

2025 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP



JULY 2 - 8, 2025
RHODE ISLAND CONVENTION CENTER
PROVIDENCE, RI

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WELCOME!

We are so excited to welcome you this coming summer to beautiful downtown Providence, RI for American Dance Awards' National Championship competition! Since 1979, we at ADA have taken great pride in creating the ultimate dance competition event that celebrates the hard work, talent and teamwork of so many individuals from all over the continent and beyond.

Throughout the past 46 years, we have seen so many changes in the world of competitive dance. What has never changed, however, is ADA's commitment to offer our dancers and their families the experience of a professional production, always stressing the importance of technique, education, artistic expression... and fun! With a season of sold-out regionals throughout the U.S., Canada, and South Africa, you can expect nothing less than the highest caliber of talent to be in attendance, all assembled for ONE National Championship. We are so proud to have built and continue to be a part of a community of dancers who are motivated to be the absolute best they can be.

At Nationals, you will have the opportunity to take part in our Championship Competition, and perhaps participate with the best of the best in ADA's exclusive Dance Off, Dancer of the Year, and Elite Six competitions. And of course, it is ADA's long-standing tradition for each of the 12 & Under and 13 & Over competitions to culminate in our exhilarating Awards Gala, where we will recognize true excellence in dance performance and choreography. Prepare to be inspired! In addition, whether you are a novice or a seasoned titleist contestant, we encourage you to always learn from each other and from the incredible professionals teaching our 20+ convention classes, which are all included in your Nationals experience!

Thank you for being the most important part of ADA. We are thrilled to come together year after year to celebrate the art of dance with all of our studio owners, teachers, dancers, and dance families. We are honored that you have chosen to be part of the American Dance Awards family, for this, our 46th season and beyond!

See you this summer!

Your friends,
The Staff and Faculty of ADA

OUTLINE OF EVENT SCHEDULE

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| JUNE 30TH, JULY 1ST | Dancer of the Year Orientations, Audition Classes, and Opening Number Rehearsals |
| JULY 2ND | National Championship competition begins! |
| JULY 3RD | National Championship competition, America's Young Dancer of the Year |
| JULY 4TH | National Championship competition, America's Junior Dancer of the Year |
| JULY 5TH | 12 & UNDER DANCE OFF AND AWARDS GALA! |
| JULY 6TH | National Championship competition, America's Teen Dancer of the Year |
| JULY 7TH | National Championship competition, America's Senior Dancer of the Year |
| JULY 8TH | 13 & OVER DANCE OFF AND AWARDS GALA! |

All schedules are subject to change. Final event and competition schedules are released closer to the event.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP FEES

Each registered student pays a one-time Registration Fee, which includes:

- All Convention Classes
- Admission to the AWARDS GALA (for the dancer & two adults)
- Exclusive discounts on merchandise & photo/video

REGISTRATION FEES

AGES 10 & OVER – \$150

AGES 7-9 – \$100

AGES 6 & UNDER – FREE

DOTY PARTICIPANTS ARE NOT EXEMPT FROM THIS FEE.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP ENTRY FEES

Studios: Contact ADA directly for entry fee details.

Canadian Schools: Must pay in U.S. funds and may receive a currency exchange discount on entry fees if a minimum number of entries are met.

No discounts on Registration Fees or DOTY Fees.

All fees must be paid in full by June 1, 2025.

ARRIVAL TO NATIONALS

CHECKING IN - MEET & GREET

We would like to cordially invite all Studio Owners to join us for a Meet & Greet on the evening of July 1st (time and location TBA). This open Q&A session will address any last minute questions, additions, changes etc. It keeps the event organized and stress free! You will receive copies of the Championship competition schedule, Dancer of the Year schedules, convention class bracelets, and choose your Gala seating order. If the Studio Owner cannot be there at the Meet & Greet, we ask that a representative checks in at the registration table and picks up your bag at the start of competition on the 2nd. Students need to be wearing their convention bracelets in order to be admitted into convention classes, which begin the night of 7/2.

WELCOME COCKTAIL PARTY

Studio Owners and Teachers, come be our guest and join the ADA Staff and your fellow attendees for a Welcome Cocktail Party on July 2nd! More details to follow.

It will be a great evening of camaraderie and celebration to kick off the week. You won't want to miss it!

