



## **2024-2025 THRIVE COMPANY INFORMATION GUIDE** (AGES 7-18)

### **Parent Meeting:**

Tuesday, April 23rd, 8:00-8:30pm

### **Audition Date:**

Saturday, May 18th

2:30-3:15pm (Ages 7-9 as of January 1, 2025\*)

3:15-4:00pm (Ages 10-12 as of January 1, 2025\*)

4:15-5:15pm (Ages 13 & up as of January 1, 2025)

\*Some dancers may be asked to stay for the next audition

### **\*NEW\* Pre-Audition Registration:**

Register for the audition on our website by May 1st. Register for the class THRIVE AUDITIONS-2024.

No payment is due upon registration. We do request a cash payment the day of auditions.

### **What to Bring to Auditions:**

\$25 (cash preferred) & an audition form (forms can be printed from our website or picked up at the studio on audition day.)

### **Audition Attire:**

Your favorite dancewear with hair secured tightly in a ponytail or bun and a pair of dance socks.

### **Audition/Team Announcements:**

Company members for the 2024-2025 season will be announced via email on Friday, May 24th.

### **Team Contract Due:**

June 3rd

### **SAVE THE DATE! Work Week:**

Last week of July, first 2 weeks of August

*Welcome!*

*Thank you for your interest in THRIVE or thank you for returning to our THRIVE program! We would be honored for you to be a part of our competitive dance family and I am excited to share information about THRIVE and what you can expect when you are a part of this prestigious company.*

*In this handbook you will find important information about our classes, policies, procedures and much more! Please review the handbook thoroughly and then let us know if you have any questions or concerns. We believe communication is key in maintaining a successful company.*

*We will provide you with the information you need to make informed decisions regarding your dancer(s) and the competitive program. Please make sure that you are able to commit financially to your weekly classes, extra rehearsals, competitions and other requirements outlined in the handbook prior to attending auditions.*

*Thank you in advance for trusting the STDC instructors during the selection process. The barre in the competitive dance world is constantly being raised. THRIVE must not only meet new challenges but we will continue to exceed them. We want the absolute best for each and every dancer no matter what their goals are or where they are currently on their dance path.*

*We look forward to a successful, rewarding experience for you and your dancer(s) this coming season and for many years ahead.*

*Keally Lilly, Director*

### **South Tulsa Dance Co. Mission Statement**

- To provide quality education in a positive environment!
- To provide opportunities for dancers to advance their dance training in many venues such as in the studio, conventions, workshops and master classes.
- To provide the finest dance facility in the surrounding area.
- To provide a safe place for dancers to be, a place where they can trust their instructors and their teammates.
- To continue to learn and grow as instructors so they can pass on their most current trends and training techniques to their students.
- To promote healthy bodies and confident kids!
- To provide a dance environment where they can express themselves and BE themselves!

### **Team Overview:**

THRIVE Company is our advanced competition & travel team. We attend 5 competition/conventions and Nationals every other year. Our next full team Nationals will be in the summer of 2026. Location to be determined, but we are seeing bright lights, all the sights, and skylines. 😊

## **Casting:**

We will place you in a minimum of 2 groups, but you will specify on your audition form how many groups you will allow your child to participate in. You may also request to have a solo or duet/trio. STDC faculty will choose the casting for solos, duets/trios & groups. Additionally, a guest choreographer may choose the casting for his/her group. Some duet/trio casting may not take place until early to late fall so the choreographers/faculty can make their decisions on casting after watching them in class which might not take place until then.

## **Summer Weekly Class Requirements:**

Summer classes are required for all Company members. The summer session is June 3rd-July 27th, July 4th classes will be held on August 1st.

- Ages 7-9
  - 2 ballet classes, 1 progressions class, 1 choreography class, 1 optional class
- Ages 10-12
  - 3 ballet classes, 1 progressions class, 1 choreography class, 2 optional classes
- Ages 13 & up
  - 4 ballet classes, 1 progressions class, 1 choreography class, 2 optional classes

Pre-pointe & pointe are approved for optional classes.

## **Fall Weekly Class Requirements:**

Fall session dates will be announced soon but start dates and breaks closely follow the surrounding public schools' schedules.

