

The background is a vibrant purple with a pattern of small, glowing bokeh lights in shades of pink, white, and blue. A large, stylized, multi-colored arc frames the top and sides of the page. The text is centered and reads:

StarQuest
2026

**Parent Experience
Packet**

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Digital Pass Reminder

Anyone entering the building without a registered dancer will potentially need to present their Digital Pass at the door via the StarQuest app. Admission to the event is still free – the Digital Pass helps increase safety and security on-site for our dance families and assists in maintaining capacity limitations.

To obtain a Digital Pass, you will need to download the SQ app, sign in, attach to your city, click the “Digital Pass” button, and enter the below password. Learn how to download the app below using the “SQ App” section.

Visit www.starquestdance.com/sq-apps/ to download the app.

Welcome

Hello!

Thank you so much for sharing your time with us during the 33rd Edition of StarQuest. We are beyond excited to host you for this upcoming year and are so grateful that you have chosen us to be a part of your dancer’s journey. We look forward to helping you have the best experience possible.

Welcome to the updated SQ Parent Experience Packet. This packet was created as a way to help both new and experienced parents/guardians by giving as much information about the area, venue, and the event as possible. We update the packets each year so you always have the latest information. We hope this will make coming to our events even easier for you and your kids, so all you have to worry about when you get on site is watching your dancer and choosing the best place to eat.

We hope this packet answers all of your questions, but if you have any questions or suggestions on ways we can improve this document, please let your studio director know so they can share that feedback with us.

We cannot wait to join you in celebrating your dancers for the 2026 season!
See you soon!

Keep On Dancing,
Your SQ Family

City & Venue Information

HOTEL INFORMATION



ADDRESS

Holiday Inn Express & Suites Dallas NE – Allen
205 N Central Expy
Allen, TX 75013
972-727-2000

AMENITIES

Families can appreciate our hotel's location near Ball Parks such as Celebration Park, Allen Station Park, and Heritage Yards in Plano. We are also located near the new Delta Marriott, Watters Creek Convention Center. Whether you are here for business or leisure, our Allen, Texas hotel provides all the modern amenities you seek in a home away from home. Each morning, we offer a complimentary, hot breakfast to start the day right. We also have a sparkling, outdoor pool and whirlpool with a soothing waterfall, not to mention a fitness center so you can keep up with your daily routine.

PARKING

Complimentary on-site parking.

City & Venue Information

VENUE / PARKING MAP

ALLEN ISD PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



PARKING MAP

Free patron parking is available in the parking lots across from the main entrance.

City & Venue Information

ADA & ACCESSIBILITY INFORMATION

Seating: Accessible seating for patrons with disabilities and a companion is available for all shows on a first-come, first serve basis.

MISCELLANEOUS VENUE & HOTEL INFORMATION

Miscellaneous Venue Info:

For more information about the venue, you can visit their website: <https://valleyofharrisburg.org/>

Concessions:

Concessions are not available at this venue

Urgent Care & Emergency Room:

Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Allen

1105 Central Expy N, Allen, TX 75013- (972) 747-1000 - 4 min drive

Medical City McKinney Emergency Room

4500 Medical Center Dr, McKinney, TX 75069 - (972) 547-8000 - 12 min drive

City & Venue Information

FOOD

Local/Minority Owned Restaurants

- Fred's Downtown Philly - 6 min drive**
- Scotty P's - 7 minute drive**
- Jollof Haus - West African Flavors - 8 min drive**
- Hawaiian Bros Island Grill - 8 min drive**
- What's Cluckin - 9 min drive**

Sit-Down Restaurants

- Italian Villa Allen - 2 min drive**
- Jalapenos Mexican Grill - 2 min drive**
- Soulman's Bar-B-Que - 3 min drive**
- Sloppy Mess Kitchen - 3 min drive**
- LaShish Mediterranean Greek - 4 min drive**
- Cracker Barrel - 7 min drive**