PROP LOAD-IN

We only approve free standing props. No rigging of any kind can be provided, all props must be free standing. ADA will not alter our lighting for an entry. Any routines with props, use of electric/power, or stage clean up MUST be communicated to ADA prior. Any studio requiring a prop load-in/delivery set up a time of arrival with the ADA staff so we may alert the Convention Center. If they are delivered in a box truck of any kind, the truck must be removed immediately from the loading area after the props are unloaded. A designated prop storage area will be assigned.

WHAT TO EXPECT



→ **COMPETITION**

Our competition is often split up into 2 or 3 "teams" or "rooms" to accommodate the number of entries. Each team competes independently, and then the Dance Off is a combined new competition featuring top entries from the various teams. This structure helps to keep our competition hours modest, and ensures that studios do not have dancers on more than one stage at a time.

→ **CONVENTION**

ADA offers a full convention at our National Championships! With their Registration Fee, all dancers gain access to 30+ classes throughout the week in all ages and genres. These classes are not to be missed! Our faculty of industry professionals create an exhilarating experience for every dancer. We offer special workshops, Teacher seminars, audition readiness classes...and more! ADA in Class Ambassadors for Fall workshops are nominated by the faculty out of the convention classes.

→ **DANCE OFF & AWARDS GALA**

The top scoring entries from each category (Solo, Duo/Trio, Small Group, Large Group, etc.) in each room (team) of competition will perform once again in the exciting National Championship Dance Off! High score entries in each category are announced at the Awards Gala, and The Elite Six is chosen to re-compete LIVE for our Gala audience. Gala tickets for dancer and 2 guests are included in their Registration Fee. Tickets are organized by your studio owner prior to the event. See details on Page 8.

→ **DANCER OF THE YEAR**

The next level of competition for regional Ultimate Challenge winners is America's Dancer of the Year (DOTY) where winners from each regional event in the USA, Canada, South Africa, Ecuador, and China will vie for the coveted title of America's Dancer of the Year. Contestants not only perform their solo, but they are also judged in audition classes and featured in a show-stopping Opening Number! See details on Pages 9 & 10.

→ **ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

It's the BEST week of the summer! ADA Nationals features themed Spirit Days, a Parent Dance Jam (don't miss it!), our ADA branded photo booth, and fun dance parties for the participants! Make sure to check the schedule to see what fun offerings ADA has in store this time!

THE DANCE OFF

The top scoring entries from each category (Solo, Duo/Trio, Small Group, Large Group, etc.) in each room (team) of competition will perform once again in the exciting National Championship Dance Off! Dance Off participants are determined by the performance score only from the National Championship Competition. High score entries in each Dance Off category are announced at the Awards Gala! It is a night not to be missed. Gala tickets for two adults and one dancer are included in each dancers' Registration Fee.

9 & UNDER DANCE OFF

The top 3 solos, and the top 10 Duo-Production entries from each team of competition compete in the Dance Off

JUNIOR DANCE OFF

The top 5 highest scoring entries from each category (solo, duo/trio, small group, large group, etc.) from each team of competition will compete in the Dance Off.

13 & OVER DANCE OFF

The top 7 highest scoring entries from each category (solo, duo/trio, small group, large group, etc.) from each team of competition will compete in the Dance Off.

DANCE OFF REGULATIONS

- No soloist will perform more than once in the Dance Off. Duos cannot be the same dancers.
- No studio is allowed more than 2 entries in any one category, with the exception of soloists.
- Cash award winners are determined by their Dance Off performance.
- The number of routines entered into the Dance Off from each room is contingent on the number of entries total.
- The Dance Off will be judged by a new panel comprised of members of the DOTY panel, National Championships panels, and additional adjudicators.
- All Championship cash prize amounts can be found on the National Championship page of our website.

THE ELITE SIX

From the Dance Off entries, the Elite Six is chosen (from the Junior and 13 & Over Dance Offs) to re-compete at our Awards Gala! The top 6 highest scoring Small Group - Production entries will be announced immediately following their Dance Off. They will then dance again for a packed Video Awards Gala audience that evening. Making the Elite Six is HUGE – it means you are the top 6 out of hundreds of performances!

The Elite Six is tabulated live for the audience by use of a skating system. Each judge holds up a card with a number on it (1-6) for how they rank each entry! The winner is determined by a majority of 1's or a majority of the lowest numbers, based on the skating system. This tabulation method is not only exciting and exhilarating, but it is also completely transparent for the performers and the audience!