- Ages 7-9
  - 2 ballet classes, 1 progressions class, 1 choreography class, 1 optional class
- Ages 10-12
  - 3 ballet classes, 1 progressions class, 1 choreography class, tap/hip hop THRIVE combo class, 2 optional classes
- Ages 13 & up
  - 4 ballet classes, 1 progressions class, 1 choreography class, tap/hip hop THRIVE combo class, 2 optional classes,

Pre-pointe & pointe are approved for optional classes.

- Group rehearsals - 30 minutes each
  - Company members are guaranteed a minimum of 2 groups
- Solo/duet/trio rehearsals - 30 minutes each
  - Optional, you can make a request on your audition form
  - Lessons are scheduled throughout the week and depend on your assigned instructor's available times and studio space availability

## **Typical Weekly Schedule:**

This is an estimated number of days you should plan to be at the studio.

- Ages 7-8: 2-3 days per week
- Ages 9-11: 3-4 days per week
- Ages 12 & up: 4-5 days per week

If you request and are chosen to have a solo/duet/trio this will most likely increase the days per week you are at the studio.

We do not have regularly scheduled competition classes on Friday-Sunday. Those are kept for optional technique classes, solos, duets and trios. Your mandatory classes/rehearsals will take place Monday-Thursday. If you have any schedule restrictions on any of those days, please let us know on your audition form.

## **Fall Class Enrollment:**

The fall class schedule will be released for preview only on May 13th. STDC will automatically enroll you in all required classes and rehearsals, and you will receive your schedule the same day as team announcements (May 24th.) Enrollment for optional classes will open following your email with further instruction.

## **Private Lessons:**

Private lessons are scheduled weekly if you have a solo, duet or trio. You can request a specific instructor, but we will ultimately decide who would work best with your child. You are billed for private lessons monthly and then at the end of the month if you had more/less than 4 lessons for the month you will be charged/credited. *For example- in March you will be billed for 4 private lessons. If you end up having 3 due to Spring Break you will then be credited at the end of the month and you will see that credit on your April statement. That credit would go towards to your April tuition/fees.* Missed private lessons are eligible to be made up at a later date if you use the "24 hour rule" and the instructor is available. You will sign a private lesson contract prior to your first private lesson.

## **Attendance:**

Being a THRIVE team member means that dance will be your TOP PRIORITY. Good attendance in your technique classes and your weekly THRIVE rehearsals is imperative to remain in good standing with the team. We do have plenty of opportunities to make up technique classes if you miss due to relevant obligations such as a school event or family emergency. All classes are mandatory the week leading up to competition. If you miss class and you are not prepared for the competition you may be pulled from your solo and/or group dances without a refund. Communication is key!

## **Absence Protocol:**

Email your instructor and make up classes as needed.

- 1 absence per quarter - excused

- 2-3 absences per quarter - make up ballet class within 2 weeks of absence.
- 4-5 absences per quarter - make up ballet class within 2 weeks of absence, 1 private lesson per absence, warning of solo probation.
- 5 or more absences per quarter - meeting held with parents and solo probation and possible group probation.

Absences will be tracked every Monday, and you will be contacted if you have missed a class and have not signed up for a make up lesson within the 2 week time period.

### **Communication:**

- Email is a communication standard, please make sure you are on the STDC/Company email list.
- BAND is used for quick communication, polls, etc. please stay up to date on posts and notifications must be turned on during competition weekends.
- Please DO NOT call or text any STDC employee on their personal phones UNLESS your instructor/director has stated otherwise.
- Instructors typically go from class to class, so if you need to communicate with them please email or leave a message with the front desk and they will get back to you at their earliest convenience.
- Front desk staff may not always have the answers regarding the competition program so please refer to the list of faculties below to help guide you on who you need to contact.
  - Absences - Instructor or Team Director
  - Competition Questions & Registrations - Megan Maddux
  - Account Questions- Keally Lilly or Gretchen Ponio
  - Rehearsals, Classes or Private Lesson Questions - Instructor or Team Director
  - Schedule Adjustment Questions - Keally Lilly or Gretchen Ponio

### **Dress Code:**

You may not be late to a class to change your dancewear, so please look at your daily schedule and dress appropriately based on all your classes.