Fast-Food Restaurants

- Subway - 2 min drive, 9 min walk**
- Max's Donut Shop - 3 min drive**
- Lucky House - 3 min drive**
- Cici's Pizza - 3 min drive**
- KFC - 3 min drive**
- Taco Casa - 4 min drive**

Coffee Shops

- Starbucks - 4 min drive**
- Caffe Promenade - 8 min drive**
- Armor Coffee Co - 9 min drive**
- Scooter's Coffee - 9 min drive**
- Cream & Sugar - 11 min drive**

Competition Information

LIVESTREAM

Access to the StarQuest Livestream Page is password-protected to ensure the safety of the dancers and artists attending the event. Parents can reach out to your studio staff around a week prior to the event to receive password.

Please visit the link below. Our staff is more than happy to help answer any questions on-site or prior to the event!

Password: [SQAllen5](#)

[Click here to open the SQ Livestream Page](#)

COMPETITION RULES & AWARDS

For detailed information on our rules, you can visit the link below. You can also ask any questions to our staff at the event! We would be more than happy to explain things to you. Below, we will define some common terms you can expect to hear throughout the competition.

[Click here to open the SQ 2026 Rules Page](#)

FOUNDATIONAL RULES BREAKDOWN

Age class

A dancer's age class is determined by how old they are as of January 1st, 2026.

A group's age class is determined by the average age of all performers in the dance.

Mini: 5 & Under

Petite: 6-8

Junior: 9-11

Teen: 12-14

Senior: 15-18

Progressive: 19-24

Adult: 25+

Levels

We have 3 levels of competition:

Nova: Beginner

Classic: Intermediate

Select: Advanced

ADJUDICATION AWARDS 3 JUDGES

SELECT	LEVEL	NOVA/CLASSIC
300 - 291	Ultimate Platinum	N / A
290.99 - 276	Platinum Plus	300 - 276
275.99 - 264	Platinum	275.99 - 264
263.99 - 246	High Gold	263.99 - 246
245.99 - 228	Gold	245.99 - 228

Competition Information

COMPETITION RULES & AWARDS

Adjudications

The range that an overall score falls into, as designated by one of the following terms: Gold, High Gold, Platinum, Platinum Plus, or Ultimate Platinum. These will be the first awards given out during the awards ceremonies. You can think of this as the grade each dance receives!

Title

This is an additional award that can be added to Solos. The score for Title is separate from the adjudication score and is based primarily on performance and personality. Title is given out separately for each level and age class. If you would like to sign your dancer up, check in with your studio director first, and then come see us at the media counter! The cost to add a regional Title onsite is \$75.00 per entry.

Each title participant receives a custom SQ medal, and the winners receive a membership shirt, tiara or hat, and a sponsorship swag bag.

Top Score

The ranking of routines in numerical order. Depending on the number of routines competing in the same age class/division/level, we may give out a top 5, top 10, or top 20. If there are fewer than 5 in a class/division/level, we will award a top 4, top 3, etc.

Category Awards

Awards are given to the highest-scoring routines in select categories that typically receive a large number of entries. Ex: Jazz, Lyrical/Contemporary/Modern, Tap, Musical Theatre/Character, etc.

Apogee

Given to the highest scoring group routine. 8 total Apogees are possible at any regional event: Classic Mini/Petite Apogee, Classic Junior Apogee, Classic Teen Apogee, Classic Senior Apogee, Select Mini/Petite Apogee, Select Junior Apogee, Select Teen Apogee, Select Senior Apogee.

Photogenic

An additional award that can be signed up for on-site in the lobby. Submit as many photos of your dancer as you like and our judges will award the dancer they find to be most photogenic. There will be 3 photogenic awards presented: Mini/Petite/Junior, Teen/Senior, and Adult. We do not accept physical photos on-site. The best way to submit a photo on-site is via flash drive. Regional Photogenic fee is \$45.00 for the first photo and \$25.00 per additional photo.

