



America's Dancer of the Year

2026 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 must 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 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.

DOTY FEES

DOTY fees must be paid in full by June 1st by your registered dance studio. ADA will not accept personal checks or payments from parents.

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

SCHEDULE

DOTY Audition Classes and Opening Number choreography rehearsals will begin on July 18th and July 19th, prior to the National Championship competition starting on July 20th. 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 23rd (for Junior DOTY) or 13 & Over Gala on July 26th (for Teen & Senior DOTY).

YOUNG DOTY CONTESTANTS

Orientation: afternoon of July 21st
Title Competition: evening of July 21st

JUNIOR DOTY CONTESTANTS

Orientation: July 18th
Title Competition: evening of July 22nd

TEEN DOTY CONTESTANTS

Orientation: July 18th
Title Competition: evening of July 24th

SENIOR DOTY CONTESTANTS

Orientation: July 19th
Title Competition: evening of July 25th

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.