WINTER WISHES

POM AND DANCE COMPETITION 2027

Visit the **WINTER WISHES** page of our website for complete details!

DATE & LOCATION:

Join us on Saturday - February 27th, 2027 at Lake Orio High School. The Winter Wishes Pom and Dance Competition is an annual event for schools, community programs, all star teams, and studios. The schedule will be available two weeks prior to the event. A map can be found on our website. The competition will take place in the gymnasium. Registration and full payment are due by January 27, 2027.

Professional performance videos and action photos are included in your registration fees!

REGISTRATION RATES:

GROUP ROUTINES: First routine - **$27** per participant Additional routines - **$15** per participant.
If participation numbers fluctuate between routines, the routine with the largest number of participants must be registered as the 'First Routine'. Registration fees are ***non-refundable, non transferable*** unless a refund is requested in writing more than one month prior to the event.

GRADUATING SENIOR SOLO COMPETITION: $50 per routine
2027 Graduating senior dancers who are registered to perform in a group routine may also register to compete a solo. Solos and Duo/Trios may be Hip Hop, Jazz, or Lyrical/Contemporary. Routines must be suitable for **all** viewing audiences. Dancers may only compete one Solo.

*With the exception of the 2027 Graduating Senior Solo division, the 2027 Winter Wishes Pom and Dance Competition will not feature Solo and Duo/Trio divisions. However, any dancer participating in a team routine is eligible for a discount code to compete their solo or duo/trio at **any** of the Dance Force Xpress Regional Dance Competitions. With six venues and dates available, the Regional Dance Competitions provide a competitive atmosphere with a fantastic mix of talent.*

Coaches/Directors must request all discount codes by the Winter Wishes registration deadline (January 27th) and must meet all registration deadlines for the selected Regional Dance Competition.

SPECTATOR FEES and DONATIONS TO MAKE-A-WISH, MICHIGAN:

Spectator tickets are $7 for adults, with half of every spectator ticket donated to Make-A-Wish Michigan. Children 5 and under are free. Tickets are cash only. In the event that a credit must be used to purchase tickets, a $1 ***per ticket*** service charge will be added to the total.

DIVISIONS: Dancers may not be registered in two divisions, i.e. JV and Varsity. However, dancers may compete in both the Team and Studio divisions at the same competition.

Collegiate; must consist of students who perform or compete as a Collegiate level team.

Varsity (SCHOOL) ; must consist of students with an average age of 9th-12th grade. Varsity teams should be those who perform, compete, and are recognized as a Varsity team by their home school.

Junior Varsity (SCHOOL); must consist of students with an average age of 9th-12th grade. Junior Varsity teams should be those who perform, compete, and are recognized as a Varsity team by their home school.

Middle School/Junior High (SCHOOL); must consist of students with an average age of 6th-9th grade.

Studio Teen: 13 and Over (NON-SCHOOL AFFILIATED);
must consist of students with an average age of 13 and over.

Studio Junior: 10-12 Years (NON-SCHOOL AFFILIATED);
must consist of students with an average age of 10-12 years.

The following divisions will compete as one division, including both School and Studio groups:
Petite (Average Age 7-9); must consist of students with an average age of 7-9 years.
Mini (Average Age 6 and Under); must consist of students with an average age of 6 and under.

SIZE DIVISIONS:

If more than 8 routines are registered in a Division/Category, the category may be split according to the number of participants. These divisions are not pre-determined, and will be based on the actual registration numbers for the event. Example: Small Varsity, Large Varsity, etc. Division is at the discretion of Dance Force Xpress, and is in the best interest of keeping a competitive atmosphere.

CATEGORIES *(Each team is allowed to register one routine per category)*

Hip Hop: A vibrant form of dance that combines a mixture of precision and often freestyle movements. Hip Hop has evolved into a popular and influential styles of dance.
Jazz/Lyrical/Contemporary: Use of technique with such moves as turns, kicks, leaps, extensions, etc. Encompasses the use of balance, flexibility, and control while utilizing the cues, lyrics, and tempo changes of the music. This category often adds expressive choreography and the use of emotions to tell a story or give a visual of the music or lyrics.
Dance Tech Pom: Fast-paced precision movements. Technical elements such as leaps and turns must be included in the choreography. A kickline is not required, but is allowed.
Traditional Pom: Precision movements with focus on the use of visual effects involving poms, color, formations, and transitions. Routine **must** include a kickline with all team members performing a minimum of 12 simultaneous kicks at any level.
Open/Team Performance: Any routine that does not specifically fit one of the categories above.

JUDGING CATEGORIES *(Judging categories may be updated prior to the competition)*

Appearance/Music, Choreography, Skill Level/Difficulty, Rhythm/Timing/Precision, Formations/Transitions, Showmanship, and Overall Impression are each worth 10 points and are on ALL judging sheets.

In Traditional Pom, there is a 10 point category for Kickline, including height and form. In Dance Tech Pom, Jazz, and Lyrical/Contemporary there is a 10 point category for Technique. In Hip Hop, there is a 10 point category for Style.

Total possible points per judge is 80. There are 3 judges for each routine for a total of 240 points possible. All judges will provide verbal feedback, with each performance receiving three performance videos through their Dance Comp Genie account. Specific details on what the judges are looking for in each category will be emailed prior to the competition in the 'Guide to Judging – Winter Wishes'.

Please note in advance: Choreography must be original competition choreography that is unique to your team. Routines, or portions of routines, that are recognized from clinics, camps, previous performances by your team or another team, and/or workshops may have points deducted in the choreography category.

