



**Steps on Stage's National Honor Society for Dance Arts
Information Packet 2025-2026**

Chapter Sponsor: Emalee Chapman
emalee@stepsonstageacademy.com

NHSDA OVERVIEW

NHSDA's Vision

We envision a nation in which all students have equal opportunity and access to quality dance arts education and are recognized for their outstanding artistic merit, leadership and academic achievement in the field of dance.

NHSDA's Mission

1. To recognize outstanding artistic merit, leadership and academic achievement in students studying dance in public and private schools in K-12 education, dance studios, cultural/community centers, performing arts organizations, and colleges / universities.
2. To foster an appreciation for dance as a true art form and one worthy of recognition and prestige.

NHSDA Junior Program Goals (grades 6-8)

1. To promote a desire for life-long learning in the field of dance.
2. To encourage an understanding of, and an appreciation for, dance as an art form and develop knowledgeable audiences for tomorrow.

NHSDA Secondary Program Goals (grades 9-12)

1. To identify honor students (grades 11 & 12) for nomination to the NDEO Artistic Merit, Leadership and Academic Achievement Award, one of the highest honor programs for dance in the United States.
2. To promote a desire for life-long learning in the field of dance.
3. To encourage an understanding of, and an appreciation for, dance as an art form and develop knowledgeable audiences for tomorrow.

What are the benefits for me/my dancer to join a NHSDA chapter?

1. Recognition of their artistic merit, academic achievement, and leadership throughout their educational experience (Junior High - Collegiate)
2. Certificates at each level of induction, opportunity to wear the gold Honor Pin (Inductees) and blue and white Honor Cord and/or medal (graduating students)
3. Mentorship from Chapter Sponsor and networking with peers
4. Leadership and development opportunities within their NHSDA Chapter, as they can assist the Chapter Sponsor with Chapter administration, record keeping, fundraising, and event planning
5. National and State-level scholarship and award opportunities

CATEGORIES OF REQUIREMENTS

1. Students must have at least a 3.0 (out of a 4.0) when it is time for induction to become an official member. I, as the chapter sponsor, will need a copy of your dancer's report card before induction for our records. If a student's GPA falls below a 3.0, they have a semester to bring it back up to at least a 3.0. They will not be demoted as a member, but will be on probation and will be advised by the chapter sponsor on ways to help their education. Members who fall below a 3.0 will not be allowed to receive NSHDA cords at graduation.

Members in the Secondary Chapter only who have maintained at least a 3.0 (out of a 4.0) by graduation will receive NHSDA cords to recognize their membership to their chapter throughout their academic years. *Cost of cords is \$20.*

Members of the Secondary Chapters who have maintained a 3.5 (out of a 4.0) or higher throughout the respective grades will receive an honors medallion to recognize academic excellence throughout their academic years. *Cost of the medallion is \$20.*

- To qualify for Graduation with Honors within the Secondary Program, a student must earn 15 points beyond their initial induction requirements within the chapter for a total of 45.
- Students applying for Graduation with Honors will need to submit a 250-500 word essay to their NHSDA Chapter Sponsor responding to the following prompt:
 - *What impact has dance had on your life, in and out of the studio? How do you plan to use this influence in the future to have an impact on other people and communities?*

Please be aware that some K-12 schools will not allow graduating seniors to wear the NHSDA graduation cords and/or medallion at graduation since the honor was earned in a program outside of that K-12 school. In this case, parents and chapter sponsor of the inducted student can petition the (K-12) school principal or administration for approval to wear the cords. This should be done well in advance of the graduation date.

2. Each student must obtain points for induction.

- To qualify for induction at the Junior Program level (6th-8th grade), a student must earn 15 points, at least 10 of which should be earned while participating in dance activities within the program of the chapter site. At the sponsor's discretion, a student may earn up to 5 points while participating in community dance activities or other activities in the performing arts outside of the chapter program.
- To qualify for induction at the Secondary Program level (9th-12th grade), a student must earn 30 points, at least 20 of which should be earned while participating in dance activities within the program of the chapter site. At the sponsor's discretion, a student

may earn up to 10 points while participating in community dance activities or other activities in the performing arts outside of the chapter program.

