

YAGP Team Info Sheet

What Is YAGP?

Youth America Grand Prix is a world-renowned international ballet competition based out of the U.S. They recruit some of the best professional dancers, directors, and choreographers in the ballet community for judging and teaching master classes. Competitors come from all over the world to showcase their talent, hard work, and passion for the art form.

Why should my student be on PDT's YAGP Team?

YAGP Team is for students who are passionate about ballet and want to make ballet a priority.

- ❖ **Individual Instruction:** Participating in PDT's YAGP team offers more opportunities for individual attention, instruction, and correction.
- ❖ **Extracurricular Learning:** Variations, regardless of age, tend to have steps and skills outside PDT's ballet curriculum. Learning and practicing variations adds new and more advanced skills to a student's toolbox under individualized direction.
- ❖ **Motivation:** At times, a student only experiencing studio dance life can become complacent in their dance progression. Performing with incredible talent from all over the world and taking classes from the best in the industry can help motivate and inspire students to continue to work hard to improve.
- ❖ **Performance Opportunity:** YAGP team enables students to perform one or more solos for a large audience and discerning judges, without the multiple competition obligation of PCC. However, students are welcome to perform their YAGP solos at other competitions if they choose.

Can my student participate in both PCC and YAGP?

Yes! Students may audition for both the PCC and YAGP Team. Students may also audition for only one team. Students on both teams may elect to do YAGP variations at other competitions, but are not required to do so.

[Students who haven't done pointe AT PDT, should contact you prior to doing the pointe audition.]

How does my student audition for PDT YAGP Team?

This year's auditions will take place via video submissions. Audition choreography will be set by video and made available on May 16th. Students will have 11:59 pm on May 25th to submit videos back to the studio. Students aged 12 and older as of January 1, 2021 that have started pointe in the studio need to audition en pointe. All parents will be notified via email on whether their student(s) are accepted. Note, this could take 1-2 weeks. Placements will be made based on:

- ❖ Teacher evaluation of a student's dance ability and aptitude based on auditions and during ballet classes. PDT uses a detailed rubric along with a panel discussion with the staff to evaluate student auditions.
- ❖ Audition Form: A student's availability and interests greatly affect placement. It is very important to fill out the audition form accurately so that we can gauge a student's interest and potential conflicts.
- ❖ Please know that whether or not you're selected to join the PCC or YAGP team, ALL our PDT students are important to us and receive our full attention during classes.

What are the obligations of being on the YAGP Team?

- ❖ **Variation Setting and Choreography:** It is required to perform a solo classical variation to compete at YAGP. Any additional solos are optional, including contemporary numbers. If your student is in both PCC and YAGP, contemporary numbers choreographed for PCC may be performed at YAGP. Your student may also request a contemporary solo choreographed specifically for YAGP. Social distancing guidelines permitting, variation setting and choreography will occur over summer so that they are ready to rehearse come fall.
- ❖ **Rehearsal:** Rehearsals will be on Saturday mornings, however specific time and duration are TBD based on the number of participating students.
- ❖ **Class Enrollment:** Students must be enrolled in at least 2 ballet classes per week if offered for their age/level. Students age 12 as of January 1, 2021 must be in the associated pointe classes or practice pointe work during class. We highly recommend that students in Ballet Grades 5 and above take 3 ballet classes a week.
- ❖ **ICB:** Imperial Classical Ballet examination is not required, though highly recommended for YAGP students. Studying at that level will supplement and support their ballet technique for competition. Since your student will be taking multiple ballet classes a week, they will be well prepared for their grade level ICB exam and would enjoy the opportunity to affirm and validate their hard work.
- ❖ **Showcase:** YAGP Team competitors will perform their variations and solos in PCC's showcase late January 2021. This is an important chance to perform in front of an audience of friends and family in costume prior to competing.
- ❖ **Competition:** We will attend one regional YAGP competition. We aim to attend the regional competition in Kansas City, MO this year, however this will depend on PCC scheduling, parent needs, and teacher discretion. The selected venue will be disseminated to parents as soon as possible for travel arrangement and planning.
- ❖ **Photoshoot:** We will have one YAGP Team specific photoshoot during the year. Date, time, and location are TBD.

What are the financial obligations of being on the YAGP Team?

- ❖ **Variation Setting and Choreography:** Classical variation setting is included in the teacher fee. Contemporary choreography will be the same as PCC solo rates.
- ❖ **Competition Fees:**
 - Registration fee \$95.00 - *This includes master class tuition*
 - Classical/Contemporary Solo fee \$110.00 per solo
 - Teacher fee \$250.00 - *This includes all classical variation setting*
- ❖ **Rehearsal:** Rehearsal fees are TBD, depending on number of participants, however it will be similar to PCC rehearsal fees for a solo.
- ❖ **Costume:**
 - Classical Variation Tutu: Tutus are expensive costumes, as they take an incredible amount of hours to create. However, there are options to minimize cost if that is ideal for your student and your family. Keep in mind, tutus may be reused, repurposed, or resold after competition.
 - Most affordable option: Basic components ordered online, embellished simply, approx \$200.00
 - Mid level option: Basic tutu ordered online, custom bodice made to student's measurements and embellished, approx \$350.00
 - High end option: Custom tutu and bodice made to student's measurements and embellished using couture fabrics, includes all accessories, approx \$600.00
 - Contemporary Costume: Costume for contemporary solos will be comparable to normal competition costumes, and can range from \$60.00-\$250.00 depending on where they are purchased from and how complicated they are.
- ❖ **Pointe Shoes:** If your student is competing en pointe, the cost of pointe shoes is a very real consideration. Students will become stronger, and will be dancing en pointe much more than in normal class. It should be assumed that your advanced student will go through pointe shoes twice as fast as usual. It is also recommended that they have three pairs ready to go at competition just in case they break.
- ❖ **Travel and Lodging for Competition:** We will try our best to register for a venue that is reasonably affordable for families to attend. Families in the past have also worked together to secure options that reduce cost for all. Regardless, we will determine the venue soon enough to plan best for your family.

What is expected of my student's attitude on the YAGP Team?

Students should only participate if they are willing to work hard in and out of the studio. This is a partnership between the studio, the YAGP director, and student to promote growth and excellence. Students will get as much out of it as they have put in. A pre-professional level of self-management and accountability is expected, as during rehearsals there will be downtime for each student, where they are expected to practice and fix the corrections they were given by the next time they run their number. Additionally, students will be given 'homework' assignments to address individual weaknesses and

strengths at the beginning of the year. How a student competes at competition will be a direct representation of the effort, attention, and focus they have put in all year.

Students are also expected to be representatives of the studio, and carry themselves with respect and kindness in all areas of life. Bullying or delinquent behavior will not be tolerated. Students, at the discretion of the studio owners and YAGP director, may be removed from the team for lack of effort, poor behavior, and/or poor attitude in rehearsals and technique classes.

What is the attendance policy?

Life is complicated, and driven kids are generally talented in multiple extracurricular activities. Things come up, students get sick, etc. Absences are acceptable as long as they are communicated by email to Miss Emily prior to the rehearsal the student will miss. Additionally, absences must be made up with a 15 minute private lesson (at studio rate) to rehearse what was missed.

Absences without make up lessons will be tallied. If a student accumulates five outstanding absences, the student will be at risk of being prohibited to compete as a representative of our studio. This is at the sole discretion of PDT. As YAGP is largely an individual competition, frequent absences don't impact your student's teammates, however they do impact your student and their overall experience competing.