

Dance Xplosion 2009-2010 Company Member Info

Being a Dance Xplosion Company Member is a tremendous learning opportunity and an experience students will remember forever! A Company Dancer's year is filled with excitement, challenges, exposure to new skills, lasting friendships... Members practice responsibility and dedication as they work together to achieve a common goal of succeeding at competition and performance as well as a feeling of accomplishment and pride every time they step on the dance floor.

The Dance Companies are directed on a daily basis by Studio Owner and Director, Amber Frishman. A variety of Dance Xplosion staff and guest artists assist with choreography and/or focused instruction.

Dance Xplosion's goal is to provide Company Dancers with a strong technique foundation, confidence and a variety of experiences they need to push their dancing to the next level. No matter what path the members choose in life, the lessons learned from being a Company Member will help them succeed and reach their full potential.

Requirements and Expectations

****Mini-Company is the only Company that has a minimum AND maximum age. The other companies have an approx. age but are primarily formed on dance level.**

****There is not a pre-determined number of dancers that will be placed in each Company. A Company could have 4 members one-year and 10 members the next year.**

FALL 2009 & SPRING 2010 REQUIRED CLASSES FOR COMPANY DANCERS:

**Taking additional technique classes are highly encouraged.*

Mini-Company (Ages 5-7): At least 1-hour intro ballet/tap/jazz, 1-hour company class
OR
1-hour ballet, 1.5-hour jazz/tap, 1-hour company class

Sparklers (Approx. Ages 7+): At least 1-hour ballet, 1.5-hour jazz/tap, 1.25-hour company class

Red Company (Approx. Ages 9+): At least 1-hour ballet, 1-hour jazz/lyrical, 1.5-hour company class,
and 1-hour Leaps & Turns

Silver Company (Approx. Ages 11+): At least 1-hour ballet, 1-hour jazz/lyrical, 1.5-hour company class,
and 1-hour Leaps & Turns, 1-hour optional class

Elite Company (Approx. Ages 13+): At least 1.5-hour ballet, 1.5-hour jazz and/or lyrical, 1-hour Leaps &
Turns, 2-hour company class, 1-hour optional class

**All Companies also have one Saturday rehearsal per month. Saturday Rehearsal dates will be provided in early September for the full year.*

**Class requirements may be increased or decreased from year-to-year*

**Additional Company rehearsals may be called, if necessary, before a performance/competition*

**Class and rehearsal attendance is MANDATORY.*

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance at all general dance classes is extremely important in order to develop proper technique and strength as a dancer. If a Company Member has to be absent, Amber must be notified **before** the absence.

Rehearsal attendance is mandatory. It is a team effort to make our dances look great and to be prepared for competitions and performances. One missing person in formations makes practicing routines difficult. We do understand that illness and family emergencies happen. If this occurs, you must notify Amber in advance to the rehearsal absence. Depending on the number of rehearsals going to be missed, what type of rehearsal will be missed, etc., you may be required to pay for a private lesson to get caught up so that the whole group is not effected upon the student's return.

If you are injured, you must attend rehearsal to sit and observe so that you do not fall behind.

The Only Acceptable Reasons to Miss Class/Rehearsal:

1. *Sick* – If appropriate, and not contagious, come to at least observe
2. School Function – Only for pre-planned functions that Amber has approved
3. Family Emergency

****Birthdays and too much homework are NOT acceptable reasons to miss class.** Although school is most important, dancers should be budgeting their time appropriately and working on time management skills so they can balance both dance and homework. If grades are falling or there are any struggles at school, please let Amber know. She will keep this private and will work with the Company Member to find a solution.

IMPORTANT... If a Company Member misses class or rehearsal excessively (no more than 3-4 absences per year should occur), then a meeting will be held between the Company Director, the Parents and the Dancer to discuss what actions need to be taken to resolve the situation. If need be, a student may have to sit out competition(s) and/or performance(s), and in extreme situations they will be asked to step-down as a Company Member. In these cases, competition entry fees and already paid tuition (for Company Class only) and costume fees (for Company Class only) will be reimbursed.

Competitions and Performances are mandatory, and the dates for these will be provided to parents as early in the school year as possible.

