

# USTD YOUNG AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

“Leading with Heart. Inspiring with Dance.”

## Program Overview

The **USTD Ambassador Program** celebrates dancers who embody the spirit, leadership, kindness, and community focus that define the United States Tournament of Dance.

Unlike traditional awards focused on technical ability, this program recognizes **character over competition**, spotlighting dancers who uplift others, lead with integrity, and represent the USTD community with pride both on and off the stage.

## USTD Young Ambassador Perks

Here is a layout of some of the perks the 2026-2027 USTD Young Ambassadors can expect to receive during their Ambassadorship!

### 2026 Regional Event

- Custom USTD Regional Ambassador Jacket to be received at the beginning of the competition weekend
- Recognition Folder: Invitation to exclusive Ambassador opportunities at Nationals as well as your “You’ve been spotted” positivity stickers
- Official Certificate and recognition during specified awards ceremony
- Social media spotlight

### 2026 National Finals

- Free 2026 Nationals Masterclass All Access Package valued at \$145
- Take part in a USTD Young Ambassador Party
- Be featured in Nationals program
- Nationals recognition

\*If an Ambassador chooses to come to the National Finals, they are solely responsible for their own competition fees, room, board, food, transportation, etc.

### 2027 Regionals

- Learn the behind the scenes industry skills
- Learn all different areas of managing and production
- Assist with load in and set up as well as load out
- Assist in retail, backstage and awards positions
- Make connections with industry professionals
- Assist with Mardi Gras hype crew
- Table set up for donations for selected charity
- Pathway towards future internship opportunities
- **Monthly Ambassador Spotlights:** Highlight individual ambassadors’ continued impact year-round

- Staff meals included

\*Ambassadors will be invited to attend all 2027 regional events, with the exception of any event they may be competing at. Event Scheduling to be discussed during a virtual USTD Young Ambassador meeting August 2026 (Meeting date TBD). Travel accommodations and board will be the responsibility of the ambassador.

## Selection Process

**USTD Ambassadors:** The 2026-2027 USTD Young Ambassadors Program selection will take place in two rounds of adjudication. The first round consists of an online application to be completed via Google form by December 31st 2025. If selected to move on to the second round, dancers would then be contacted about scheduling time for a short interview with members of the competitions committee. From there a winner from each respective age category will be designated an honorable “USTD Young Ambassador” of their attending region. Winners will be contacted before the first physical date of their competition weekend with USTD and will be notified of how to accept their awards and when they will be acknowledged at their respective regional event.

- Application to be hosted on a Google Form, which will be posted on the USTD Official social media platforms and included in an email to all participating regional event studio owners. The application will also be available on the USTD website at [www.ustd.com](http://www.ustd.com)
- **Applications Open:** November 11th, 2025
- **Applications Closed:** December 31st, 2025 11:59pm

### Eligibility

- Open to all dancers attending a 2026 USTD Regional event (\*that meet the age requirement & are registered with a participating studio)
- Two ambassadors selected per region: 1 Junior (ages 9–12 as of 01/01/26) & 1 Senior (ages 13-19 as of 01/01/26)

### Round One: Google Form

- Personal Information: Name, Date of Birth, Age Division, Studio Name and Location, Region Attending (Drop-Down), Email\*, Phone Number\*, Headshot, Jacket Size.
- Short Questionnaire: "How do you use dance to inspire or uplift others?" "Describe a time you demonstrated leadership or kindness in your dance community." "What would being a USTD Ambassador mean to you?"
- Community Engagement Example: Share one way you've given back to your community (volunteering, mentoring, fundraising, etc.)
- Icebreaker Question: "If you had to choose one emoji to describe yourself, what would it be and why?"
- Optional One Minute introductory video
- Interview Prep questions
- Graduating Senior Disclosure: To our 2026 Graduating Seniors, USTD is offering the unique opportunity that if you are selected as a 2026-2027 USTD Young Ambassador, you will have the choice of either filling your role as an Ambassador for the company or be considered for an internship with the company for the 2027 season!

### Round 2: Interview

Those who are selected to receive an interview will be evaluated on the following

- Confidence and authenticity
- Articulation of USTD Values
- Kindness, empathy, and team work

**Interview Scheduling:** Conducted in January (virtual via Zoom or Google Meet)

- **Format:** 5–10 minute conversation with candidate to get to know each applicant beyond their written responses, gauge communication skills, and discuss their community involvement.
- **Sample Interview Questions:**

“What inspired you to apply for the USTD Ambassador Program?”

“How do you handle challenges or nerves in a competition setting?”

“How do you make others in your dance community feel supported?”

- **Minimum of 2 Winners per Region (Junior & Senior)**
- Recognized at the **Awards Ceremony:** during the final awards ceremony of the weekend

### **USTD Charity Partner**

An additional task that the USTD Young Ambassadors will take on as a team and as individuals is the **Ambassador Service Project**. This project aims to partner with a charity of the competition's choice to help give back to not only the dance community, but the world at large.

#### **About Ronald McDonald House (Since 1974)**

Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) provides a “home away from home” for families with seriously ill or injured children who are receiving treatment at nearby hospitals. Their houses offer a warm, supportive, and cost-free place to stay, helping families focus on what matters most, caring for their child.

#### **Why We’re Partnering with Them**

We’re proud to support Ronald McDonald House because we believe in their mission to keep families close during challenging times. By partnering with RMHC, we’re helping ensure that families have the comfort, resources, and community they need while their children receive critical medical care.

**\*For more information contact USTD Young Ambassador Program Director Jordan Pittari at [jordanustd@gmail.com](mailto:jordanustd@gmail.com)**