



2026 PARTICIPANT INFORMATION PACKET

* HENRY FORD II PERFORMING ARTS CENTER *

STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

We are looking forward to seeing everyone on Sunday, May 17th in Sterling Heights, Michigan for our 'one-day' Solo, Duo/Trio, Small Group competition! If you have attended events with us in the past, we are thrilled to have you with us again. If you are joining us for the first time, we welcome you, and look forward to meeting you! If you are in need of directions, visit the UPCOMING EVENTS page of our website, www.DanceForceXpress.com.

The final schedule is on our website. The schedule lists the times that dancers are estimated to perform. Dancers should arrive in their first performance costume, and should be ready to perform at least 25 minutes prior to their estimated performance time.

Doors will open 30 minutes prior to the first performance each day – please do not plan on arriving earlier, as the building will not be accessible prior to those times. Thank you!

Please enter the Performing Arts Center through the Performing Arts Center lobby doors. Upon entry, you will be in the main lobby. Photo kiosks featuring action photos from *All Star Productions* and merchandise from *Dance Force Xpress* will be set up in the main lobby. Dance Force Xpress accepts cash, credit, or Venmo. Due to varied internet speeds at venues, we suggest cash purchases for a faster experience. Thank you!

There are no admission fees for spectators. There may be seats blocked off for the video and photo crews, as well as the Dance Force Xpress judging team. Please do not move any signs or sit in any restricted areas. During larger group performances, the spectator seating will fill up and the DFX and venue staff may ask audience members to fill the empty/available seats. We ask for cooperation in order to keep the event moving smoothly and on schedule. Guests standing in the doorways or in aisles are both a distraction and a safety issue. Dance Force Xpress staff members are available to address any needs or concerns, and will be stationed in the main lobby and backstage. ***The judging team and production team (photo and video) should not be approached at any time. Thank you in advance.*** If you must leave or re-enter, please only do so between routines. We ask that you reward every performance for a job well done! We encourage support, applause, and cheering. With respect for the performers, the use of electronics and casual conversation should be limited to the main lobby and commons area to ensure that dancers have a distraction-free performance. Thank you!

Food and drinks are not allowed in the theatre or dressing rooms and we Thank You for your cooperation in keeping the facility clean. ***Please do not have food items or beverages other than water with you as you enter the theatre; this includes tumblers/cups.***

Dance Force Xpress will have an assortment of snacks and bottled water available for purchase. Food and beverages may be brought into the venue, but should be consumed in the lobby or cafeteria where tables are available on a rotating basis. We ask that guests use the tables and then make them available for other guests.

If your dancers will be in the building for an extended period of time and you would like to coordinate a 'snack table', you may do so as long as the following guidelines are followed. Snack tables are only allowed in the cafeteria.

- Please designate **one** table for your studio snack table. To ensure that tables are available for guests, we ask that each studio only utilizes one table specifically for their snacks.
- Your table must be labeled with your studio name.
- For safety and sanitary purposes, food should not be left out for an extended period of time. Please ensure that a parent or representative is disposing of food that should be kept cold that has been out.
- Use of electrical items such as crockpots, coffee makers, and microwaves are **strictly** prohibited at all Dance Force Xpress events.
- Please ensure that your area is completely clean and free of trash or items at the end of the day.

DRESSING ROOM POLICY: To avoid congestion in the dressing rooms, only performers, registered studio staff members, and parents that are essential to the dancers' needs (ages 12 and below) are allowed in the 'backstage area', which includes the main hallway outside of the dressing rooms, dressing rooms, and backstage. **In the best interest of the dancers and studio staff members - guests, siblings, and parents who are not actively assisting in a costume change will be asked to return to the lobby, theatre, cafeteria, or commons area.**

Dressing rooms are provided and assigned for each studio. Dressing rooms have been assigned depending on the number of registered dancers per studio, per session. Dancers should ONLY be in the dressing rooms during the sessions that they are performing in. *For example;* if a dancer is scheduled to perform in Saturday session 3, they should not be in the dressing rooms during sessions 1 or 2. If you arrive early, dance bags can be stored around the perimeter of the cafeteria. Please be courteous when setting up your space. There will be times when the dressing rooms are busy due to the size of scheduled routines. Again – we stress that if dancers are not actively changing costumes, that they are not in the dressing rooms. Dancers are welcome in the lobby area, auditorium, commons area, or general areas if they are not actively changing. The dressing rooms are not practice or rehearsal areas. There are restrooms backstage for dancers as well as in the main lobby area. Participating studio staff members are asked to monitor your student's dressing room during the event and prior to leaving to ensure the area is clean.

