



Frequently Asked Questions

As a new parent on the Dance Plus Performance Team (DPPT), you probably have a lot of questions about what to expect in your first year. Hopefully, this “parent’s perspective” will answer most of your questions.

When will we get competition costumes?

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

What do we do with the costumes when we actually receive them?

Check that the costume fits and if the costume has additional accessories make sure they are all there. Check the accessory list and begin coordinating all tights, shoes, etc. with EACH COSTUME.

***TIP:**

- ***Put your child’s name or initials on the tag inside of each costume (and shoes)***
- ***If your child is old enough, create a checklist with them so that they can learn to be responsible for their Team items***

You will notice that many dancers have a [DREAM DUFFEL](#) or garment bag dedicated to their competition costumes so that everything stays neat, clean and together. Any large duffel bag would suffice, but this company designs their bag (and all accessories) specifically for dance and is very popular. As mentioned before, [garment bags](#) are another choice, so long as they are plastic to protect costumes from liquids and plenty of pockets for shoes, accessories etc. Others simply use large ziplock bags secured to the hanger of each costume. Whichever way you do it, label each costume with the name of the dance, the tights, the shoes, the accessories and jewelry. Costume changes are much easier this way, especially if they have “quick changes”.

What do the kids wear at competitions when they are not in costume?

When not in costume at a competition, kids should be in their Team tank and/or jacket and black legging 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 it with eyelash glue.

How do I know what hairstyles to use?

This year hair will be a center part with low ponytail or 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 video](#) is available on the Team intranet explaining how to apply the makeup for competitions and performances.

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

You will want to keep all of your makeup, hair products, etc. in a [caboodle](#). You will get a great list of other things you might want to keep in your caboodle such as first aid supplies, liquid bandages or *New Skin*, *Tylenol*, makeup remover wipes, nail polish 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 younger dancers seem to be much more patient with them than their 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, by the time kids are 11 they can typically do their own makeup, so hang in there!)

When will I know when my child is competing?

Competition schedules do not come out until a week before the competition. To be safe, keep your whole weekend clear until you know. Apologies!



NOTE: Occasionally there are 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 it!

You will usually receive a schedule that just depicts the DPPT dances, but full programs are usually available at the venue if you have an interest in following the competition as it runs. They usually cost \$10 for the printed version or they may have a virtual one available for free.

When do I have to be at the competitions?

You will have to report to the competitions at least two (2) hours before your first dance. This is your 'CALL TIME'. Be dressed with hair and makeup done as competitions do sometimes run early and your child may have to dance sooner than their expected STAGE TIME (the time they are scheduled to perform). If you get delayed, call another parent or teacher or even the studio to keep them informed! This is important as the Team is depending on them, each dancer is vital.

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 the hallways. Or you will probably just run into a kid dashing through the halls or stretching on the floor in a Dance Plus warmup who can get you sorted.

Some competitions organize dressing rooms by studio, but others have multiple dressing rooms for common use. It is a good idea to poke your head into each before you get set up. Laying out all your costumes simply to collect and repack them because you eventually notice the entire Team is the dressing room across the hall is stress neither one of you needs! Besides, the whole experience is more fun when everyone is together!

Once you have found your squad and checked in with your choreographer and Joede, IT'S TIME TO DANCE!!

What do I do with my child before and after they dance?

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

The choreographer will grab the kids before their STAGE TIME. They may need to check for proper costuming, run their dance if time permits or simply want to 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 take comfort in knowing that between the teachers and the other kids in the dance they always manage to get the whole group together! It does help the process if, while waiting in their costumes and focusing on the dance they have next, that they sit with their group in the audience where the teachers can find them. It also makes for a louder cheering section!

After you have enjoyed your kid's dance, you can meet them in the dressing room where you can congratulate them, shower them with praise and help them change into their next costume.

What's the deal with competition awards?

Award ceremonies are spread throughout the day covering 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 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 if you are), it may serve you to have your child matched with an older teammate a little before the awards ceremonies 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 the awards.

