

SSS Dance Troupe

2024/2025

Preparing for competition requires a commitment to extra class and rehearsal time. It is important that each student be 100% dedicated and work to the best of his/her ability. Competition is also a financial commitment. Please be realistic about what you are capable of committing to.

General Rules/Guidelines

The purpose of the rules and regulations is to establish a professional environment for the artistic development of each student. The actions of each student affect the team as a whole, so it is important for everyone to be fully committed and understand what is expected of them.

- Be respectful and age appropriate. We expect for our dancers to uphold age appropriate and respectful behavior at all times. If your actions are not deemed appropriate and respectful and do not coincide with this organization's guidelines you could be denied performance opportunities, dance team participation, and/or removed from the studio.
- This policy is not meant to be taken personally or lightly. **If you post negative things on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. or exhibit behavior reflecting negatively on our studio, we will consider this grounds for probation or suspension from the team.** This includes the behavior of the parents. If we are in a public situation (competitions, performances, conventions, etc.) the expectation is that you will conduct your behavior responsibly. Remember you are a representative of the SSS Dance Troupe and Soul Steppin' Studio. If there are situations that need to be addressed, please remember that we can handle those upon return to the studio. In a public forum, it is unacceptable. Our goal is to foster a healthy competitive team environment. With so many personalities, we realize that conflicts may arise, but we must be respectful of one another. Be kind to one another. There is no room for personal conflicts amongst the team. Do not bring them to the dance studio. It is hard to stop gossip among students and parents all together, but we do not want it to become destructive. If you have a problem with a parent or another student please try to resolve it with the person you are having the issue with. If it cannot be resolved contact the Director to discuss your concerns and the proper corrections will be made.

Competition Dates

Competition dates will be determined based on the 2024/2025 competition schedule.

Dancers will attend 2 competitions per season with a 3rd competition being optional.

Dates: TBD

Information will be given out as soon as venues are chosen. **PLEASE BLOCK OFF THE ENTIRE WEEKEND!** We do not receive times for our dances until 1 week prior to the competition dates. In addition, we cannot accommodate everyone's personal lives and outside activities, such as vacations, school plays, and family parties. The team is a commitment and a compromise for dancers, parents, and staff. ***If you cannot participate in ALL competitions selected, you will be removed from the dance.***

Team Requirements

Team Requirements Ages 6-18 (*Instructor permission is required for the younger ages*)

- Protege' Team will compete at 2-3 competitions per season
- Junior Team will compete at 2-3 competitions per season
- Elite Team will compete at 2-3 competitions per season
- Top Elite Team will compete at 2-3 competitions per season
- Fall Session: Weekly attendance is required for both team technique and rehearsals
- Summer Session
 - Technique and Acro Classes will be offered throughout the summer. These are not required but highly encouraged.
 - Dancers wanting to participate in our Heels Style will be required to attend weekly summer heels technique classes.
 - Choreography rehearsals will begin in July/August and run through the Fall/Spring Semesters. **DANCERS MUST ATTEND CHOREOGRAPHY REHEARSALS TO BE IN A DANCE. FAILURE TO ATTEND CHOREOGRAPHY REHEARSALS WILL RESULT IN DISMISSAL FROM THAT PIECE.** It is important that all dancers are present in order to begin learning their dances.

Choreography rehearsals may be longer than regular weekly classes and are incredibly important. **If a dancer misses, it is their responsibility to learn what is missed BEFORE the next rehearsal.**

- Appropriate dance shoes and attire are required for all classes and rehearsals, and hair should be pulled back neatly. All team members will be required to wear all black for team technique and rehearsals. No large jewelry or anything else that goes against the studio dress code. **NO REGULAR CLOTHING!** Must be in dance clothing.
 - These are acceptable items: leotards, tights, leggings, sports bra, booty shorts, and form fitting tanks. **T-shirts are not an acceptable item. We need to be able to see the dancer's body move. Please respect this.**
- **Punctuality is extremely important. Please be warmed up and prepared to dance at the start of rehearsal. Constant tardiness will result in removal from the competition dance team.**

Fees

- Although we will try to use costumes and shoes that students already have, it may be necessary to purchase new ones. We will be sensitive to cost in choosing anything additional that the students may need to have for competition. Dances will require specific shoes, tights, and make up. Costumes run an average of \$75 per costume.
- Each competition charges an entry fee per student per dance. The cost varies, but usually ranges between \$40-\$55 per student for group routines. Solos are priced higher \$100-\$150.
- Competition dates and locations change each year. Some locations may require travel and hotel accommodations due to distance and times that competitions start/finish. Usually the competition company recommends hotels with a discounted rate. It is recommended that you book a room ASAP. Once schedules are released, you can adjust your accommodations as necessary.
- New team members are also invited to purchase team wear (warm up jacket, t-shirt, and dance bag). These items are to be worn during performance events, and also at competitions when not in costume.
- A detailed cost sheet has been attached below.