As a reminder – items belonging to the venue are off limits to dancers and guests. Please do not touch, unplug, or move any items. ***Thank you!***

The male dressing room is only open to male performers, male studio staff members, and male parents. Females (parents, teachers, siblings, etc.) are not allowed in the male dressing room at any time. If there are situations where young male performers need assistance, please contact Dance Force Xpress prior to the event to coordinate the use of a family dressing space.

Photography and video recording during performances is prohibited. Any issues may result in the individuals being required to leave the venue. This policy is for the safety, privacy, and protection of our dancers. Thank you for your attention – we appreciate your dedication to keeping the competition running smoothly without distractions or interruptions regarding video recording. Photos may be taken during the awards presentations, as well as in the main lobby.

The event is not live streamed.

All Star Productions will be taking thousands of action photos as well as performance videos.

AGAIN THIS YEAR – both are included in your registration fees! We are absolutely thrilled to partner with All Star Productions to offer this fantastic value. Studio directors will be sent a link to photos and videos when they are available for download (approximately 5-7 days following the competition). Keep an eye on our social media for announcements as well. Looking for same-day printed photos? Please make time to visit the kiosks in the main lobby to create custom collages at discounted prices!

There will be an awards presentation at the conclusion of each session. During awards, all dancers are welcome to join us on stage! One representative should be selected to accept awards for each routine. All routines will receive a **DFX Diamond, Platinum, High Gold, Gold, Silver, or Bronze** placement (determined by a scale) with ribbons for each performer. We will also be presenting any special awards, division high awards, and overall placings. Award sheets are provided in your program to easily track awards!

Additional information on the Dance Force Xpress adjudication system/judging is provided to each Studio Director, and is included in the program. We highly encourage dancers and dance families to take a moment to learn more about the adjudication system to best understand the awards presentation and have the most beneficial experience.

Every competition is different! Our adjudication system is as follows:

DFX Diamond (171 – 180 points) Achieving 95% of total points possible

Platinum (153 - 170.9 points) Achieving 85% of total points possible

High Gold (135-152.9 points) Achieving 75% of total points possible

Gold (108 - 134.9 points) Achieving 60% of the total points possible

Silver (90-107.9 points) Achieving 50% of the total points possible

Bronze (Below 89.9 points) Achieving less than 50% of the total points possible

Dancers should gather their belongings in the dressing rooms after their awards presentation, and plan on meeting family in the main lobby. Please do not send family and friends back to the dressing room areas, as dancers will be arriving for the next session. Banners will be available in the main lobby for photo opportunities. Please share your memories with us on social media!

Dance Force Xpress merchandise will be available throughout the competition in the lobby. The limited edition 2026 Tour Tee, featuring all studio names, is available in limited quantities for \$30.00. Following awards, the sales table will also have commemorative trophies in a variety of sizes, as well as commemorative pins representing the placings (Bronze, Silver, Gold, High Gold, etc.)

If you have pre-ordered event merchandise through our website, please stop by our merchandise table and pick up your items. As a reminder, the 'Tour Bundle' and discounted pricing was only available for pre-orders placed by May 3rd. The merchandise table will close at 7:00 pm.

Participant Waiver Notice: *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 its entirety. The participant waiver is available for review on our website FAQ page, or the bottom section of every page of our website. A studio director is required to sign a master release waiver indicating that all participants have been directed to review the waiver online prior to registering.*

We ***Thank You*** in advance for spending your day with us.
Best wishes, and see you soon!

Please **LIKE** Dance Force Xpress on Facebook and Instagram for additional information, results, and photos!



Have you visited the DFX website?
www.DanceForceXpress.com