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Encore Extreme

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# CONVENTION HANDBOOK

A WEEKEND GUIDE



# WELCOME MESSAGE



Welcome to Encore Extreme. We are proud to provide the fierce and friendly convention of Encore DCS. The dance competition you know and love has created an extension that bridges the gap between training and performance.

Our weekend consists of two days of convention classes, a solo competition where dancers compete for the title of Mr. and Miss Encore Extreme, a group dance showdown and the opportunity to audition for the Encore DCS Dream Team.

What to expect? Classes filled with talented dancers and learning from the finest dance educators who provide thoughtful, fun and diverse training.

Please read along for more information so that your Encore Extreme Weekend is a success!

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## EDUCATION

At Encore Extreme, you can expect unique and insightful classes taught by the best in the business who want to see your dancers learn and grow.

## EXPERIENCE

We offer classes that are unique to the Encore Extreme Experience, such as: audition prep, dancing for the camera and more! In addition, you can kick off your season with our Solo Title Competition or our group battle experience with LIVE feedback from our judges.

## OPPORTUNITIES

With options to compete, take class and audition for Dream Team- we have every avenue covered for your dancers. Plus, we offer teacher/parent classes, a teacher brunch and an incredible closing showcase featuring awards and special performances.

# WHAT WE VALUE





# ENCORE EXTREME

## TITLE COMPETITION



Dancers who participate in our solo competition are automatically entered to compete for the title of “Mr. and Miss Encore Extreme”. This is how we determine our winners:

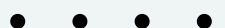
- Solos are adjudicated on one level of competition. All styles compete for the same overall title.
- The adjudicated score accounts for 80% of their title score.
- Dancers are observed in classes for technique, retention, effort and class etiquette. This accounts for 20% of their title score.
- Friday night classes and the last class on Sunday are not used towards scholarship or title determination.
- Titles are broken down based on age divisions, similar to our regionals.
- The dancers with the HIGHEST scores are named our overall winners and can come from any age division.
- Title winners will be ineligible for competing for title the following year at Encore Extreme. Winners will receive a scholarship to attend Encore Extreme free of charge and are invited to be an Encore Extreme Class Assistant!

# ENCORE EXTREME

## GROUP COMPETITION

We invite you to kick off your season by entering your group routines into our group showdown.

- Duet/Trios and Groups of any size are welcome. Productions are the only exclusion.
- You can enter up to 2 duos/trios/groups per age division. Group competition size is limited.
- All genres are welcome.
- After each group performance, dancers are invited back on stage for LIVE judges feedback.
- Adjudications and overall awards will be presented.
- The highest scoring group routine will receive \$1000 cash prize and will be invited to perform in our closing show on Sunday.





# DREAM TEAM

# MISSION

## WHO

We select talented and well rounded dancers who fit the vibe and aesthetic of each season's theme. Prior participation on Dream Team does not guarantee future selection. Not only do we look for talented dancers, but those who represent the qualities of Encore DCS: kind, hard-working, passionate and hungry for dance. Dancers who audition for the Dream Team are observed both on and off the stage and must attend 75% of the convention classes that weekend. The dancers selected for Dream Team give Encore permission to post their headshots, video footage, name and studio affiliate on all their social media handles and website links, including any marketing materials for that season.



## WHY

The Dream Team is an Encore DCS exclusive opportunity! Dancers will train and work in a professional and fast paced environment and will be featured on Encore DCS social media and our website.



# DREAM TEAM AUDITION

A Dream Team VIP ticket is awarded to a stand out student at our Grand Finals. This ticket gives the winner a free Convention fee to Encore Extreme and guarantees their spot on the Dream Team.

The remaining Dream Team members are chosen at Encore Extreme each fall through an optional audition process.

The Dream Team Audition is broken up by age division and the number of dancers selected changes each year depending on the concept of the video and theme for the season.