America's Dancer of the Year

2025 CONTESTANT INFORMATION

REGISTRATION

All registration and payment will be completed by your studio in their [Online Registration Portal](#). Registration is now open - you can be registered for DOTY at any time after your qualification at a Regional event. The final deadline for all DOTY registrations will be May 15th.

All contestants are required to provide a vertical, COLOR headshot with a white background (minimum 5x7", 1500x2100px, 300ppi). Your studio owner will upload this in their Media Manager, along with your solo music by May 15th. Please clearly label the photo file (Dancer's Name - Age Division - Studio). These pictures are used in our digital National Championship program and will also be displayed in the lobby. Please note: Contestants' names will be printed according to the spelling/capitalization entered in the online registration.

AUDITION CLASSES & COMMITMENTS

In addition to competing their solo at their respective Title Competition, Title contestants in the Junior, Teen, and Senior age divisions participate in an orientation, a contestant introduction, four mandatory audition classes (Ballet, Tap, Jazz, and Contemporary/Lyrical), a video introduction recording session, and rehearsals for their Opening Number.

Title Contestants in the Young age division participate only in a day-of Orientation and their Solo Competition.

FEES

DOTY fees must be paid in full by May 15th by your registered dance studio. ADA will not accept personal checks or payments from parents.

YOUNG: \$200
JUNIOR, TEEN, SENIOR: \$275

All DOTY participants must also pay the Nationals Registration Fee which includes unlimited access to a week of convention classes, tickets for the dancer & 2 guests to their respective gala, and exciting coupons!

SCHEDULE

DOTY Audition Classes and Opening Number choreography rehearsals will begin on June 30th and July 1st, prior to the National Championship competition starting on July 2nd. Rehearsals and classes may continue during the week, prior to their Title Competition evening. These dates and times are released with the National Championship schedule.

The Opening Numbers will be performed at their Title Competitions, and again to open the 12 & Under Gala on July 5th (for Junior DOTY) or 13 & Over Gala on July 8th (for Teen & Senior DOTY).

YOUNG DOTY CONTESTANTS

Orientation: afternoon of July 3rd
Title Competition: evening of July 3rd

JUNIOR DOTY CONTESTANTS

Orientation: June 30th
Title Competition: evening of July 4th

TEEN DOTY CONTESTANTS

Orientation: June 30th
Title Competition: evening of July 6th

SENIOR DOTY CONTESTANTS

Orientation: June 30th
Title Competition: evening of July 7th

CONTESTANTS MUST BE PRESENT AT THEIR RESPECTIVE ORIENTATIONS TO BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN DOTY, NO EXCEPTIONS. PLEASE PLAN YOUR TRAVEL ACCORDINGLY.

All schedules are subject to change. All further scheduling & contestant information will be communicated directly to studio owners.

America's Dancer of the Year

Q & A

WHAT ARE DOTY AUDITION CLASSES?

In an effort to choose the most well-rounded technical dancer for each title, ADA presents audition classes for each age group (Junior, Teen, and Senior).

This is separate from the convention classes offered to all National Championship competitors. Each class is 90 minutes long and dancers must take all 4 classes (Ballet, Tap, Jazz, and Contemporary/Lyrical). The panel of DOTY judges score the dancers in each class, to be added to their Performance Score. There will be High Score Class Awards presented for each age division.

WHAT IS THE DRESS CODE FOR AUDITION CLASSES?

Female contestants: Black leotard. Ballet: pink tights. Jazz, Tap, Contemporary/Lyrical: Black dance shorts, black tights or tan tights. NO leggings, baggy shorts, bra tops, sports bras or cropped tops. Audition ready appearance. *Male contestants:* Black or white tank top or form fitting t-shirt. Black dance tights, shorts, or pants. Audition ready appearance.

DO I HAVE TO ATTEND ORIENTATION?

Yes! All contestants must attend their Orientation to be eligible to compete in DOTY. Dancers will have the chance to meet the ADA Directors, Staff, and their fellow contestants and will review all commitments and schedules for the week.

We encourage all parents and teachers to join for Orientation. Following Orientation, all audition classes and rehearsals are closed to observers.

WHAT ARE THE "CONTESTANT INTROS"?

Before their first scheduled audition class, DOTY Contestants will introduce themselves to the judging panel one at a time with their name and age, followed by 15-20 seconds of dancing (32 counts) in a style of their choice to our music - can be jazz, tap, tumbling, contortion, hip-hop, ballroom...you name it! This allows the panel to see their personality and individual strengths. It is very helpful for the judges to put a face and a name to each contestant number prior to the first audition class. Prior to your arrival, we will notify you of the music that will be played for your Age Division.

