

Sierra Madre

DANCE CENTER

2022 Nutcracker Auditions and Performance Expectations

This year, Sierra Madre Dance Center's upcoming cast of *The Nutcracker* will perform on Friday, December 2nd and Saturday, the 3rd. As the years have progressed, the bar for this classic, Christmastime performance has risen exponentially for our studio. We are grateful to have reached a point where we are able to put on a pre-professional show this year, with elevated choreography, elaborate costumes and props, and even have some industry professionals join the cast.

Because of the studio's progress, we have reached a position that allows us to follow the traditional route of basing casting upon students' technical skill level, available costume sizes, prop quantity, and students' height levels, since this show is primarily composed of group ensembles. Each of these elements works to create a cohesive, seamless performance brought to life by the dancers. We are excited to host auditions this August and shape a cast that will create a memorable Christmas experience.

This being said, we want to also remind families that while we encourage all who are interested to audition, ***not everyone who auditions will receive a role this year.*** This is not an unusual aspect of the audition process, nor does it imply that a student shouldn't audition the next year. **Casting is heavily based upon availability of roles, amount of costumes, and dancer height.** We are also looking for dancers who portray a high level of choreography retention, technical ballet ability, and a positive attitude. Additionally, we want to inform families that once roles are cast, commitment to rehearsals is **imperative** and will begin immediately.

If you are interested in auditioning for this year's show, please remember that dancers must review and memorize their age appropriate choreography from the available audition videos. When dancers arrive at their audition, ***they will be expected to dance their choreography without the help of a teacher.*** This allows us to see who is able to retain movement and exhibit a confident stage presence. Please arrive on time for the audition, dressed appropriately in a leotard, tights, ballet shoes, and hair in a neat bun.

Thank you, families, for your understanding and eagerness to join us for this upcoming performance season! We look forward to seeing your dancers shine.



SMDC 2022 Nutcracker Audition Details

Audition: Saturday, August 13th 9:00am - 1:00 pm (by age)

\$30

9:30 - 10:30 am: 6-7 years old

10:30 - 11:30 am: 8-9 years old

11:30 - 12:30 pm: 10-11 years old

12:30 - 1:30 pm 12+ years old

1:30 - 2:00 pm Pointe

Make-up Audition: Tuesday, August 16th 4:00 - 5:00 pm (all ages) \$45

Makeup Audition will only be for students who are either **sick or **out of town**.*

**No video auditions; students auditioning must physically audition for one of the two options.*

**All students must be actively enrolled in a class.*

Registration for Nutcracker Auditions will begin on Monday, July 25th

Audition Choreography Videos will be posted by Friday, July 29th

Audition Details:

- ❖ Please sign up your child for their age appropriate audition time. **Students must be 6 by audition day.*
- ❖ Please arrive 15-30 minutes prior to audition time to check in and warm up.
- ❖ Check-in will take place in **Studio C**.
- ❖ All dancers must arrive knowing their audition choreography.
- ❖ Must sign Nutcracker Contract (listed below)
- ❖ Must attend an in-person audition; individual auditions will NOT be held

Rehearsal Commitment:

Weekly rehearsals will be required of all cast members. Performers must have a high level of choreography retention and are responsible for knowing the choreography that has been assigned to them.

Performers must be present for:

- ❖ **“All-Cast Rehearsals”**: Saturday, November 19th - Tuesday, November 22nd.
- ❖ **“Show Week Rehearsals”**: Monday, November 28th - Thursday, December 1st
- ❖ There will be **NO rehearsals Thanksgiving weekend**: November 23rd - 27th.

Rehearsal Absences - If your dancer is absent from their assigned rehearsal, they will need to schedule a private lesson with the Director/Choreographer. If there are two or more non-medical absences, your dancer may not be allowed to participate in the production.

Please notify us on the Nutcracker contract below of previously scheduled potential conflicts.

Saturday Rehearsals will begin **August 27th**.

There will be 12 mandatory Saturday Rehearsals 8/27 - 11/19. We will have rehearsal Labor Day Weekend. Saturday rehearsals will be:

- ❖ Battle Scene 9:00 - 10:00 am
- ❖ Party Scene 10:00 - 11:00 am
- ❖ Snow Scene 11:00 - 12:00 pm

**Subject to change and some roles will require additional rehearsals.*

Friday Rehearsals will begin **September 9th** between the hours of 3:30 - 8:00, exact times TBD.

