

the elite competition team

The award winning Elite Competition Team trains and competes in many styles of dance on both a regional and national level. The team is comprised of serious and dedicated dancers from throughout the Fox Valley ranging in age from five to eighteen years old. Year after year, the Elite Competition Team continues to win high point and top placement awards, as well as numerous judges' choice awards for technique, showmanship, and choreography.

Elite Academy of Dance is committed to raising the standard of technique and performance quality for the dancers on the Elite Competition Team. As experienced professionals, the Elite Academy of Dance instructors are dedicated to providing the highest standard of individualized coaching and instruction, while building a strong and cohesive competitive dance team. All competitive pieces are choreographed by the Elite Academy of Dance instructors and guest choreographers, and music is chosen by the choreographer(s) of the piece. Members are expected to remain committed to the Competition Team and the material they are given throughout the entire competition year (September through June). Regular weekly practices begin in the fall and continue throughout the remainder of the competition year (through June).

In addition to taking classes in the styles of dance in which they compete (lyrical, hip hop, etc.), all members of the Competition Team must be enrolled in and participate in a set of required techniques classes. This is to ensure that each dancer is consistently working to perfect and improve their technique.

All group routine casting decisions are made by Jennie Scheiwe (Studio Director) and Brittany Gacek Esterl (Assistant Studio Director), along with the other Elite Academy of Dance instructors. Dancers are placed in routines based on their technique level and age. Each dancer is placed in the routine(s) that the instructors feel will best highlight their strengths. All decisions made regarding routine castings are final. Solo, Duo, and Trio competition opportunities are available by instructor invitation only. Only dancers who were on the previous year's Competition Team are eligible for a Solo, Duo, or Trio competition piece in the upcoming season.

The competition season begins with an optional dance convention. The team attends regional dance competitions throughout the winter and spring, and the season concludes in the summer when the team attends a national dance competition. Dancers audition for the Elite Competition Team each summer.

For more information about the Elite Competition Team, please contact Jennie Scheiwe (Studio Director)/Brittany Gacek Esterl (Assistant Studio Director) at (847) 488-1239 or email elitedirectors07@gmail.com.

once a team, always a family!