Competition Information

COMPETITION RULES & AWARDS

Awards

For detailed information on what awards we give out and how they are won, you can visit the link below. You can also ask any questions to our staff at the event! We would be more than happy to explain things to you.

[Click here to open the SQ Awards Page](#)

Ceremonies

At the end of each segment, there will be an awards ceremony. During the ceremony, dancers who competed in that segment may sit on stage to receive their awards. Parents and studio staff can watch from the audience.

Physical Awards/Gift Certificates:

Dancers will stand up to receive awards during the ceremony. Awards and Gift Certificates are awarded to the studio. Check in with your studio director about what to do with the physical awards after the ceremony. SQ Gift Certificates are non-physical and are added directly to the studio's registration account after the event.

General Information

DIGITAL PASS / BAG CHECKS

Upon entering and at any time during the StarQuest event, you may be required to provide the Digital Pass. This is a step we take to ensure the safety of all guests and staff.

All bags are subject to a bag check for the same reason. Some venues have specific rules about what is and is not allowed inside. You can find more about this on page 6 under “Miscellaneous Venue Information.”

WHAT TO EXPECT ON A NORMAL DAY

When you walk into the event, you will notice we have placed directional signage throughout the venue to help direct you to where you need to be during the competition. If there is any confusion, please do not hesitate to ask - we are more than happy to assist you!

You can purchase a souvenir program at merchandise or look up your program using our StarQuest app. Dancers are allowed to warm up onstage prior to the start of competition and during every intermission/break. Make sure your dancer is backstage and ready to perform 5 dances prior to theirs and that they check in with the stage manager. Now all you have to do is watch!

Once you are settled, we hope you enjoy watching some dance, including your dancer. After a couple of hours, there will be an awards ceremony for the dancers who just performed. After the awards ceremony, make sure you check in with your studio directors/teachers before you leave. Some studios have different rules as far as when the dancers are supposed to arrive and leave.

General Information

DRESSING ROOMS

How do dressing rooms work at StarQuest?

At StarQuest, we believe it is important to assign each studio their own space for their dancers to get ready and prep for their performances.

As mentioned above, SQ staff will post directional signage prior to the event - but if you are having trouble finding your studio's dressing room, just ask one of our staff members for assistance.

We typically assign one dressing room for men and multiple dressing rooms for women. Space permitting, we will also assign a family dressing room for parents/guardians who may need to assist a younger dancer of a different gender. There is a strong likelihood that your studio will be sharing a dressing room with one or more other studios. Dressing rooms are assigned based on the amount of dancers the studio has in a particular segment.

If your dancer is not performing until a later segment, please have them (and their belongings) wait in the auditorium or lobby to allow for ample space in the dressing rooms. We encourage ALL dancers to come dressed and ready in their first costume to mitigate time spent in these rooms. Dressing rooms should be used for changes only.

Dressing Rooms are for performers, teachers, and studio owners only. Parents may be allowed in the room at the studio owner's discretion if they are approved as a studio representative.

TRANS & NON-BINARY DANCERS

What if my dancer is Trans or Non-binary?

We want your dancer to feel just as comfortable as every other dancer in attendance. Please have your studio director contact the Event Concierge or call the office directly so we can set up dressing room accommodations prior to your arrival.

DANCERS WITH DISABILITIES

What if my dancer has a disability?

Accessibility is important to us and we want to make sure your dancer is comfortable. Please call us or have your studio director call us if you have any additional needs for yourself or your dancers.

General Information

WHAT TO BRING

What should I have with me at a StarQuest event?

We know every dancer's needs are different but here is a list of items that are always helpful to have at a competition weekend!