WHAT ARE VIDEO INTRODUCTIONS?

Each Junior, Teen, and Senior DOTY contestant will be part of a special video recording session with our ADA Production team, where they create an introduction to be played before their solo performance! Contestants will state their name, hometown and state, the type of dance they will perform, and a little extra personal message of their choice. Dancers are not to mention the name of their studio, teachers, or choreographers. The videographer takes a head and shoulder shot of each contestant. Attire for the videotaping is whatever the dancer feels comfortable in, but absolutely no green can be worn. Hair and makeup may be worn however they choose. Total introduction is 10 - 15 seconds.

MAY I COMPETE MY SOLO DURING THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION AS WELL?

No, contestants may not compete their solo from the title competition at any other time during the National Championships. Different solos will be accepted for the National Championship competition, without regional pre-qualification.

DO I HAVE TO COMPETE IN DOTY USING THE SOLO I WON WITH AT REGIONALS?

Contestants may compete any solo they choose for the America's Dancer of the Year competition, it does not have to be one they regionally competed or won with.

WHAT IS THE OPENING NUMBER?

Dancers in the Junior, Teen, and Senior have the opportunity to work with a choreographer to create an Opening Number! This is performed twice - at their Title Competition and at their respective Gala (Junior at the 12 & Under Gala on July 5th, Teen & Senior at the 13 & Over Gala on July 8th). All contestants are absolutely encouraged to stay through to their respective galas to perform again. The contestants begin rehearsals for their Opening Numbers on June 30th & July 1st. In the days following, Opening Number brush-up rehearsals will be scheduled until each Title Competition takes place. These brush-up rehearsals are mandatory, however the Nationals Competition schedule takes precedence over Opening Number rehearsals. If you have a conflict during the rehearsal, you may let your choreographer know that a teacher will be calling you out of rehearsal in order to compete and you may return when your performance is finished. There will also be an Opening Number blocking/dress rehearsal scheduled for each age division on the stage.

WHAT DO CONTESTANTS WEAR FOR THE OPENING NUMBER?

We allow contestants to bring their own costume according to their choreographer's guidelines. These guidelines will be sent out to Studio Owners before your arrival to Nationals. These can all be items brought from home, please do not feel pressure to go out and purchase anything new specifically for Opening Number. Please make sure you can dance/move freely in your costume.

HOW DOES JUDGING WORK FOR DOTY?

Our DOTY Panel consists of 5 scoring judges. For Junior, Teen, and Senior DOTY, each judge scores the contestant in every class (Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Contemporary/Lyrical) out of 15 points. To determine the contestant's total class score, their Ballet class score is added with their top 2 class scores (their lowest class score is dropped) for a total possible Combined Class score of 45 points from each judge. Out of the 5 judges, the highest and lowest score are dropped in tabulation.

The Solo Performance score will be out of 100 points from each judge. The highest score and lowest score are dropped in tabulation. The Combined Class score is added to their Solo Performance score to determine their final score.

Following each age division's Solo Performances, there is a final Awards Ceremony, announcing High Score Class Winners and a Top 20 for Junior, Teen, and Senior DOTY, before announcing the 2025 DOTY Winners. (See below for information on Young DOTY).

WHAT DO YOUNG DOTY CONTESTANTS PARTICIPATE IN?

Young DOTY is a Solo competition only - their only commitments are their Orientation and their Title Competition. There are no adjudicated classes or Opening Number choreography. Their Solo Performance score will be out of 100 points from each judge. The highest score and lowest score are dropped in tabulation for a total possible score of 300 points. At their final Awards Ceremony, a Top 10 is announced before announcing the 2025 Young DOTY Winners.

Rather than doing a video introduction, they will get to introduce themselves live on stage, saying their Contestant #, Name, Age, Hometown, Title of Solo, and a brief thank you. They may not say the name of their studio, teachers, or choreographer. They can practice this beforehand and we will also rehearse at their Orientation.

SEE YOU AT NATIONALS!

Questions?

Studio Owners & Office Staff can reach out for more information on our National Championship, ADA in Class 2025, and the 2026 Regional Tour!

For efficiency and clarity in communication, ADA does not correspond with parents or dancers through email, phone or DM. We ask that you reach out to your dance studio directly.



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