## **What to Expect:**

- Dancers are required to pay an audition fee of \$25.
- Dancers are required to bring an 8x10 Headshot.
- The back of the headshot must include: Name, Age, Studio, Parent Email and Phone Number, Dancer Measurements (waist, bust, hips, girth), Social Media Handles & Encore Regional Event Locations (which events they traveled to in the 23/24 season).
- Dancers must plan to attend the entire audition.
- Dancers must warm themselves up prior to the start.
- Dancers will meet the panel of judges and choreographers.
- Dancers will learn a combination and perform in small groups.
- Dancers who make the first cut of the audition will be asked to slate (say name, age and studio to a camera) and improv.
- Dancers who are selected as a finalist will perform in the closing show that weekend.
- The Dream Team will be announced on Instagram within 2 weeks of the final Encore Extreme Convention
- Dream Team Members are expected to participate in the filming, January 2025. A participation fee of \$150 will be due in November. Members will receive a detailed email with information, costumes, etc prior to filming.



CREATE★GROW★DANCE



# CONVENTION ETIQUETTE

Our goal is always for a fun and successful weekend! Here is how to make the best out of your convention experience:

- Pack all shoes, snacks, back-up outfits, safety pins and water.
- Be on time to warm-up and all classes.
- Dress in a way you are comfortable and wear things that make you feel confident.
- Use the restroom, get water and use phones between classes.
- Try your hardest in all classes! Even if the style is unfamiliar, do your best to stay active, present and positive.
- Avoid sitting down while other “groups” are showcasing choreography or combos in class.
- Avoid dancing in designated performance spaces while others are dancing or going across the floor.
- Avoid talking to friends and observers.
- Follow instructions given by Encore Faculty and Staff.
- Ask relevant questions to the current class and movement.
- Have fun!

# OBSERVER ETIQUETTE

We are happy to present an observer band option for our convention classes at an additional cost. This can be purchased ahead of time through your studio or on site in the lobby. Bands are checked by door monitors for each room. Here’s how to make your experience a success.

- Stay in the designated observer areas.
- No talking while class is in session.
- If your dancer or a dancer from your studio is in the room you are observing, help Encore staff by assisting those dancers with bathroom breaks, injuries and encourage them to stay quiet and respectful during classes.
- Stay in designated filming areas when video taping combos.
- No **flash** video or photography.



# ENCORE EXTREME

## ADDITIONAL INFO



- **Parent Door Monitors:** We accept parent volunteers to assist our faculty by watching the entry ways into the convention rooms. Door Monitors look for observer bands, present class time countdowns for faculty and uphold the observer etiquette for all those in the room. A link to sign-up will be emailed out three weeks prior to the event.
- **NEW-Red Carpet Photo Opportunity:** Check your schedule for the designated time to meet ALL the Encore Extreme Faculty on the red carpet! This is the perfect time to take your selfies and group shots so that class time can be focused on dancing!
- **Saturday Morning Warm-Up:** Kick start the day in the main ballroom for a joint warm-up with our Encore Extreme Faculty! Combined for all levels.
- **Sunday Closing Shows:** Join us for our closing ceremonies where we will present special performances, solo adjudications, scholarships and crown our Mr. and Miss Encore Extremes in all age divisions.



- **For More Information  
& Questions:**  
[extreme@encoredcs.com](mailto:extreme@encoredcs.com)





## **Encore Extreme Rules and Fees** – Registration opens August 1, 2024!

### **4 levels of classes:**

MINI/PETITE– ages 8 & under    JUNIOR – ages 9-11    TEEN – ages 12 -14    SENIOR – ages 15 & up

### **Full Convention Fee:**

MINI/PETITE	\$175	JUNIOR/TEEN/SENIOR	\$270
TEACHERS	\$270	OBSERVER PASSES	\$40
		(passes available for purchase at event)	

### **One Day Convention Fee:**

MINI/PETITE	\$90
JUNIOR/TEEN/SENIOR	\$150

*(Dancers that are participating in the Solo Competition must be registered for the full 3 day event.)*

**Dream Team Audition Fee:**        \$25 cash audition fee – register at the event and pay at the door  
*(Optional – please read below for more information!)*

*\*Competition fees for solos and groups available to teachers and studio directors only. Email [susan@encoredcs.com](mailto:susan@encoredcs.com) from your studio account for fee information.*

*\*Pay in full 6 weeks in advance to receive a 5 percent discount!*

*\*Receive one free teacher convention pass for every 10 students registered!*

*\*Register 50 or more paying students and receive a free hotel room for two nights!*

### **General Event and Venue information:**

A current Encore DCS Waiver must be signed and submitted prior to participation. Students will not be allowed to participate unless a waiver has been submitted.

