



February 13, 2026

Presented by The Texas Association for Dance and Culture



5th Annual Virtual Ballet Folklórico Contest

WELCOME - The Texas Association for Dance and Culture is proud to present the **Virtual Ballet Folklórico Contest**, an exciting extension of the [North Texas Ballet Folklórico Contest](#), which was established in 2019 by 18 passionate dance educators, fine arts directors, and cultural advocates. We would like to thank all directors, participants, administrators, and those in support for being a vital part of making this event happen.

GENERAL - The Virtual Ballet Folklórico Contest consists of dozens of participating schools from across the State of Texas performing traditional ballet folklórico dances. A panel of qualified folklórico judges evaluates videos. Each performance will receive a rating based on a scoring rubric, and participating schools may receive awards based on their performance ratings. The Contest serves as an assessment for public and private schools that have folklórico programs. The Texas Ballet Folklórico Contests are exclusively designed for Ballet Folklórico programs that are officially established within public or private educational institutions. Independent community groups, studios, or organizations not directly affiliated with a school are not eligible to participate in these contests. After-school programs may participate only if they are affiliated with and operated under a public or private school district.

LIABILITY AND MEDIA RELEASE - All participants are required to have a completed liability and media release form on file before the evaluation of videos. These forms will be available for [download](#) on our website upon registration. For participants under the age of 18, a parent or guardian's signature is also required on the form. TADC volunteers will provide a Google folder link via email for uploading the scanned forms.

CONTEST RULES & REGISTRATION

- Please complete the [registration form](#) and submit payment and videos by February 13, 2026, 11.59 PM. Please fill out a separate form for each company if you have multiple companies within the same school. Example, a high school and middle school in the same school or/and JV and Varsity Level Company
- Please make sure to provide the total number of students participating per school/group.
- A maximum of **three** choreographies per school per level. **No cuadros or mini cuadros (vignettes) will be accepted.** Editing two songs from the same region to match the duration of a single song is considered a Cuadro. Please use the full song of the region selected. Music should not exceed 4 minutes.
- Folklórico Judges will view the school's video and give written feedback, which will be e-mailed to the Director by March 13, 2026.
- Virtual entries will receive their trophies by mail.

CLASSIFICATIONS- Directors must classify their students not only by age group (elementary, middle, and high school), but also by experience level. When registering your routines, please indicate if your students are Corazón, Junior Varsity, or Varsity.

• **NEW! - Corazón-** The Corazón classification is designed for students with physical and intellectual disabilities, celebrating their talent, effort, and love for folklórico. Corazón provides an inclusive space where each participant can shine on stage and share the joy of dance with our community.

• **Junior Varsity:** Beginner – Beginner/Intermediate dance groups or solo dancers who compete in practice attire or costume.

- **Varsity: Intermediate** – Intermediate/Advanced dance groups or solo dancers who compete in practice attire or costume.

If your group represents a Varsity Dance Company on your campus, you must enroll in the Varsity Division. Directors are welcome to separate their company by level and register both (up to three JV AND up to three Varsity). Dancers are not permitted to cross over between levels.

Junior Varsity pieces will be scored against other Junior Varsity pieces, and Varsity pieces will be scored against other Varsity pieces. Additionally, you must indicate whether the piece is a solo, duet, small ensemble (3-10 students), or a large ensemble (11+ students). You may present any combination of solo, duet, small, and large ensembles as long as you do not exceed the maximum number of entries per school. The Corazón classification will receive feedback and be honored in the awards ceremony of their grade level.

Schools are welcome to participate in more than one regional contest. We encourage flexibility so that your students may gain broader experience, exposure, and feedback. If your school chooses to enter multiple regional contests, please ensure that registrations, fees, and performance selections are submitted for each contest separately and by the applicable deadlines.

CONTEST FEES - The contest entry fee for each performance is \$75.00, which applies to all divisions, including solos, duets, small ensembles, and large ensembles. This fee helps cover essential contest expenses, including judges and awards, and the expansion of the contest throughout the State. Directors are encouraged to plan their entries carefully, as fees must be paid in full by the registration deadline to secure participation.

If your district requires additional documentation or vendor setup to process payment, please contact us at info@txdanceandculture.org for assistance. We will be happy to provide any necessary forms, W-9 information, or supporting documents to help complete your district's payment process. We recommend initiating this step early to ensure that all paperwork is finalized before the contest.

Please make Check Payable to: Texas Association for Dance and Culture
P.O. Box 343
Prosper, TX 75078

An invoice will be emailed to you within 48 hours of completing the registration form. Online payments can be made through our [PayPal account](#).

VIDEO GUIDELINES

- Videos are due February 13, 2026 at 11:59 PM
- The recording should be a front view of the performance. This allows the focus to be on the dance rather than the filming technique.

- If you are recording on a cell phone or iPad, ensure you're in landscape mode.
- The video should be a continuous shot. (No editing)
- The video should capture all dancers at all times.
- Zapateado (footwork) must be heard; make sure music and zapateado sounds are balanced.
- All recording locations are acceptable (dance studio, gym, auditorium) except of a recording of a different competition.
- We will contact the Directors once the payment and registration forms are received to give instructions on video upload requirements. Videos are due February 13, 2026, by 11.59 PM.
- Label your video entries with the name of the dance, director's initials, region, and classification (**El Son de La Negra- Jalisco- HN- Varsity**)
- Please email Karla Hardaway if you have any questions at info@txdanceandculture.org.