- Performance-specific items: costumes, accessories, makeup, props, shoes.
- Toiletries: tide stick, lint roller, scissors, hot glue, body adhesive/tape, safety pins, deodorant, sewing kit, makeup remover, menstrual hygiene products, tweezers.
- Beauty products: bobby pins, hair styling products, hair bands, mirror.
- First aid: We do provide the basics in the lobby and backstage, but please bring anything personalized like medications, Epipens, inhalers, etc.
- Food/drinks: water bottle, small snacks. Please note that not all venues allow outside food and/or drinks. You can find this info in our Miscellaneous Venue Information section on page 6!
- Misc: Lucky item, chargers, blanket, pillow, homework, warm-up items, camera, headphones, speaker, book.
- And lastly...positive energy, good sportsmanship, and a desire to have FUN!

WHAT NOT TO BRING

What should I avoid bringing to a StarQuest event?

Please read our venue-specific section above to see what this specific venue allows/doesn't allow on-site.

- Animals that are not licensed service animals.
- Weapons of any kind.
- Alcohol (Some venues may serve alcohol and will be fined heavily if outside alcohol is found onsite. Some school venues will escort people off campus who are found with alcohol.)
- Helium Balloons

General Information

ETIQUETTE

The following are etiquette suggestions for our events so that everyone attending feels comfortable and respected.

- Dancers can be distracted onstage by the smallest things. We ask that you try your best to respect the performers by waiting until a dance has completed fully before entering or exiting the auditorium.
- When backstage, look for the white line. Dancers should stay behind this white line anytime they are not in the currently performing dance. Judges can sometimes see if there is someone in the wings, and this can distract them from being fully present during the dancer's routine.
- Silence your cell phones and take any calls in the lobby/outside.
- Absolutely no photos/videos are to be taken in the theater during performances or in the dressing rooms/bathrooms. Photos and videos of the stage are allowed and encouraged during and after awards ceremonies. Don't forget to come out to the lobby to get one in front of the photo backdrop!
- Poor sportsmanship during performances, awards, or post-awards will not be tolerated.
- Take all trash with you when you leave the theater/dressing room.
- Respect other studios' spaces and belongings in dressing rooms. While we are not liable for items left in the dressing rooms unattended, we will do everything we can in the case that someone's belongings have been moved or taken.
- Be kind! Dance competitions can be really exciting but also stressful and nerve-wracking. Treat everyone with respect and kindness.
- We do not condone the act of saving seats. Personal belongings left in seats in order to save them are not the responsibility of StarQuest. These items may be removed by venue staff and brought to the lost and found.

General Information

SCHEDULE

HOW IT WORKS, WHEN TO SHOW UP, INTERMISSION

Your studio will receive the schedule no later than 9 days prior to the event. They should be able to answer any specific questions about when your dancer is expected to perform.

We suggest you plan to show up to the event at least two hours before your child's first performance or at the doors open time listed on the schedule if they are scheduled to perform within the first two hours of the day. This ensures that you have enough time to get comfortable with the venue, find your dressing room and get set up, warm up, etc. We do ask that each entry checks in with our Stage Manager at least 5 entries before their dance. We have been known to run ahead of schedule!

The days can be very long, but we do our best to break it up into sections or "segments." A segment will usually include a set of dances, an intermission/break, another set of dances, then an awards ceremony. There are typically 3-4 segments in one day.

Intermission is a time where the competition takes a break to allow the dancers and guests to get a snack, go to the bathroom, etc. Our intermissions are typically 10-15 minutes. You can reference the time printed in the program or listen to our announcements for specific details on each intermission. During this time, dancers are usually allowed to warm up on stage.

At the end of each segment, we will have an awards ceremony to highlight the routines that just performed. We will also take a short break after every awards ceremony before starting the next segment.

The StarQuest app has the schedule as well as updates showing which dance is on stage and which dance is next. See the next page for more information on how to access/navigate our app.

General Information

SQ APP

We have a StarQuest app! Through this app, you can access your dancer's media package, a virtual program, and the livestream. Follow the steps below to ensure you can access the necessary information while on-site!