Lancaster, PA            Wyndham Lancaster Host Resort            October 5-6

Columbia, SC            Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center            October 18-20

In Columbia, SC NO outside food or beverages are allowed in the venue (other than personal water bottles for dancers.) The convention center is very strict about this policy and will ask you to throw away outside food if they see it. Concessions will be available in the venue for your convenience!

### **Convention Guidelines:**

Teacher wristbands and nametags will be mailed to studios that have more than 10 participants. These should be distributed to students before arriving at the venue. For students that are coming on their own or studios that have less than 10 participants, materials can be picked up in the lobby. Registration times will be noted on the final schedule.

When arriving at the venue students should report to the ballroom assigned for warm up. Individual students do not need to check in at the registration desk. Any registration issues should be handled by teachers.

Parents or guardians must purchase an Observer Pass in order to watch class. Observer passes are available for purchase for \$40 at the event. Observer passes allow access to all ballrooms. However, parent observers will not be allowed to observe the Dream Team Audition.

**Door Monitors – volunteers needed!** Volunteer as a Parent Door Monitor and you will be given a free observer pass for the entire weekend and an Encore DCS t-shirt. Parent Door Monitors kindly check for observer passes as parents enter the ballroom. You will be seated inside the door of the ballroom and positions will be filled on a first come first serve basis.

Lancaster volunteers sign up here:



Columbia volunteers – sign up coming soon!

All students are eligible for **scholarships**! Faculty will select students to receive full and partial scholarships to Encore Extreme and Encore DCS competitions. These awards will be announced at the Closing Show and Awards on Sunday.

#### **Audition Classes:**

The main focus of “The Audition Process” is to educate these young dancers on how to behave, look, act and perform during an audition. Students will learn audition etiquette, tips, combinations, and will participate in a “mock” audition process. This is not the official Dream Team audition.

#### **Dream Team Selection:**

Encore DCS is proud to offer an amazing opportunity for advanced dancers to be cast in a one-of-a-kind promotional video and become a member of the Encore DCS Dream Team! All Encore Extreme participants age 9 and over are eligible to audition for the Dream Team.

Students interested in being a part of the dream team will participate in a separate Dream Team Audition at Encore Extreme. (Date and Time TBA with final schedule.)

-Students must bring a printed 8x10 headshot and \$25 cash audition fee. This should be submitted to the registration desk by Saturday at 1:00 PM.

-Headshots will not be returned.

-Headshots must have one of the student’s Extreme nametag labels on the back along with age, parent email address, parent phone number, sweatshirt/hoodie size (CM, CL, AS, AM, AL, etc.), list of 2023/2024 Encore Regional and/or National events the student attended, and measurements. Females should include measurements in inches for bust, waist, hips and girth. Males should include chest, waist, inseam, and dress jacket size.

-Email will only be used for communication if your dancer is selected to be on the Dream Team.

Measurements are not a determining factor for selection and will only be used for costuming purposes if your dancer is selected to be on the Dream Team.

- Extreme nametags must be worn in auditions and placed front and center on the dancer's chest. Please keep this in mind when choosing dancewear for the audition.
- Finalists will be announced at each Encore Extreme event and the final Dream Team cast will be announced on Instagram (date and time TBA.)

Factors for Dream Team consideration:

- Performance in the Dream Team Audition
- Jazz, Hip Hop, Contemporary and/or Tap Technique
- Ability to stand out in the crowd
- Commercial look/feel and potential to work with a camera
- Positive attitude and hard work ethic
- Dream Team members are also ambassadors of our company and the faculty will look for students who are welcoming to others and courteous/encouraging in class.

Dream Team auditions are optional and are closed to teachers and observers. Students must be 9 by October 20, 2024 in order to audition. Students that have already graduated high school are not eligible for Dream Team. The only exception to this rule is for students that are competing the full regional year for 2024-25.