- Ballet: black leotard, clean pink tights, pink ballet shoes, ballet bun
- Jumps/Turns, Progressions/Technique, Choreography, Rehearsals: any dance attire, appropriate footwear requested by your instructor (barefoot, socks, pirouette shoes)

Free leotard week is typically the last week of every month and during this week you are free to wear any color leotard, but don't forget the tights, shoes and bun.

### **Competitions:**

Company will compete at 5 competitions. We are a traveling team, and that means we travel around the country. \*NEW\* We are highly considering a local competition at the beginning of the season and will use it as our "Dress Rehearsal." This is also a GREAT way to advertise for the studio and put our dancer's talent on display here in TULSA! If we do this, it will not take the place of one of our 5 competition/conventions and solos/duets/trios would be optional.

Some competitions have a limit for how many solos can attend which means not every Company member can do their solo at every team competition. We will send out an optional competition signup so you can makeup any solos missed at other competitions as well as sign up for extras.

### **Conventions:**

Company will attend 5 conventions. These are the same conventions where we will also compete.

### **Nationals:**

Company attends Nationals every other year. Our next Nationals will be in the summer of 2026.

### **Optional competitions:**

Optional competitions are recommended! We will have a google document for you to sign up for the optional competitions. DanceOne requires a \$50 non-refundable deposit at the time of registration that will be passed to you and the balance due 45 days prior to the competition date. There is a \$15 admin. fee for optional competitions. If the request to do an optional competition is made after the sign up is closed, a \$25 admin fee will be added. For all competitions, we will register your dances and upload your music. We can also register you for photogenic, title, etc. If you would like to have an instructor at the competition with you to warm you up & run your routine you can request that and if an instructor is available to attend it will be a \$25 min. fee per hour. Judges' critiques will be sent to you upon request for optional competitions after the instructor has reviewed them. We kindly ask that you do not contact your instructor about the critiques, tell them what to work on in class or what the judges had to say.

### **Awards/Cash Winnings/Scholarships:**

All students are required to attend their awards ceremonies. It will be your child's responsibility to collect any awards that are given out at the competitions. At some competitions, cash prizes are awarded. All solos/ duets/trios receive up to 100% of their cash back into their account unless you request the cash be given to you directly. If the check is blank, it will be written to you. Typically cash prizes for groups go back to the students as well, however, that is decided case by case basis. \*In the past we have purchased a trailer for props with winnings, stretch bars and other things for studio use. If you have a scholarship, it is imperative that you give that information to us at the beginning of the season.

### **Work Week:**

Some solos, duets/trios and group dances will be choreographed during WORK WEEK. Work week is currently scheduled for **the last week of July and the first two weeks of August**. Please keep these weeks (day and evening) open for choreography. We do realize school will be starting so once school starts we will only have choreography in the evening hours for those going back to school during Work Week. Solo, duet/trio choreography may also take place as early as June and July. The remainder of all choreography will take place September-December. We will do our best to get the choreographers in as early as possible. If you have any known conflicts, please indicate that on your audition form.

## **Choreography and Fees:**

Choreography for competition routines is paid to instructors at a different rate than regular weekly classes. All competition team dancers will pay a choreography fee for any routine that is choreographed for competition purposes. The choreographers/directors choose the participants for each competition routine. Many factors go into the placement of the students in the routines. They consider the overall concept of the dance and the dancer's ability to relate, the dancers overall technical ability and strengths and the ability to adapt. Much work goes into the choreography of each routine. The concept, music choice, music editing, costuming, use of props if applicable and many hours of preparation are all part of the "choreography." Please respect the artistic creativity of the instructors and choreographers and trust that they will do their best for each dancer and routine. Choreography fees are due in August or when group choreography begins and anytime a guest choreographer is brought in from out of town the fees will include choreography, flight, hotel, food, etc. This is not built into your monthly fee schedule.

## **Fee Schedule:**

A sample fee schedules will be available at the parent meeting. You will receive a customized fee schedule that will show the breakdown of all of the fees that you can expect during the season. The fee schedule is set for August-May.

