

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is eligible to audition for NEDE?

Auditions are open to all aspiring dancers in the New England area. Dancers may be from any dance academy or studio. Students must be five by the date of auditions. There are roles for beginner – advanced students and professionals. Adults with a dance background interested in auditioning for the Party Scene, please email us directly.

When are auditions?

Auditions are held in September. Casting for NEDE's first production, 'The Nutcracker' will take place at this time. Auditions for 'A Child's View of the Holocaust' and 'Story Dance Touring Company' will take place later in the season. Auditions for 'The Nutcracker' are by age. In the event you are unable to attend the audition during your scheduled age group, please contact us to arrange a by appointment audition, or video submission.

What should I wear to audition?

Students are to wear dance clothing. For girls, ballet tights, any color leotard, a ballet skirt is optional. Girls are to wear their hair neatly in a bun. For boys, ballet attire, black tights, shorts, and white leotard/shirt. For boys without ballet attire, you may wear gym shorts and a t-shirt. All students are to wear ballet shoes. Girls 12+ are to bring pointe shoes if applicable. Girls under the age of 14 with at least one year of pointe training will be asked to perform pointe work by invitation only.

Do I need to be enrolled in a dance class to audition?

Yes. 'The Nutcracker' is a ballet, and all roles require knowledge of ballet terminology. For younger students and boys interested in auditioning who are not yet enrolled in a ballet class, we would be happy to recommend classes in your area.

Do I need to be a student at Londonderry Dance Academy?

No. New England Dance Ensemble is a nonprofit company separate from Londonderry Dance Academy. NEDE is comprised of students from nearly a dozen different dance schools from NH and MA.

What role will I be considered for?

There are several factors in considering dancers for roles. Height, performance strength, acting ability, and standard of dance. Dancers are grouped by age for the auditions, though they are considered for all roles applicable to their ability. All roles are open for casting with the exception of the Sugar Plum Fairy and Cavalier.

My birthday is soon after the audition which age group should I audition with?

We ask that you audition with your current age group the day of the audition. Students will be considered for all roles applicable to their ability.

What is the audition process?

Dancers are asked to arrive 15 minutes prior to scheduled audition time. Dancers and their parent/guardian will be greeted for check in. Dancers will be given paperwork to complete, before being measured including height, weight, shoe size, and other basic measurements for the use when considering dimensions of our costumes. Once paperwork and measurements are complete, students will be given a number. Dancers will then have the opportunity to warm up. Dancers will audition in groups. Students will learn choreography from 'The Nutcracker' as well as acting exercises. Auditions are closed to the public. There is a \$25.00 audition fee.

When will I know if I have been cast?

Dancers will be notified with the casting notice by email within 5 days of auditioning.

When are rehearsals?

Rehearsals for 'The Nutcracker' take place between September - the week of Thanksgiving. Rehearsals are held on Friday evenings, OR Saturday afternoons. OR Sunday afternoon/evening. There is one rehearsal per weekend per role a dancer is cast in. Tech and dress rehearsals are scheduled for the weekend prior to the performances.

Rehearsals for 'A Child's View' and 'Story Dance Touring Company' take place in the winter and spring.

Why is there a membership fee?

Membership fees cover the cost of tights, shoes, company t-shirts, costume cleaning, and studio rental fees. NEDE is a nonprofit educationally based performance company. Two out of the three productions each year are presented to the public free of charge. Membership fees afford us the opportunity to continually provide high quality performance opportunities for New England dancers.

Do parents volunteer?

Yes. We have an array of volunteer position from stage crew and chaperones, to craft making, costume alterations, special events, communications, raffle items and meals for guest artists. We ask that each family volunteer in some capacity.