On your mobile device go to the app store/google play store and search "StarQuest Dance." Click the "Get" or "Install" button.

You can also visit www.starquestdance.com/sq-apps/ to download the app directly from our website.

CREATING AN ACCOUNT / LOGGING IN

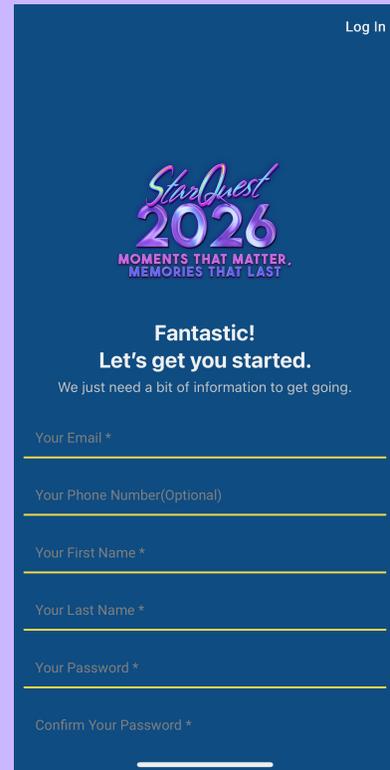
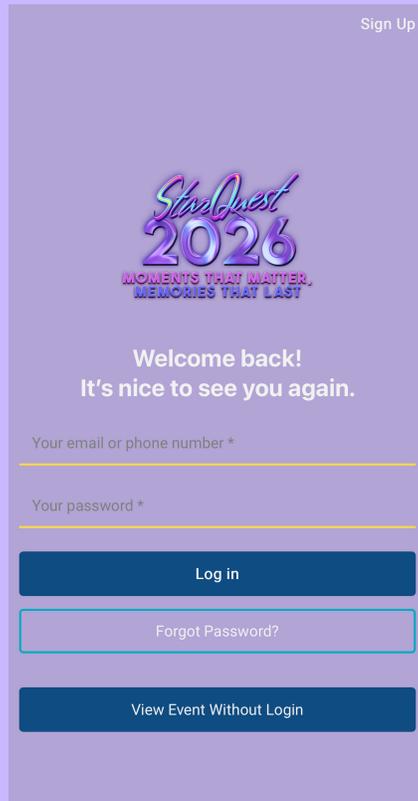
Once you have downloaded the app and opened it, it will open to a home screen. In the top right corner, you can click "Sign Up" to create a new account. If you already have an account, you can input your email/phone number and password and click "Log In."

Note: There is also an option to view the event without logging in. This will give you the most basic view of the app, which includes access to the program and livestream, but will not allow you to preview your dancer's media package or access the Digital Pass for your event.