The following charges will be included in your monthly fee schedule (more may apply)

- **Monthly Tuition:**
  - Tuition is due between the 5th-10th of the month. STDC does offer yearly scholarships to a select few families in need of financial assistance. If you would like an application, please contact Keally Lilly. An account that goes 30 days in arrears will be charged a \$25 late fee, your solo will be cancelled at the first/next competition and your standings in your group dances may be in jeopardy.
- **Rehearsal Fees:**
  - Every group that you are placed in has a weekly rehearsal time. The monthly fee for this varies but typically start at \$25 for 1 large group and then up to \$100 per month for several groups. The fee will depend on how many groups you are in and how many dancers are in your group. This fee also covers any extra rehearsals that we might have outside of your regular class. This includes weekend rehearsals and dress rehearsals prior to your first competition.
- **Costume Fee:**
  - All costume fees will be paid in 4 installments, September-December. Most costumes are custom made and ordered in August and September. Stones and hairpieces are included in your fee. We will also buy costumes online as well which is typically under \$100 to help offset the high costs of custom costumes. The fee is approximate, it could be less/more. We design all solo costumes for ages 11 and under but if you have an idea and want to do it on your own you are welcome to as long as it is approved by your solo instructor or team director. Solos for ages 12 and up are expected to design/order their own costume with guidance from your solo instructor. If you do your solo costume on your own, we will credit your account once your costume is approved and ordered. More guidance will be sent out for ordering solo costumes in early fall.

- **Competition Fees:**
  - We will attend 5 (possibly 6) competitions and the fees are included in your fee schedule.
- **Convention Fees:**
  - We will attend 5 conventions and an estimated fee is included in your fee schedule when the schedule and next season's convention fees are confirmed your fees will be updated to reflect exact fees for the conventions we will be attending.
- **Travel & Misc fee:**
  - Travel fees cover flights/hotel/food/gas/per diem. Misc. fee covers extra rhinestones, some props, photoshoot, parties, dress rehearsal facility rental, and other misc. items needed for competition throughout the year.
- **Makeup:**
  - Specific makeup colors are required, and the fee is built into your fee schedule, if we use any of the same makeup from the previous season and you already own it you will be given the opportunity for a credit, but not until makeup has been decided and ordering is complete.
- **Team warm ups:**
  - All members will have a warm up jacket to wear to competitions and performances. We typically purchase new styles every other year. If you purchased the "Be Free" warm up from 2023-2024 season and it still fits, you will not be required to get a new warm up, but new warm ups will be available to purchase this year.

It will be your responsibility to give any scholarships you have to Megan so she can deduct that from your fees owed.

### **Understudy:**

For group dances we typically have an understudy who learns the choreography and attends the weekly rehearsals in the event he/she is needed to step in. In this instance the understudy will not owe any fees to participate in the group dance and he/she will be loaned a costume. The dancer that was sick, pulled from the group dance etc. will still pay the fees for the group dance. NO EXCEPTIONS.

### **Conflict Calendar:**

We expect all members to use the conflict calendar we provide on google drive to input any major conflicts you may have; this helps us schedule extra rehearsals or other team events.

### **Photoshoot:**

In the summer or fall, THRIVE members will have company pictures taken so they can be on display at the studio, social media, website etc. There is no fee for the photoshoot, however, you will be given the opportunity to purchase the pictures through the photographer.

### **Team Apparel:**

We will offer team apparel to purchase in early fall for dancers, friends & family to purchase. This is optional but a great way to support your dancer and the studio during competitions.



**Fundraisers:**

All fundraising is done by the parents and all monies will go directly back into your accounts. Fundraising is not mandatory; however, it is a great way to offset your monthly expenses and Nationals. If you're interested, make sure to get added to the Fundraiser BAND communication app.

**Parent Involvement:**

Parents are a part of our success! Parents can volunteer their time stoning costumes, making hair accessories, planning and hosting parties, organizing travel plans, organizing food for conventions and much more! We do appreciate parents help in these areas and a sign up will be available to you this summer.

**Recital:**

Attendance at the recital is a requirement. It is a great way for your family and friends to come see you dance and a great way to get others interested in Company. Recital fees do apply and are due in March.

**Contract:**

You will be given your fall schedule and fees before signing the contract. Contracts will be due along with a \$150 non-refundable deposit on/before June 3rd. The deposit goes towards your August dues.

**Contact us:**

Keally Lilly, STDC Owner & Director: [keally@southtulsadanceco.com](mailto:keally@southtulsadanceco.com)

Sydney Jennings, Company Co-Director: [sydneyjennings@southtulsadanceco.com](mailto:sydneyjennings@southtulsadanceco.com)