Monthly Tuition Summer and Regular Season Rates:

Technique and Recreational Classes _____ \$38 for 1, \$69 for 2, \$99 for 3, \$128 for 4, \$150 Max

Rehearsals Classes (if separate from team technique class) _____ \$20 per class

Solos (if interested and selected for one of the slots) ____ \$25 per session (2 minimum monthly)

Summer Choreography (Due at the time of the rehearsal)

Solos - \$250

Duos/Trios - \$200 per dancer

Groups/Production - \$200-\$250 per dancer (depends on the Choreographer we use and how many kids are in the piece)

Payment Policy

- Each dancer will pay for tuition on the 8th of every month for classes and rehearsals. Payment can be made online or in person. If paying in cash, please be sure it is the right amount, change may not be available. **Students WILL NOT be permitted to attend rehearsals if payment is delinquent.**
- **Payment is NOT per rehearsal. It is a flat monthly competition fee per dancer per dance paid to the studio from September to May on the 8th of every month.** Fee is NOT based on length of rehearsals or how many rehearsals fall within a month; therefore no refunds or deductions if a dancer misses a rehearsal or a rehearsal is cancelled. To be in dance, this is the fee.
- A payment breakdown is as follows (prices per dancer, per dance).
 - **Choreography Fees (due at the beginning of the year) -**
 - **In Studio: \$250 for solos, \$200-250 for each group, \$200 for duo/trio**
 - **Outside Choreographer: To be determined by the choreographer**
 - **Monthly - (technique, rehearsal class 4 times per month)- \$58**
 - **Solo Addition - \$25 per solo session**

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- **Drop Fee:** If you drop out of dance after you have agreed to it, there will be a \$75 drop fee per dropped dance. Drop fee applies if dance is dropped after the parent and dancer has signed the commitment form but then decides to withdraw. Please understand that by dropping out, choreographers and other teammates must spend time redoing the dance, which may place certain dances behind schedule. All dancers MUST return commitment form to Shelbi BEFORE beginning rehearsals on dances. You are not permitted to learn any choreography without a signed commitment form.

Commitment

Competition is a **year round** commitment. Competitive Dance is a sport. Just like any athlete, staying active and in shape is critical to technique and minimizing injury.

Technique classes, workshops, and rehearsals are MANDATORY! No exceptions. If you cannot make this commitment, please rethink your decision to be part of the team.

- Team rehearsals also begin in July/August (depending on dancer/choreographer availability). Most of the choreography is laid out in the summer, and it is important that all dancers attend the few rehearsals planned. If you cannot make this commitment, please rethink your decision to be part of the team.
- Attendance to all rehearsals and regular weekly classes is mandatory. If a student is injured, they are still required to observe rehearsal so that they do not fall behind in their choreography. In the event of a last minute illness or emergency, please contact the teacher directly. If a student misses rehearsal, it is her responsibility to learn choreography prior to the next rehearsal. It is not acceptable to miss the last rehearsal before a competition. It will be up to each teacher if the student will dance in the routine.
- **Students are allowed to miss only 3 technique classes per dance during the entire season (August to May):** You will receive 1 warning when you are approaching your limit. Please use your discretion and save absences for illness, emergencies, family events, etc. If you use your 3 excused, absences, you are REQUIRED to make up any and all technique hours within 30 days of your absence. NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.
If your student was taking part in another PHYSICAL activity such as school sports or other studio events, these will count as excused absence and will not count toward your 3 allowed absences and your dancer will not be required to make up; however if your student falls behind in his/her technique and/or competition pieces, the director may dismiss the student from that particular piece.
- **TEAM DANCES WILL BE PERFORMED IN ALL RECITALS.**
- The competition team represents our studio and therefore will be required to participate in events in and out of the studio. Other performance opportunities, such

as athletic events and other community events are also required. TEAM SHOWCASE BEFORE FIRST COMPETITION IS ALSO MANDATORY AND WILL BE DETERMINED AT THE CHOREOGRAPHER'S DISCRETION.

- **MINIMUM DANCE REQUIREMENTS**

- Dancers may choose however many dances they'd like to participate in (dependent on audition results). However, in order to dance solos, dancers must be in at least 1 other dance.
- Protege' and Junior Elite Team members will be required to take 1 additional Recreation class per season. This can be any style of their choosing.
- Elite and Top Elite will be required to take their Team Technique class each season.

- **Solo Requirements**

- Minimum age for solos is 6. *Please note that if a teacher does not feel a student is ready to perform a solo, he/she will not be able to this season but is welcome to try again another year after gaining experience and training.*
- Dancers interested in performing a solo will let the director know of the interest prior to the end of the current dance season. (A form will be sent out to dancers to ask in interested)
- Dancers will meet with a director or instructor throughout the dance season to clean and perfect their solo piece once it is learned.
- Dancers who miss more than 3 solo practices as a NO CALL NO SHOW will be DISMISSED from their piece with no refund given for any time accumulated to that point.
- Dancers will be allotted 5 Excused Absences (sickness, scheduling conflict, etc.) and if this is exceeded dancers will forfeit their solo piece with no refund being given for the rehearsal time preceding dismissal.
- Solo Spots will be determined based on availability of time and instructors.

- **Production Requirements**

- ALL TEAM MEMBER WILL BE REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN PRODUCTION. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- Production rehearsals will take place on Monday evenings during our assigned team rehearsal times.
- Production choreography will be learned in the late summer/early fall.

Contract

*Please sign and return to Shelbi by May 29th. Please retain the SSS Dance Troupe Handbook for your records. Student may NOT participate without signed contract. **NO EXCEPTIONS.***

2024-2025 Season

I have read the rules and guidelines and agree to the terms and conditions for being on the SSS Dance Troupe. I understand that participation on this team requires certain mandatory days and times and I will abide by those obligations to the best of my ability.

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____

STUDENT SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