- ❖ All Second Act Main Characters (Spanish, Chinese, Russian, Arabian, Mariliton)
- ❖ Bon Bons, Baby Flowers
- ❖ Angels, Peppermints, Candy Canes

Additional Info:

- ❖ If your child will be participating in another activity that requires his/her regular attendance on Saturday mornings in the fall, Nutcracker is not for you.
- ❖ Rehearsal times are generally given in advance, usually via email. Some rehearsals will be for your child's specific part and others will involve an entire act, and may require his/her presence for a couple of hours.
- ❖ Children may bring books, games or electronic devices for their personal entertainment while waiting for their rehearsal time as long as it is not a distraction to the rehearsal. We are not responsible for loss or damage to personal items.
- ❖ You **MUST** pick up your child by the final scheduled end time.

Costumes:

- ❖ The Costume Rental Fee covers the use and maintenance of the costume such as alterations and drycleaning. If the costume comes back damaged and cannot be used for future performances, then the family will be charged an additional fee to cover the replacement.

Finances:

- ❖ \$175, non-refundable Cast Fee, to be paid by September 1st. This fee includes 13 weeks of additional rehearsal time.
- ❖ A \$50 costume rental fee, paid by September 1st. This fee covers use of the use, maintenance and potential replacement of costumes.
- ❖ All shoes, tights and make-up (ex. ColorStay) are furnished by the dancer.
- ❖ Tickets will be sold for the performances, with more information to come.

Health Clause:

- ❖ If your child is sick during our rehearsals or performance week, please notify us as soon as possible.
- ❖ During Nutcracker Season, please remember to take care of yourselves and your personal health! We want to maintain a healthy and happy environment for all of our cast members.
- ❖ **If a dancer drops out one the roles has been accepted, there will be no refunds to performance fees and a re-choreography fee of \$100 will be applied to your account.**

The Nutcracker show needs parents (or any family members), too!

- ❖ Adult family members interested in appearing in the production as Party Guests should email us at info@sierramadredancecenter.com.
- ❖ Family members interested in set building or skillful at costume alterations should email us at info@sierramadredancecenter.com

Below is a **contract** that each dancer auditioning must **sign** and **return** at the time of their audition. Here are the expectations of performers should they receive a role in this year's production:

As a Dancer, I am willing to:

- ❖ Work to understand choreography and music through scheduled rehearsals, which includes: being responsive to the choreographer and doing independent work on the development of my role.
- ❖ Value my expression of the choreography through movement and dance technique.
- ❖ Work in a cooperative and supportive manner with other dancers, choreographers, and parents.
- ❖ Accept the role that is given to me, knowing that the teachers know my abilities, strengths, and weaknesses.

Rehearsals and Performances:

- ❖ Expected to attend all weekly rehearsals, which will be assigned once parts are given out. If a rehearsal is missed parent's will need to set up a private with one of the instructors.
- ❖ Dancers should arrive **10-15 minutes early** for rehearsals so they have time to warm up.
- ❖ Any unexcused absences are subject to cast changes.
- ❖ Must accept roles assigned to them since they are assigned with consideration for their level of development, their specific capabilities and the requirements of the overall production. The cast will be smaller than in years past to minimize the amount of students on the stage.
- ❖ Should your circumstances change during this contract, please schedule a meeting with Ms. Amie.

SMDC 2022 NUTCRACKER CONTRACT

Please, 1 contract per performer.

Student's Name: _____

Age as of August 13th : _____

Parent's Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Potential Schedule Conflicts 8/27 - 12/3:

Please understand being part of The Nutcracker requires a great deal of commitment and sacrifice from lots of people; the students, the parents, and the teachers. We all must be committed to making this performance one to remember!

I, _____, **(student's name)** agree to attend all rehearsals dressed in proper ballet attire. If I miss a rehearsal, I will need to schedule a private lesson to learn the choreography I missed before my next rehearsal. I understand that if I do not know my choreography, I may lose my role. I agree to practice all my choreography at home, so that I am prepared at each rehearsal.

I, _____, **(parent's name)** agree to have my child at all rehearsals, on time and dressed in proper ballet attire. I agree to pay a \$175 participation fee & \$50 costume rental fee by Sept. 1st.

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____