Students chosen for this experience will be choreographed, staged and featured in a video to create a new advertising campaign for Encore DCS in Columbia, SC January 18-19, 2025 (tentative date.) Please do not audition if you are not able to participate in the filming. The fee to participate in Dream Team is \$150 and includes a Dream Team Hoodie, costume, professional headshot, and professional makeup for the shoot. If chosen, the deadline for submitting payment is November 15, 2024.

### **General Competition Guidelines:**

As always, we offer free livestream of all performances! The competition is open for all spectators and observer passes are not needed to watch the competition.

All competition music should be uploaded to your Dance Comp Genie account prior to the event. We will no longer accept USB or CD's at the event.

Photos and videos of all routines are included with entry fees and can be accessed from home within five days following the competition via digital download. Parents will not need to view or purchase photos or videos at the event.

Rules concerning tricks, categories, etc from Encore DCS competitions apply to Encore Extreme and can be found at [www.encoredcs.com](http://www.encoredcs.com).

### **Solo Competition Guidelines:**

Encore Extreme Solo Showdown Competition will be held on Friday and Saturday. Winners will be announced in our Closing Shows on Sunday where our new Mr. and Miss Encore Extreme will be announced!

- One solo per student. All soloists compete on the same level. There is no differentiation between recreational, competitive and elite.
- Soloists must participate in the convention in order to compete a solo. Awards are determined by 80% solo score and 20% class participation/standing out in class. All soloists will compete in the age division in which they fall on the first day of the event and all students will compete in the same level. Students must take class and compete in the same age group.

- Soloists will be awarded medals and adjudicated placements on Sunday at the Closing Show and Awards ceremony for their age group.
- Title winners in each age division (Mini, Petite, Junior, Teen and Senior) will be announced at the awards ceremony on Sunday afternoon and will receive a Trophy, Crown, Banner and an Overall Convention Excellence scholarship. Title winners are invited to be our VIP assistants and help crown the new winners at the convention the following year!
- Overall Mr. and Miss Encore Extreme will receive a crown, banner, trophy and a \$100 gift certificate to any Encore DCS Regional Competition.
- Title winners from the previous year are not eligible to compete in the solo competition the following year. We invite title holders from the previous year to be our special guest assistants at the convention.

### **Group Competition Guidelines:**

Encore Ovation Challenge will feature the top groups from each participating studio battling for the ultimate title and \$1000 cash prize. Each studio is invited to bring up to TWO duet/trios or group routines in each age division and compete for the title of “Encore Extreme Champion” on Saturday night. Awards will immediately follow group competition. An Overall Winner in each age division will be announced as well as the Overall Encore Extreme Champion!

- Two entries per studio for each age division (Mini 5 and under, Petite 8 and under, Junior 9-11, Teen 12-14, and Senior 15-18). Ages for group competition are determined as of January 1, 2023.
- **Each group will receive LIVE judges feedback from one judge immediately following their performance. After the routine has been completed please instruct students to immediately line up across the front of the stage to receive their feedback!**
- Duet/trios, small groups, large groups and super groups are welcome. (Productions are excluded.)

## **ENCORE Extreme – Competition Rules and Regulations**

1. All entries should be completed via online registration at [www.encoredcs.com](http://www.encoredcs.com) at least 28 days prior to the event. Registration is accepted on a first come first served basis and is limited to the amount of competition time available. Many events reach capacity well before the deadline and any entries exceeding the limit will be turned away.
2. Payment by check can be mailed to 203 West Butler Street Lexington, SC 29072. Credit card payments are accepted online with a 3% service charge. Money orders are not accepted via postal mail.
3. A 50% deposit of total entry fees must be received 28 days prior to the event. Full payment must be received at least 14 days prior to the competition date or a \$10.00 late fee per entry will be added. A \$25 fee will apply to all returned checks. Returned checks will automatically be turned over to an outside Collections Agency and/or the Solicitor’s office. Absolutely no personal checks for entry fees will be taken at the event and any unpaid entries will not be allowed to perform.
4. No refunds of fees will be given after the deadline date. A credit for another regional competition, Grand Finals, or Encore Extreme will be issued to the studio in the event that a dancer is unable to perform.
5. We do not accept independent entries. Independent dancers can register for Encore Extreme convention classes, but must be registered under a studio name if competing in the solo competition.
6. Gift certificates and scholarships for Encore DCS and Encore Extreme are NOT interchangeable and can only be used at the event listed on your certificate.
7. A parent or guardian must complete a waiver in order for their child to participate. Waivers will now be submitted electronically. The Waiver link can be found in your Dance Comp Genie



registration. The link for the waiver can be shared with your parents via email by clicking on "Copy Waiver Link." Click on the "copy waiver link" button and paste it into an email or text to your parents.

