePlus jacket who can get you settled!

Some competitions have dressing rooms by studio but others have multiple dressing rooms for everyone to use. It is a good idea to poke your head into each before you get set up so you can be with the rest of the team.

Once you have found your tribe and checked in with your choreographer, it's time to dance!

### **What do I do with my child before and after she dances?**

When they are not dancing, the kids love to watch their teammates dance so head into the theater/ballroom to support the other kids. It can be a really long day for some of the kids but the longer they can stay to cheer on their teammates, the better experience for all!

The choreographer will grab the kids a bit before they need to go on. They will run their dance with them and give them a pep talk. They are in good hands so now is the time for you to get a seat to watch!

You will probably be worried that your kid is going to miss their dance but I promise you that the teachers and other kids in the dance always manage to get the whole group together! But when in doubt, sit in the theater with the others kids in your dance! Safety in numbers!

After you have enjoyed your kid's dance, you can meet them in the dressing room to congratulate them and help them get changed.

### **What's the deal with competition awards?**

Award ceremonies are spread throughout the day and cover a section of the dances (sometimes by age group and type of dance and sometimes just by AM/PM). It will be clear to you what awards ceremony your dance is in on the program.

When it is time for awards, all of the kids sit together on the stage in their team uniforms (or costume if they are dancing close to awards). The older ones make sure the little ones are okay! If your child is nervous (or you are!), I would suggest setting your child up with an older teammate a little before awards so they have a friend to help them get on the stage and find the team. Then agree to meet back in the dressing room after awards.

Each dance receives a "medal" (i.e gold, high gold, platinum) and for group dances there is one trophy for the team and each participant will get a ribbon or a pin or a bracelet. Most of the time the kids each get their ribbon, etc. while the group is sitting on the stage but if they don't get theirs, the extras make their way to the studio.

There is also a trophy party at the end of the season at DancePlus where the kids get to bring home a few of the trophies for their shelf!

The dancers in each dance decide amongst themselves who will go up to get the trophy at each competition. The little kid's choreographer helps them do pick this and some will end up getting the trophy for Production if there are more kids in the group dance than competitions! Getting up to get the trophy is a big deal among the littles and everyone does their best to make sure each of them has a chance!

After the “medals” there is often a top ten by age, etc. A winning group will often be asked to come to the center of the stage. The older DancePlus kids will help the littles if they don’t know what to do. But they catch on pretty quick!

### **Can I take pictures at competition?**

Most venues don’t allow you to record or take photos but they sell them for you to buy. Just look for the kiosk near where you bought your program!

There are usually packages for the video and all the photos and sometimes groups will organize amongst themselves to buy the dance and then share the media.

### **Do we stay in hotels for competition?**

Two of the competitions are held in hotels and people tend to like to stay over both for the ease of logistics and for the social fun! Some people have been known to stay at hotels near the school venues but they are typically close enough to easily drive back and forth.

If you want to stay at the hotels the competitions are held at, make your hotel reservations early and let them know you want the competition rate.

Be sure to check your reservation as soon as you get the competition schedule in case you decide you do not need to stay one of the nights or even at all! Some hotels require you to cancel a few days in advance!

Both hotels have pools, so bring a swimsuit! Also for hotel competitions, flip flops or slippers are a great idea for running between hotel room and dressing room!

At the Access Broadway competition in January, the kids all make posters for their hotel room doors and then go around the hotel on breaks or after hours to sign each other’s posters. The posters usually include the kid’s name, some dance photos, and any fabulous decor they like. And don’t forget the tape to put it up!

### **What do we eat at competitions?**

For competitions at the hotels there are restaurants in the hotel and restaurants and takeout places nearby.

For competitions at schools there may or may not be food on site so bring food or be prepared to order out.

For all competitions, non-messy snacks and water are a must!

**What about community outreach events?**

We do a number of community outreach events each year.

Sign up sheets will be in the lobby a few weeks prior.

Dances to be performed are selected based on who has signed up. Typically, the entire group performs the most recent finale dance from recital and/or the current year's production.

Rehearsals are held for participants prior to the performance.

**What do we wear to community outreach events?**

Dancers typically wear team tanks with black dance shorts or black leggings, depending on the weather. Shorts and leggings cannot have logos so make sure you have a pair of each for participating in community outreach events! Dancers will sometimes wear team jackets if the weather is chilly. Dancers are typically barefoot for these performances

For performances during the holiday season dancers wear white turtlenecks, black booty shorts, tan tights, and jazz shoes. Dresses and accessories are provided.

Some events require competition makeup. No team jewelry unless notified.

An email with time, location, dress, and makeup is sent to dancers a few days prior to the event.

Any other questions feel free to call, text, email or tackle me in the parking lot!

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