



Pantera FAQ #6 - Solos/Duets/Trios/Quartets at Contests

1. Why should my daughter do a solo/duet/trio/quartet (SDTQ)?

Your daughter should do a SDTQ for an opportunity to learn to set goals and achieve them. In order to accomplish one of the dances above, your daughter will need to pick a song, have it cut to 1 ½ minute length, learn a dance, pick a costume and perform it for a judge to critique. My daughter, Alana, learned a lot from doing these extra projects over her years as a Pantera.

Also, if your daughter aspires to be a dance officer, she will be required to do a solo for dance officer tryouts. By doing solos at the competitions, she'll have feedback from judges prior to her dance officer tryout. According to Alana, her best solo performances were at her dance officer tryouts when I wasn't there to videotape!

And, the SDTQ's can win prizes (including cash) and bring more notoriety to the Pantera name. Some dance teams bring about 20 solos to contests. Oh, and our duets and trios won a lot of First and Second places last year. The team does come to their performances and cheers them on! It's a GREAT confidence booster!

2. What will my daughter get for doing a SDTQ?

Each contest has different rules. Some give trophies, some give plaques, some give trophies to each girl in the DTQ a trophy. Alana always achieved a medal. Also, each judge will record her comments during the dance onto a cassette tape for your daughter to listen to for tips to improve. There will be a score sheet from each judge. At last year's National contest, Woody also received a ranking of all of the solos so you can see how she did compared to others even if she didn't make it into the finals.

3. How much does it cost?

- A. Contest Fees: The SDTQ costs differ by contest. The fees range from \$50 to \$65 per contest. You will pay these fees through the Panteras in January.
- B. Professionally Cut Music: Free to \$50.
- C. Choreography: Free to \$300-\$500.

4. Does she need to compete at each contest?

No. She can compete at just one contest. I recommend competing at all of the contests because that will give her a chance to hear from a bunch of different judges and to improve at each contest from what she learns from the previous contest. Besides that, after all the time and money spent, she may as well participate in each contest.

5. When should her STDQ be ready?

She will perform for Woody and the team in costume in early January. I highly recommend getting started as soon as possible so there is plenty of time to perfect her routine. At a minimum, get it learned before Christmas Break. I remember many of the girls were working on theirs the summer before. . .not Alana, she was a bit of a procrastinator.

6. How do I find a choreographer?

If you go to a local dance studio, check with your dance director or any of your daughter's teachers. You can also ask your dance officer, who they used. If you don't attend a local dance studio, you can call any of them and inquire for solo teachers. Your daughter can also do her own choreography. We've had several officers do this in the past. Also, your daughter can ask Woody's advice.

7. How do I get my music professionally cut?

Again, check with your local dance studio. Some kids know how to do this so your daughter can ask her dance officer. I believe that TraxCity in Irving will do it as well as Rhythm Nation in Bedford. Our choreographer included this in her fee.

8. Where do I find her costume?

Anywhere. Forever 21 is popular as is Charlotte Russe. Costume selection is very important but it does not have to come from a costume company nor does it need sequins. The costume should reflect the song. The judges do pay attention to this. You don't have to spend any money on this at all. Alana put together her costumes from stuff in her closet.

9. What form of dance should she do?

This is a little tricky. My past experience has shown that Modern and Lyrical are the most common forms that make it to finals. Jazz is also a popular finalist. You can do whatever form you want to do. This dance belongs entirely to you. The most important thing is to be passionate and show that passion in your dance.

10. Will Woody be responsible for my daughter's music as well as reminding her when to arrive at the stage to perform?

No. She will prompt your daughter and tell her when to be there and she will have it on the schedule for the entire team to know when to be there to cheer her on. Your daughter will carry her music to the music operator and she will retrieve it from the music operator when she's done. Same at finals. By the way, make several copies of her music and bring a spare copy. Weird things happen and you don't want her to make it to finals only to NOT have her music.

11. Can my daughter use a prop?

Absolutely. The prop creation will be up to you and your daughter. The Prop Daddies were able to transport the props last year but you will need to make sure you check this out with Woody first.