8. Encore DCS reserves the right to change the number of competition days based on registration received and is not liable for refunds based on schedule changes.
9. Dancers should be ready to compete at least ONE HOUR ahead of their scheduled performance time.
10. Unless arranged ahead of time, a 5-point deduction will be made for any routines not performed within three numbers of the scheduled order.
11. Music should be uploaded to the studio's Dance Comp Genie account at least two days prior to the first day of the event. If unable to upload, music can also be submitted at the event on one Master CD or Flash Drive per studio. If using CD, a playlist listing the order of routines must be provided. If using a flash drive, please label each file with the entry number and song title. A backup form of music is always required. We recommend iPads, iPods, computers, or USB drives for backup and prefer not to use cell phones.
12. Professionals or teachers are not allowed to participate in the competition portion of Encore Extreme. A professional is defined as any person 20 years of age or older who is or has ever been a teacher, assistant teacher, or professional dancer.
13. All other dancers in duet/trios, groups, and productions may enter as many categories as they wish as long as they do not compete against themselves in the exact same groups. (Soloists are limited to one solo at Encore Extreme conventions.)
14. A 10-point deduction will be made for routines that are not completed. This applies to dancers that re-perform their routines after a false start unless the re-performance is caused by a technical error or other uncontrollable event not attributable to the dancer's performance.
15. Small, freestanding props are allowed but must be easily moved into the theater and on & off stage without disrupting the competition in progress. Fire, water, or excessive littering is not allowed on stage and any debris should be removed by the studio within 30 seconds following the routine. Human props are allowed, but any person on stage must be registered in the event and their age should be included in the average.
16. No lighting changes are allowed at Encore Extreme.
17. We at Encore DCS pride ourselves on running a family friendly competition. If every judge on the panel feels that a routine is inappropriate for the age a 10 point deduction will be made.
18. Teachers and studio directors should bring any question or challenge of routines or rules to the attention of the Encore DCS director in charge prior to the respective awards ceremony.
19. Encore DCS provides free livestream when possible. Please note that competition location and wireless signals affect our ability to provide this service. It's important to let friends and family watching the competition know that the competition may run ahead of schedule.
20. Photography and video recording is always prohibited! Videotaping and photography of any kind is not allowed in order to protect choreography and due to our contracts with professional videographers and photographers. Personal cameras, video cameras, and any other recording devices are prohibited in the auditorium.
21. All dancers, teachers, and guests are expected to display good sportsmanlike conduct to all participants at all times. Encore DCS does not discriminate, but does reserve the right to refuse entrance to any competitor, spectator, studio, or individual that has been deemed to exhibit unsportsmanlike behavior.
22. Only performers, teachers, and staff are allowed on stage before, during and after a competition.
23. All awards and music should be picked up at the conclusion of the event and will not be mailed. Judges audio critiques and score sheets will be downloaded to Dance Comp Genie after the event and will be emailed to teachers within three days of the event. Score sheets and video critiques will be available in the studios Dance Comp Genie account.

24. All teachers, parents and participants give Encore DCS the right to use their photo or video with any advertising or media campaign. By performing at Encore DCS events, all competitors consent to the use of photographs and/or video footage for promotional purposes, which may include social media and streaming of routines online.
25. Gift certificates that are awarded to groups can only be redeemed for group entry fees at future Encore DCS events.
26. Encore DCS and the hosting venue are not responsible for personal injury or property loss to either contestants or spectators. Performers in a dance competition are subject to risks which can include, but are not limited to sprains, pulled muscles and broken bones. Participation in Encore DCS events indicates the acceptance of these types of risks and participants and spectators agree that they will not hold Encore DCS, its officers, employees or staff responsible for injuries or illnesses contracted by them while in attendance of any Encore event.
27. Rules and regulations are subject to change and are always available at [www.encoredcs.com](http://www.encoredcs.com).