AWARDS

The Virtual Ballet Folklórico Contest results will be announced after March 13th, 2026 when we emailed directors their feedback. Judges will not receive school names before or during the evaluation. Each school will be labeled as "School A", "School B", "School C", etc. This helps to ensure impartial and unbiased judging while still allowing staff to track scores for each school.

AWARD DESCRIPTIONS- Awards will be presented based on adjudicated scores and overall performance within each division. Groups and individuals may receive Division I, II, or III ratings, as well as special recognitions such as Sweepstakes Awards. Each entry will receive judges' written feedback to support continued growth and excellence. The Corazón classification, designed for students with physical and intellectual disabilities, will also be recognized during the awards ceremony and provided with meaningful feedback from our panel. Award ceremonies will be divided by classification and grade division to ensure that all participants are celebrated for their dedication, artistry, and cultural representation.

As the Texas Ballet Folklórico Contests enter the monitoring phase, we are updating our contest structure to align with UIL standards and better serve all participants. Three judges will evaluate each piece, assigning a rating of I, II, or III to each performance.

DIVISION I – Entries that receive a 'superior' on most judging criteria will receive a Division I rating.

DIVISION II – Entries that receive an 'excellent' on most judging criteria will receive a Division II rating.

DIVISION III – Entries that receive a 'developing' on most judging criteria will receive a Division III rating.

Scoring Reference:

I + I + I = Division I

I + I + II = Division I

I + I + III = Division II

I + II + III = Division II

II + II + II = Division II

II + II + III = Division II

II + III + III = Division III

III + III + III = Division III

Groups that receive Division I ratings on all three routines from every judge will earn a *Sweepstakes Award*, recognizing their consistent excellence across all evaluation categories. Only groups that submit three routines are eligible for this distinction.

CONTEST ONLINE STORE

Participants, directors, parents, and community members are welcome to purchase competition and TADC items from our online store. All items will be delivered. DFW area directors have the option to pick up at the vendor's location. Please click [>>HERE<<](#) to view the store.

We are proud to continue evolving alongside UIL as we celebrate, educate, and elevate Ballet Folklórico across the state of Texas.

Please email info@txdanceandculture.org if you have any questions.

RUBRIC

	Superior (I)	Excellent (II)	Developing (III)
Technique & Execution	Dancers' proper torso alignment is consistently evident. The performers clearly execute the correct footwork and skirt work if applicable. Dancers' arm placement is always kept in proper relationship to the torso. The performers maintain accurate tempo and synchronization to the beat of the music throughout the dance and/or combinations. There are minimal, if any, mistakes in the sequence and timing of the movements. Dancers never look at the other dancers for movement cues.	Dancers' proper torso alignment is evident most of the time. The performers follow most of the dance footwork and skirt work. Dancer's arms are usually kept in proper relationship to the of the torso. The performers demonstrate tempo and synchronization to the beat of the music most of the time throughout the dance and/or combinations. There are a few mistakes in the sequence and timing of the movements. Dancers rarely look at other dancers for movement cues.	Dancers' proper torso alignment, obvious leg placement, and arm relationship to the torso is evident part of the time. Dancers' arms are not in the correct relationship to the torso. The performers execute tempo and synchronization to the beat of the music less than half of the time. Less than half of the movements are performed in the correct sequence with the proper timing. Dancers constantly look at other dancers for movement cues.
Use of Space	Transitions and spacing are spatially clear all of the time. The formations are clean at all times and the performers' efforts of the usage of the stage are obvious.	Transitions and spacing are spatially clear most of the time. The formations are clean most of for the time and the performers' efforts of the usage of the stage are evident most of the time.	Transitions and spacing are sometimes present. The formations are clean at least half the time and the performers' efforts of the usage of the stage are presented half of the time.
Presentation	There is unity and precision in the movement at all times. Dancers project confidence and showmanship appropriate to the region presented at all times.	There is unity and precision in the movement most of the time. Dancers project confidence and showmanship appropriate to the region presented most of the time.	There is unity and precision in the movement less than half of the time. Dancers project confidence and showmanship appropriate to the region presented less than half of the time.

SCORE SHEET

Entry #: School A, B, etc

Classification: Varsity, Junior Varsity, or Corazón

Age Level: Elementary, Middle School, or High School

Dance:

Region:

Technique & Execution	Division I, II, III	Judges' Comments
• Execution of correct footwork • Accurate rhythmic sounds • Synchronization • Accurate tempo • Skirt work execution (if applicable) • Accurate arm placement • Memory of dance		
Use of Space	Division I, II, III	Judges' Comments
• Transitions • Usage of space • Clear placement/formation • Spacing		
Presentation	Division I, II, III	Judges' Comments
• Unity of the group • Confidence • Projection • Showmanship		

FINAL RATING (circle): I II III

Use of costumes and accessories appropriate to the the region (if applicable) COSTUMES ARE NOT A PART OF THE SCORE EVALUATION

Signature of Official: _____