- As chapter sponsor, I am willing to help students keep track of their points. The point system from the official NHSDA website that each chapter nationally uses is attached at the end of this packet. I will also be attaching a copy of the point tracking worksheet as well so that your dancer may start filling out their points.

I do count required competitions/conventions as a chapter activity if your child is a company member. Extra competitions will be considered off-site activities. I must approve of all points before they are official. I will keep a copy of each dancer's points on a spreadsheet as well.

3. Students should display good character to be considered for induction. *Please be aware that while this is partially an academic honor society, we also take into account the dancer's character.* This will be something that will be looked at throughout the year and something that staff members will talk about with each other. Students demonstrating traits such as leadership, motivation, and collaborative teamwork show that they are worthy of NHSDA induction to be a lifetime member. Students that show aggressive behavior in or outside of the studio, bullying or mistreating others, and/or unprofessional conduct in classes or rehearsals will not be considered for induction. Students may also be placed on probation for poor behavior.

INDUCTION INFORMATION

While Steps will host a formal, in-person induction with all the inductees in-studio during the spring of 2026, I will be accepting applications for NHSDA induction on a rolling basis. Students will receive their certificate and can do the self-focused pledge at this time.

I will be accepting points for events/dance classes/etc. that took place starting June 16th, 2025. Please keep track of your points on the point tracking sheet. Don't hesitate to reach out to me if you are unsure if something receives points or if you need assistance.

Fees

Official NDEO Certificate/Induction fee: \$8

Induction Pin: \$8.50

Both fees + shipping costs are required for induction for a total of \$20.

Fees not due until dancer has enough points to be inducted

Please be aware that your dancer will not receive their induction pin until our formal induction in 2026. Your dancer will receive their certificate directly after a payment is made. It is recommended to *pay in full at time of your dancers informal induction* so that we can have all the pins for formal induction. Please let me know if you have questions about this. I will accept Venmo when it is time for payment, or cash can be given to Robyn Wilson & let her know it is for NHSDA (please message Robyn first if you prefer doing payment this way).

Please let me know if you need to utilize a different payment method.

Venmo - @emaleechapman

Formal Induction - Date TBD

Each student will receive their pin at this time, as well as their certificate if they hadn't received it yet. Even if the student has already become a member, they will still have to attend the induction ceremony for their pin and to be recognized, as well as do our chapter induction pledge. Formal induction will take place in-studio - date TBD.

CURRENT MEMBER INFORMATION

Current members of either of Steps on Stage's NHSDA chapters will be required to pay dues of **\$15**. This will be due by the time Fall classes at the studio begin (date will vary each year) and will allow the chapters to host events sponsored by NHSDA and allows the members to help with each event. **I will not begin collecting these fees until after nationals.**

Please keep in mind that this is ONLY required for current members.

As a member of either NHSDA chapter at Steps on Stage, you must continue to uphold the values you pledged and promised at formal induction. Members seen not upholding values or dropping below the GPA threshold could be placed on probation or removed as a member of NHSDA.

Leadership Opportunities

NEW THIS SEASON There will be 5 leadership positions available for members this year! 4 positions will be available to Secondary members, and there will be 1 position available to Junior members. Please follow the link below for further information.

Those who have been members of our Junior Chapter but are moving to the Secondary Chapter are also eligible to hold leadership positions.

Steps on Stage's NHSDA Officer Positions

Formal Induction

As current members, EVERYONE will be asked to attend the formal induction. Officers will help with induction, whether it be planning or physically helping the day-of.

NHSDA Events

Throughout the season, there will be some NHSDA-sponsored events. Members are asked to partake in at least 2 of these, although they are welcome to participate in as many as they would like. Members will receive points for these events.