Each dance is adjudicated and receives a critique in the form of a written form, a link that we can access online or an actual video. These are shared with the Team at their next rehearsal and are enormous tools that assist us in the growth of your children as dancers and performers. Along with the critique, each dance is awarded 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 pin or 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 eventually. The trophies and plaques from group dances all remain with the studio until the end of the season. When we have gone to our last competition of the season we have a trophy party at Dance Plus where the kids have the opportunity to select and collect a few of those trophies from the season for their shelves at home (we get a lot so clear some space!).

The dancers in each group dance decide amongst themselves who will go up to receive the trophy for their dance at each competition. This process allows them to practice communications skills and teamwork. The little kids' choreographer will help them to decide and orient them to this practice. The younger dancers will also be chosen to accept the Production trophy and if there are more kids in a particular group dance than competitors. 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 DPPT kids will help the littles if they do not know what to do, but they catch on quickly!

Can I take pictures at competitions?

Most venues do not allow you to record or take video or photos. There are many reasons for this such as, the fact that the choreographers work is considered proprietary artistic property, or that you may end up blocking the view of others trying to watch performance, but the biggest reason for this is that it is far too complicated to police who is videoing who. The organizers can not tell which dancers belong to which audience members so they do not want anyone being recorded or photographed by anyone who is not their parent. It is ultimately a safety issue for the children. Photos and videos of their performances are available for purchase though. Just look for the kiosk near where you would buy your program or inquire on how to buy them online! It is not usually hard to find as there will typically be a crowd hovering over monitors. Even if you do not intend to buy them, spend some time looking through their videos/photos. Most competitions have both a videographer and photographer spending the entire time taking the best footage they can with professional equipment from the most ideal vantage points so they can usually do a better job than you on your phone’s camera. Plus, it’s fun!

Some competitions offer a media package. Sometimes it is even free. If it is not free and you do decide to purchase some there are usually packages available and sometimes groups will organize amongst themselves to buy the dance and then share the media.

Do we stay in hotels for competitions?

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 in which the competitions are held make sure to 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 that 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, slides 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. On breaks or after hours they go from door to door signing each other's doors and leaving words of encouragement and congratulations. The doors usually include their name, some dance photos and any fabulous decor they like. Certainly help them if they are younger, but let their creativity loose and allow them to do as much of the work themselves. Ownership of their poster gives them access to feeling their inclusion on the Team! (Just don't forget to bring the tape to put it up!"

What do we eat at the competitions?

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

For competitions at schools there may or may not be food on site so bring food or be prepared to order out, Door Dash, UberEats, etc.

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

What about community outreach events?

Competitions have their place and serve a particular purpose with the DPPT, but we are a PERFORMANCE team and not a competition team. As such, we value the benefits of bringing dance to community and special interest groups. Firstly, it gives the kids performance opportunities in a variety of performance spaces. Secondly, we do our best to inform the kids what the event is about, e.g. Mary's Place by the Sea | cancer survivors, Deborah Heart & Lung | cardiac and pulmonary care, etc. Lastly, participation in such events yield enormous value in the kids' National Honor Society and college admission resumes.

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

Dances to be performed are selected based on who signs 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 of any kind or any size. Make sure your kids 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. PLEASE HELP US POLICE THE NAIL POLISH TRANSGRESSIONS! It not only screams of unprofessionalism on the studio as a whole, but it reflects so poorly on the individuals!



For performances during the holiday season dancers must have white (true white with no logos) turtlenecks, black leggings, black booty shorts, tan tights, black socks that cover all skin up to the tights, black jazz shoes and tan jazz shoes. Dresses and accessories are provided.

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

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

If after reading through all of this you still have questions, feel free to contact our front desk. Julie had five children (yes, 5!) on Team for many years and was absolutely in your position at one point. She is a wealth of knowledge and an invaluable resource.

Thanks so much,

Joede

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