General Information

SQ APP

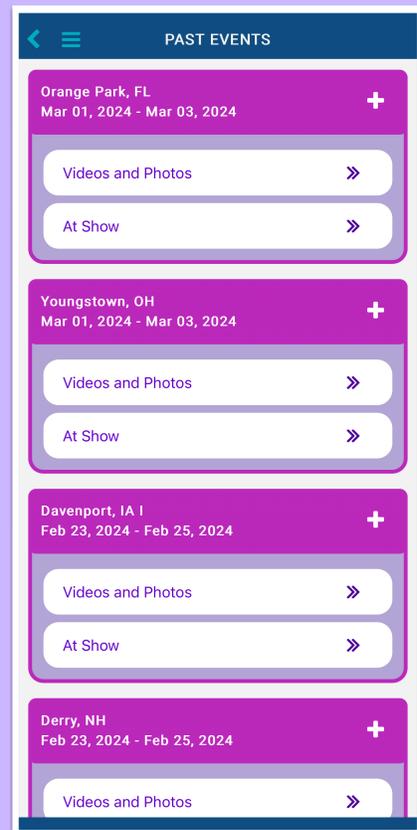
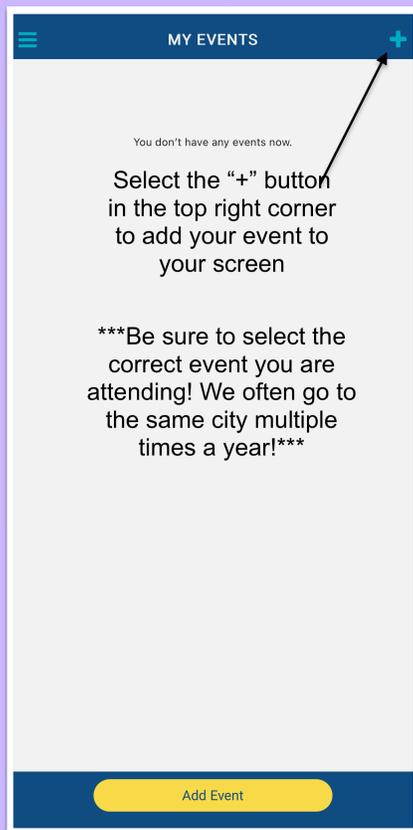
LOGGING IN



ADDING YOUR EVENT

-Be sure to select the correct event you are attending. We often return to the same city multiple times during the same regional season. We specify that by including I, II, III next to the city name.

-If you are attending a two-room event, select both rooms to access all of your media.

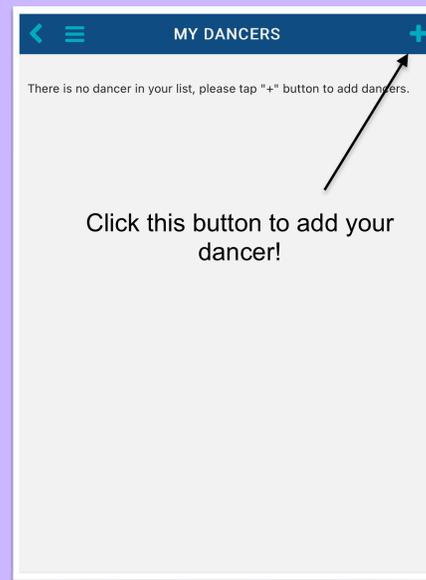
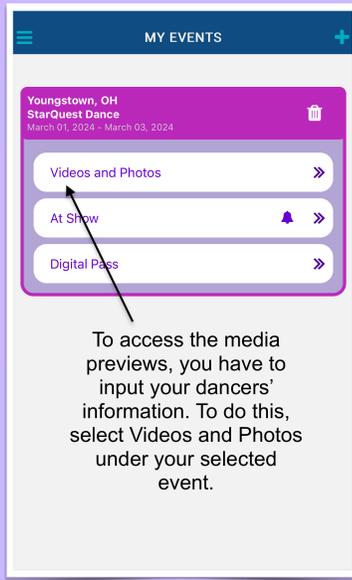


General Information

SQ APP

ACCESSING MEDIA PREVIEWS (Available everywhere internet access allows)

For all events, high-resolution media will be available by the Thursday following the event at 5 p.m. Look below in the “After The Event” section on page 19 to read about accessing your high-resolution media!



The first time you check for media, It will show you that there is no dancer in your list. Select the “+” sign in the top right corner and input the first and last name of your dancer along with their birthdate.



- This is often where we see the most mistakes arise. If your dancer's name or birthdate doesn't match the registration in our system even by 1 character, you will not immediately see your dancer to select. DO NOT WORRY, these can be fixed on-site at the media counter in the lobby.

MEDIA REMINDER: Your dancer will not be added to the app system until the 1st day of competition. Please wait until the start of competition before you attempt to add your dancer or view their media in the app. If your dancer is still not visible once competition has begun, please proceed to the Media Center where someone can help!

General Information

DID YOU KNOW?