REQUIREMENTS/RULES

Registering for any Dance Force Xpress event indicates that the participant and legal guardian have reviewed and accepted the terms of the participant waiver in it's entirety. All team routines must be at least 1 minute and 30 seconds, and no longer than 3 minutes. Solos must be at least 45 seconds, and no longer than 2 minutes and 45 seconds. Music must be submitted **at least one week in advance**, and will be loaded directly to your Dance Comp Genie account. Routines that do not submit music in advance will not be allowed to perform. Music will be available for all routines in the warm up gym, as well as the main performance gym. Music may not be changed or updated on competition day.

Teams may start anywhere on the performance floor. Timing will begin with the music. Timing will end with the completion of music. Entrances and exits will not be included in the timing of the routine if performed after the completion of music, but should not exceed 15 seconds in length. Upon submission of music, please note anything that we should be aware of such as music cutting out and coming back in, music for exit after applause, etc.

Handheld props are allowed in all divisions. Do not use or throw props on or off the performance floor that might cause damage. The following items are **NOT ALLOWED**: liquids, gels, paint, aerosols, glitter, confetti, powders, etc.

Shoes must be non-marking. Any shoes that may potentially damage the performance floor will be required to be removed. Tap shoes are not allowed. Performers may wear any form of dance shoe or may go barefoot, although shoes are highly recommended for safety/sanitary reasons.

Unsafe moves: Any fall, drop, or landing where the complete body weight is unsupported (i.e. knee drops, body falls), stunts or partner moves where a performer is incapable of catching themselves or protecting their body from injury, or any tosses or throws of a performer without adequate safety measures/spotters are prohibited. Safety should be the first concern in regards to choreography. While we do not intend to limit choreography, and we cannot possibly list all prohibited movements and lifts, we stress that lifts and choreography should in no way be potentially dangerous to performers. If moves are in question, please send a short video clip to Info@DanceForceXpress.com for clarification.

Although these are not requirements, please consider the following in regards to safety; *Are there spotters for a lift? Is there any motion where a head injury could occur? Have those who are lifting or supporting someone been properly trained to avoid strain or injury?* A 5-point penalty will be assessed for any routines not meeting, or exceeding, the time limit, or performing moves that are determined to be unsafe.

"Dance Force Xpress stresses the importance of safety and requires participants to execute only those skills, techniques and practices that will not cause harm or injury to performers, spectators, or the facility."

AWARDS

Qualified and experienced judges will provide verbal critiques and complete score sheets. Directors or Coaches will receive video critiques through Dance Comp Genie within 48 hours following the competition.

Each performer will receive a placement ribbon for every routine. All team routines will receive a placement trophy or plaque. Medals/pins/or ribbons will be awarded for each performer in a first place routine.

Special judges choice awards will be handed out at the judge's discretion. A percentage of soloists will be recognized with placement trophies.

HIGH SCORE AWARDS

Awarded to the highest scoring routine in each division; Collegiate, Varsity, JV, Studio Teen13 and Over, Studio Junior 12 and Under, Junior High/Middle School, Petite, and Mini. All routines in all categories are eligible for this award. Teams will be awarded a banner, and each participant will receive a pin or medal.

REGISTRATION IS SIMPLE – ONLINE REGISTRATION OPENS AUGUST 1st, 2026:

- Visit www.DanceForceXpress.com and click on the REGISTRATION tab to register online.
  If you are new to using Dance Comp Genie, please watch our quick video tutorial on our website!
- Set up a Dance Comp Genie account for your team through the link on our website, or log into your account. Each team must have their own account (i.e. Varsity and JV from the same school should each create an account to ensure coaches each receive appropriate emails).
- Enter your full roster of performers. You will be required to enter a first name, last name, and birthdate and/or grade for each performer. Your roster must be added prior to registering routines.
- Go to the red 'ADD A NEW REGISTRATION' button. Enter an estimated number of routines for your team. This should include team routines and graduating senior solos.
- Enter a 'Routine Title' – Please use this format: "Team Name - Level, Category" ***(South Detroit - Varsity Jazz)***. Please avoid using music titles. Click on the green link to **"Add a new routine…"**
- Add the students that will be performing in that specific routine. Select either 'First Routine' or 'Additional Routine'. If the number of performers varies, please register the largest routine as the 'First Routine'. Select the category and level of the routine. Save the routine.
- Enter any additional routines in the same format. Solos are added by entering the routine name (Example: Jenny Solo) and enrolling a single dancer. The program will then register the routine as a Solo.
- Complete the checkout screen. If paying by credit card, you will pay online. If a check will be sent through the mail, please be sure to 'complete' the checkout process by selecting this method of payment. Your registration will not be complete until you fully check out.

- Registration is due ***January 27, 2027,*** and can be paid by credit card (online through Dance Comp Genie), school or studio check, or money order. Online registration must be complete, and full payment must be received by the deadline. Late fees are automatically added to any open registrations on January 28, 2027.

Registration may close early if event or specific divisions reach capacity.

IMPORTANT DATES – 2026/2027:

August 1st	Online registration opens through Dance Comp Genie
December 20th	Suggested latest date to submit online registration to your school administration
January 10th	Connect with your administration to ensure payment has been sent
January 27th	Final day to complete registration
February 13th	Schedule posted on the Dance Force Xpress website
February 20th	Music due; upload to Dance Comp Genie account
February 27th	Competition at Lake Orion High School

Your team's talent could help make Winter Wishes come true for Make-A-Wish, Michigan!

Please contact us with any additional questions. Find us on Facebook and Instagram.
We look forward to meeting you and your team soon!