

2023 Nutcracker Information

Dancer requirements to participate:

- Must be age five as of August 31, 2023
- Must have taken ballet for at least one year
- Must attend audition; individual auditions will NOT be held
- Must agree to Nutcracker Contract with \$150 deposit
- Must sell tickets to paid performances and turn in money/unsold tickets before the show.

Class Attendance Policies:

- All performers must be enrolled in at least ONE ballet class at Swansboro Dance Studio for the entire 2023/2024 Dance Season and attend faithfully.
- All POINTE performers must be enrolled in at least TWO pointe classes at Swansboro Dance Studio for the ENTIRE 2023/2024 Dance Season and attend faithfully. • Expected to comply with classroom dress code and behavior.
- Should your circumstances change during this contract, please contact Mrs. Heather.

- **ALL DANCERS CAST IN A POINTE ROLE MUST ATTEND A SUMMER DANCE CAMP/INTENSIVE.**

Financial Information:

- **Deposit of \$150 to be paid on May 24 at audition (along with signed contract.)**
- Remaining balance of \$150 (fee totalling \$300) will be due October 1.
- Additional siblings will cost \$175, additional to the \$300 for the first child.
- Dancer fee (\$300) includes a long sleeve pull-over.
- T-shirts and other 2023 Nutcracker attire may be purchased separately for dancers or loved ones. Options and prices announced in the fall.
- Costumes must be paid in full before they are distributed. Costs will be announced in the fall and are due when they are billed.
- All shoes, tights, and make-up are furnished by the dancers.

Casting, Costumes and Props:

- Dancers must accept roles assigned to them knowing that they are assigned with consideration for their specific abilities and the requirements of the overall production. We do our best to find the perfect parts for each child based on his/her interests, abilities and the needs of the show; trust our professional opinions.
- Dancers assigned to understudy a role are expected to know the choreography and stay current with corrections. This is a wonderful learning and growth opportunity.
- Dancers are responsible for their costumes and accessories from the time they are distributed until the last performance.
- Costume Rentals require a \$20 refundable deposit, CASH ONLY. They should be cleaned according to instructions prior to their prompt return after the show. If costumes are not cleaned or have been damaged; deposit will not be refunded, or the parent is responsible for the cost to replace the costume. Rentals are not available for every costume.

- New Costumes – Though new costumes are yours to keep, remember that they might be used again for next year. Please store them carefully.
- Costume donation – If you have a costume, you no longer need, please consider donating them to the studio so that someone else may rent them.
- All female dancers are required to have theater pink tights, ballet shoes and wear their hair in a low ballerina bun, parted on THEIR left, unless otherwise instructed. The bun should be in a hairnet, available at any drug store. No jewelry except specified by Mrs. Heather.
- Purchase of a nude leotard is strongly encouraged so that your child may quickly change costumes backstage. There is not enough room to give everyone a private changing area. These leotards may be purchased at Sue's Dance Studio in Jacksonville, or many online stores.
- Props used by dancers will be distributed just before their dance and returned immediately to the backstage volunteer who distributed them.

Rehearsals:

IF YOU ARE NOT AVAILABLE MOST SATURDAYS FROM SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER, please wait to participate in Nutcracker when you have more availability. (Exceptions will NOT be made!)

- Proper attire for rehearsals is black leotard, pink tights, and appropriate shoes. Hair should be pulled back in a bun. Looking professional affects your teacher's perception of your taking your part seriously.
- With the exception of youngest dancers, daytime rehearsals will begin the two weeks before school begins – dates TBD. These will not be full cast rehearsals. Each group will generally be called in to rehearse 2-4 times over these two weeks, usually for about 1 hour. This schedule will be released as early as possible.
- Saturday morning rehearsals will begin **Sept. 9 and run through approximately Nov. 18** except for Saturday, October 8 for Mullet Festival. Not every part will be needed every week, but by mid-October we will likely be rehearsing almost all the show. Schedule will be announced monthly but is subject to change.
- Younger dancers, party parents and other "acting" roles may not be needed until late in the rehearsal process.
- Frequently your child will be free to leave before the scheduled rehearsal time. You might consider arriving 10-15 minutes before the scheduled end time. You **MUST** pick up your child by the final scheduled end time.
- Dancers are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances in which they are cast as a performer or understudy.
- **Dancers must arrive on time for all rehearsals and performances as scheduled. Unexcused absences are subject to cast changes.**
- Dancers and their families are expected to check emails for rehearsal and performance schedules which are subject to change.

Dress Rehearsals, Performances and Conduct Expectations:

- There will be a preliminary dress rehearsal at the studio (or other location) in early November. Dancers will wear costumes but otherwise it will be a typical rehearsal.

- Nutcracker Week is Saturday, November 11 through the performance days of November 17-19. During this week there will be one full dress-rehearsal at Swansboro High School Auditorium. **THIS REHEARSAL WILL BE MANDATORY.** Any dancer absent from dress rehearsal will lose their role. Other rehearsals could be announced. Make your schedule flexible and pay attention to emails.
- Ticketed performances will be November 17-19 at Swansboro High School. Generally, there are four ticketed shows: Friday 7 pm, Saturday 2 & 7 pm and Sunday at 2 pm.
- Other free performances (which may or may not involve all performers) may include:
 - Candlelight Shopping on Nov. 12 in downtown Swansboro, nursing home performances, elementary performances and more. These performances are not required and some may occur AFTER Nutcracker week. Details will be announced as plans are confirmed.
 - At **all performances**, dancers are expected to behave in a manner consistent with the discipline and ideals of the art of dance and the performance standards of Swansboro Dance Studio and comply with company standards of make-up and hair styling for performances.

Most Important Tips:

- Make sure that we have your current email address and phone! Most communication will be via email but we also use the chat in Dance Studio Pro (DSP.)
- We have a Facebook group called *Swansboro & Emerald Isle Dance Studio Families*. Join this group to communicate with other Nutcracker families. Feel free to ask questions on this page.