REQUIRED COSTS:

1. *Weekly Company Rehearsal:* This rehearsal time counts as a regular class as far as tuition goes; Saturday rehearsals require no extra payment/tuition
2. *Competition Entry Fees:* approx. \$20-\$40 per group dance, per competition (Solos are additional)
3. *Make-up Kit:* approx. \$20-\$30
4. *Dance Xplosion Warm-up Suit (pants and jacket):* approx. \$80-\$100
5. *2009-2010 Dance Xplosion Company T-Shirt:* approx \$20
6. *Costumes:* \$40-\$60 per costume (Each Company will have 2-4 Competition Routines)
7. *Costume Earrings:* \$10-\$15 per pair
8. *Dance Xplosion Bag:* approx \$30-\$40
9. *Transportation:* travel to and from competitions/performances – most will be in the Austin area, but 1 per year will be in San Antonio, Houston, or Dallas/Fort Worth
10. *Convention:* Cost to attend one local weekend-long convention – approx. \$150-\$200 for entry fee plus hotel costs if you choose to stay at the hotel during convention. Food at the conventions may be packed or purchased at the event. Food costs about \$10/meal.
11. *Gifts:* 5-7 small gifts per year to exchange with Big Sis/Lil Sis (These are as simple as candy, etc.)

SUMMER DANCE REQUIREMENTS:

All Company Dancers who wish to have the chance to re-audition for Company for the following school year must take Summer Dance. The exact # of hours will be announced by March 1st. If you do not take Summer Dance you may not audition for Company the following school year, as continuing your training shows a commitment to learning and improving. Multiple options will be provided in case you're going to be out of town various portions of the summer.

CLASS ATTIRE:

For general technique classes Company Members should wear the required attire as stated on the studio website. For Company Class, dancers should come prepared as if taking a jazz class (no baggy clothing) but with ALL dance shoes accessible (ballet, jazz, tennis shoes, any other shoes specified). Students may put on or take off layers depending on the type of dance being done (ie. They might put on baggy pants while practicing hip hop). Hair must be pulled away from the dancer's face.

COMPETITION & PERFORMANCE ATTIRE:

For performances and competitions, the instructor will select costumes and accessories for each dance. This includes tights, shoes, jewelry, hair style, etc. A "Costume Parent" for each Company will communicate to the parents exactly how the costume, accessories and hair **must** be worn. Dancers should always arrive at competition and performance fully dressed for their first dance, **with a DX cover-up over their costume.**

*No finger nail polish

*No jewelry, if not part of costume

Dance Xplosion Warm-up Jacket **must** be worn at awards ceremonies, competitions, performances...

Dance Xplosion T-shirt **must** be worn at any event representing Dance Xplosion in which we're not in costume. For example, community service projects, fund-raising efforts...

PERFORMANCE / COMPETITION:

1. Treat others like you would want to be treated!! Of course we come to put our best foot forward and strive to win, but first and foremost we want to be known as a classy group of dancers with incredible sportsmanship.
2. Dancers must wear their jackets over their costumes during all non-performing times.
3. Dancers must always be fully dressed in costume/make-up at least 1 hour before their first dance and they should immediately check-in with the group.
4. No candy, gum, food on stage at any time
5. Dancers should make great effort to stay and watch all groups. Remember... we're a team!
6. Parents and/or dancers are **never** to approach judges, as this could get us disqualified or unable to attend the next year. If you have a question, please speak with Amber.
7. All competition fees must be paid in full by the announced due date - No exceptions!

AUDITIONS:

Starting in 2010, all Company Members must re-audition every year. Under rare circumstances a Company Dancer may not be invited back the next year, but for the most part the audition is used primarily to determine each dancer's placement for the next school year.

FUNDRAISING:

Participation in fundraisers is optional but highly encouraged. If the fundraiser is done on an individual basis, then any funds earned will go straight towards individual students' accounts. The student can apply these funds to tuition, competition entry fees, costumes and/or costumes (not retail). If it is a group fundraiser, then the total funds earned will be evenly divided among those who participated in that particular fundraiser. A fundraising committee formed of Company Parents will work with the Director to develop yearly fundraisers.

COMMUNICATION OF INFO:

All Dance Xplosion Company Info will be communicated via one, or more, of the following methods: Email / Signs Posted on the "Company Info" board / Notes Home / "Messenger" Parent (volunteer) / Website Please make sure that your email and phone number are always up to date in DX records Parent meetings will be held as needed.

****Please check your email and the "Company" Section on the website at least 1-time/wk****

2009-2010 DANCE XPLOSION COMPANY MEMBER CONTRACT

By signing below it shows that you have read, acknowledge and agree to abide by all of the guidelines, policies and procedures as stated in pages 1-3 of the 2009-2010 Dance Xplosion Company Member Info.

Parent Signature

Company Member Signature

Parent Printed Name

Company Member Name

Date

Date

What email would you like Company information sent to on a regular basis:

Parent E-mail address _____

Student E-mail address (if applicable) _____

Thank you and we look forward to a great year of dancing with you!