Here at StarQuest, we have earned a reputation of always being positive and professional, while focusing on the kids and making sure everyone has fun. We strive to be a competition with fair, honest professionals who are the friendliest in the business.

During an event, we have a staff of nine road warriors, three judges, an Event Concierge, and an Event Director on-site at all times. Please don't hesitate to ask us if you have any questions! Here's a preview of who you will see on-site and where you can find them...

StarQuest Staff

COORDINATORS

EVENT DIRECTOR

The Event Director organizes the event, staff, and judges. You can find them walking around the whole event, checking in on each department.

EVENT CONCIERGE

The Event Concierge is the person who has been speaking with your studio/competition director from the very beginning! Find them at the media center in the lobby.

IN THE LOBBY

MERCHANDISE / SOCIAL MEDIA ASSOCIATE

Well versed in all things merch, they also manage our social media content! Catch them backstage, throughout the lobby, or at the merch counter capturing and editing content in between selling you the latest in dance fashions.

EMCEE

Our Emcees are your Master of Ceremony for the event! Catch them on stage during awards, on the mic at our sound board, or backstage at our Video Console set-up.

IN THE AUDIENCE

VIDEO CAMERA

Mounted on a platform, our camera operator is capturing consistently well-composed footage of every routine. This footage is projected in the theater, recorded for your child's media package, and also shared to our livestream for viewers at home!

SOUND OPERATOR / OFFSTAGE ANNOUNCER

Not only do they announce every dance and balance the sound for our show, they are also in charge of playing some of the musical transitions between dances! Find them at the sound board.

IN THE PIT

PHOTOGRAPHER

From their position in the center of the orchestra pit, our photographers are trained to capture the peak moments in each and every routine so you have memorable moments to look back on. These photos will be quality-checked and uploaded to the SQ App!

JUDGES MANAGER

Ensures the quality of judge critiques and integrity of StarQuest scoring. You may see the auditor talking with the judges at the table, walking with them to and from the staff room, or looking over paperwork.

BACKSTAGE

STAGE MANAGER

They are the person your dancer/teacher will check in with backstage 5 entries before they go on. They keep keep the show running smoothly and on time while eliminating the anxieties of dancers and studio directors.

CONSOLE OPERATOR

Those cool music videos that tie into the routine that just performed? That's your event's Video Console person! You can find them backstage behind lots of computers.

AWARDS/COMPANY MANAGER

The Awards person is in charge of making sure the awards ceremonies run smoothly. You may see them backstage setting up their table, or onstage handing the Emcee an award at the perfect time!

In Case Of Emergency

WHO'S WHO?

On site we have two leaders who are educated on the venue and what to do in emergencies: our Event Director and Event Concierge. If you encounter an emergency or potential emergency, please alert the nearest SQ staff member and they will be sure to notify the ED or EC immediately.

Our Event Directors and Event Concierges are trained in CPR and first aid. They can help assist in basic situations. We encourage doing what you feel comfortable with when it comes to calling emergency services. We have no problem making that call for you, if needed.

We will always have a first aid kit available backstage with our Stage Manager and in the lobby. Our first aid kit includes bandaids, pain medicine, tampons/pads, antibacterial ointment, bandage wraps, etc.

ACCIDENT REPORT

We may ask a parent/guardian to fill out an accident report for us if something does happen onsite. It is very important that we have a clear record of the incident.

EXIT PLAN

The venue staff are going to be most knowledgeable when it comes to the venue's specific exit plan. Please make sure you are listening to their instructions in case of an emergency. There will be clearly marked exits throughout the venue.

CLOSEST EMERGENCY CARE OPTIONS

Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Allen
1105 Central Expy N, Allen, TX 75013- (972) 747-1000 - 4 min drive

Medical City McKinney Emergency Room
4500 Medical Center Dr, McKinney, TX 75069 - (972) 547-8000 - 12 min drive

After The Event

THE EVENT IS OVER, NOW WHAT?