Additional Opportunities

Please follow the link below to see a few other opportunities available to NHSDA members:

Additional NHSDA Opportunities

OTHER NOTES

- Please be sure to add this to your resume. This is a national honor society. If you need help with a resume, please feel free to reach out to me, as I create them for a small fee.
- Students who are currently interested in being a member of our junior program and want to continue to be a member throughout high school must be inducted once before high school, and then will have to be inducted again in high school since high school is a different program. Points from the junior chapter **DO NOT** roll over into the secondary chapter. Students will have to restart the tracking of their points once they are ready to be inducted into the secondary chapter (after they graduate from middle school).
- Some of our students will be attending high schools that have an NHSDA chapter. Please note that even though they may be a Junior chapter member at Steps on Stage, it is highly recommended that once in high school, they be inducted into the Secondary chapter at their high school if they want to graduate with NHSDA designation. They can still attend/take part in any NHSDA events that Steps has, but they will get inducted with their high school's chapter. Of course they are always welcome and encouraged to be a secondary chapter member with Steps if they are not interested in doing it with their high school.
- NHSDA events will be sponsored by our NHSDA chapter. Officers will assist the chapter sponsor with these, and yearly membership fees will go towards them as well.

Current NHSDA events members/prospective members will participate in:

- 1st week of classes - help promote NHSDA
 - Dates TBD
 - Members can create signage, give out information, etc.
- Love Your Body Week
 - Dates TBD
 - *A national campaign dedicated to encouraging body-positive dance environments and celebrating all the wonderful things our body can do.*
- Dance A Difference Week
 - Dates TBD
 - *A week of dance-based community service spread throughout the nation and is always the first full week in March.*
- Other events TBD

Please let me know if you have any questions at all!

JUNIOR/SECONDARY NHSDA NATIONAL INDUCTION POINT SYSTEM

Category	Activity	Point Range
Participation in Chapter Dance Program	Meritorious completion of hours in chapter site dance program (classes in the dance program)	1 point per 45 hours
	Performance in chapter site dance productions (including rehearsal time)	1 - 3 points per production
	Performance in other chapter site presentations (e.g., pep rallies, assemblies)	.5 – 1 point per presentation/performance
	Participation in chapter site extracurricular dance (e.g., dance teams, clubs)	1 point per 45 hours
	Participation in chapter site dance festival or workshop	.5 points per day
Participation in Off-Site Dance Programs Note: Student must submit appropriate documentation.	Participation in off-site dance classes	1 point per 45 hours
	Performance in off-site productions (including rehearsal time)	.5 – 1 point per production
	Participation in off-site dance festival or workshop, or Summer Intensive or Dance Camp	.5 points per day
Participation in Other Dance Activities	Participation in a Formal Adjudication / Judging	1 – 2 points if choreographer .5 - 1 point if dancer
	Choreography – Projects completed inside or outside of chapter site class assignments.	1 – 2 per project
	Scholarship – Written papers, essays, or articles (e.g., essays on dance history, reviews of live dance performances attended, articles for Dance Arts Now! newsletter)	.5 – 2 per essay/article
Participation in Other Duties Related to Dance Production	Stage manager or backstage crew	.5 – 1 point per production
	Lighting designer or crew	.5 – 1 point per production
	Set design or construction	.5 – 1 point per production
	Costume design or construction / Wardrobe crew	.5 – 1 point per production
	Properties manager or crew	.5 – 1 point per production
	Sound technician	.5 – 1 point per production
	Make-up design or crew	.5 – 1 point per production

	Dance captain/rehearsal direct	.5 – 1 point per production
	Business, publicity, box office manager or staff	.5 – 1 point per production
	House manager or crew	.5 – 1 point per production
	Playbill design	.5 – 1 point per production
	Photographer/Videographer	.5 – 1 point per production
Leadership	Taking a leadership role within the NHSDA chapter itself at the school such as President, Treasurer, Secretary, Workshop Organizer	2 – 3 points per role
Custom School Points	Activities that are important to school or chapter sponsors such as participation in a volunteer event, student acting as a dance mentor, student taking on an admin role to help out dance teachers, attendance at dance concerts or shows.	1 – 3 points per activity/event

Junior: At least 15 points required for induction, 10 of which must be earned through participation in chapter site program activities.

Secondary: At least 30 points required for induction, 20 of which must be earned through participation in chapter site program activities.

The National Honor Society for Dance Arts (NHSDA or NJHSDA) is a program of the National Dance Education Organization (NDEO).

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY FOR DANCE ARTS - STUDENT POINT TRACKING WORKSHEET

Student Name: School:	
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Student Name: School:	
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TOTAL POINTS			

Note:
This does not have to be turned into the NDEO home office.