ACCESSING MEDIA

The high-resolution media will be available to download by 5:00 pm on the Thursday following your event. Here's how!

Step 1: App - Past Events

Select the event you attended. If you didn't select it while on-site, you may have to select "Past Events" and pick your event from that list.

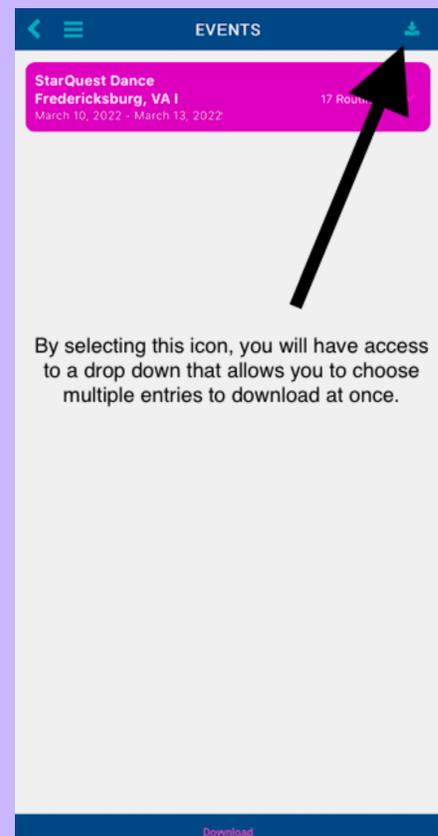
Step 2: Dancer's Information

Once you have selected your event, click Videos and Photos under your specific event.

Now input your dancer's information: Select the "+" sign in the top right corner, and insert the first and last name of your dancer along with their birthday.

Step 3: Download

Once your dancer has been added, each routine will show up. Select the routine you would like to view. Underneath each photo/video, there is an option to download your media individually. There is also an option to download all content at once, as shown here.



World Finals

WE HOPE YOU'LL JOIN US AGAIN SOON!

Come see us at one of our World Finals destinations! Our 2026 World Finals are open invitational, meaning that any studio can attend. There are four events held at three locations, all in tourist destinations, so it's a dance competition and a vacation all in one.

These elongated events are packed with extras! Free Master Classes, Improv Competitions, Senior Closing Numbers, a Free Dance Party, Re-Competes, Spirit Days, etc.

Watch our projectors throughout the event for even more fun facts about our World Finals events! We would be honored to host you and your family!

Our Event Concierges/Directors would love to talk about finals on-site or after the event if any questions arise!

A vibrant, space-themed promotional graphic for the StarQuest 2026 World Finals. The background is a dark purple space with yellow stars, planets, and a rainbow. A woman in a pink and purple outfit is dancing with her arms raised. The text is arranged in colorful, rounded rectangular boxes. The main title 'StarQuest 2026 WORLD FINALS' is in large, stylized letters. Below it, a smaller text block says 'STAY WHERE THE DANCING HAPPENS! TO RESERVE FROM OUR HOTEL ROOM BLOCK VISIT WWW.STARQUESTDANCE.COM'. Four event locations and dates are listed in separate boxes: Galveston, TX (June 21-26, 2026), Orlando, FL (June 30-July 5, 2026), Hershey, PA I (July 6-11, 2026), and Hershey, PA II (July 13-17, 2026).

GALVESTON, TX
JUNE 21 – JUNE 26, 2026

ORLANDO, FL
JUNE 30 – JULY 5, 2026

HERSHEY, PA I
JULY 6 – JULY 11, 2026

HERSHEY, PA II
JULY 13 – JULY 17, 2026

StarQuest
2026
WORLD FINALS

STAY WHERE THE DANCING HAPPENS!
TO RESERVE FROM OUR HOTEL ROOM BLOCK
VISIT WWW.STARQUESTDANCE.COM

Space is still available!