



# Heart of the USA Competition Weekend 2026

February 13-15, 2026

Salt Lake City, Utah  
USA-2024

SDUSA looks forward to welcoming dancers, teachers and friends from our global dance community to the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Heart of the USA Competition Weekend in beautiful Salt Lake City, Utah. This event is a celebration of Highland Dancing and open to dancers of all levels and ages. We invite all attendees to join us for a Friday night Pizza Party where we can kick off the competition weekend and celebrate the gift of Highland dance in our hearts this Valentine's Day weekend.

**Judges:** Janis Burkhardt, Rhona Lawrence, Jennifer Thompson

**Pipers:** Doug Frobese, Brian Green

The entry form will go live Sunday October 26, 2025 at 12:00pm EST at: <https://www.scotdanceusa.com/heart-of-the-usa/>

## Host Hotel & Event Venue:

### **Sheraton Salt Lake City Hotel**

150 W 500 S, Salt Lake City, UT 84101 801-401-2000

Room Rate: \$159.00 per night + taxes/fees

[Click here for hotel reservation link](#)

## Admission Tickets

- All non-competitors (over the age of 18) must purchase entry tickets prior to event via the online entry.
- Friday Choreography is FREE admission for all
- Children under the age of 18 receive FREE admission.

Admission Tickets
1-Day Admission Adult: \$30
2-Day Admission Adult: \$50
2-Day SDUSA 2026 Teacher: \$30

## Donate to Heart of the USA:



**For questions and feedback please reach out to us!**

heartoftheusa@scotdanceusa.com

**Friday February 13<sup>th</sup>**

### Pre-Premier & Premier Solo Choreography

(Registration: 4:30 pm; Dancing: 5:00 pm)

Entry Fee: \$30

- Pre-Premier includes: Beginner, Novice, and Intermediates
- Age groups to be determined based on entries received
- All dancers in the choreography competition must use the track of "Nelson Mandela's Welcome to the City of Glasgow" by Blair Douglas and is available on Heart of the USA website:  
<https://www.scotdanceusa.com/heart-of-the-usa/>
- We are grateful to Mr. Douglas for kindly granting permission for the use of his work. Please respect his generosity by using this track only in connection with your choreography for this event.
- Props are allowed (no live animals)
- Dance should consist primarily of movements from Highland, National, Hornpipe or Jig books

### Heart of the USA Pizza Party Social

(Pizza Party 6:30 pm; \$5/person) All dancers, parents, teachers, friends are welcome.

**Saturday February 14<sup>th</sup>**

(Doors Open: 8:00 am; Registration: 8:30 am; Dancing: 9:00 am)

### Pre-Premier

1 Day Entry Fee: \$30

2 Day (Sat & Sun) Total Entry Fee: \$50

Primary: 16 Pas de Basque, Pas de Basque & High Cuts, Fling (4), Sword (2&1)

Beginner: Fling (4), Sword (2&1), ST (3&1)

Novice: Fling (4), Sword (2&1), ST (3&1)

Intermediate: Fling (4), Sword (2&1), ST (3&1)

### ScotDance USA Premier Challenge

1 Day Entry Fee: \$50

2 Day (Sat & Sun) Total Entry Fee: \$80

Premier 11 & Under: Lilt (4), Sword (2&1), ST (3&1)

Premier 13 & Under: Lilt (4), Sword (3&1), ST (4&2)

Premier 15 & Under: Lilt (4), Sword (3&1), ST (4&2)

Premier 17 & Under: Lilt (4), Sword (3&1), ST (4&2)

Premier 20 & Under: Lilt (4), Sword (3&1), ST (4&2)

Premier 24 & Under: Lilt (4), Sword (3&1), ST (4&2)

Premier 25 & Over: Lilt (4), Sword (3&1), ST (4&2)

### Premier "& Overs" Challenge

1 Day Entry Fee: \$50

2 Day (Sat "& Overs" & Sun Premier Nationals) Total Entry Fee: \$80

- Dancers must be at least age 30 and may only compete in "& Overs" Challenge or SDUSA Premier Challenge but not both. (Please see dancing rule 23 for more info).

Premier 30 "& Over": Lilt (4), Sword (2&1), ST (3&1)

# Heart of the USA 2026 ~Timeline of Events

**Saturday February 14<sup>th</sup> Continued.....**

### ScotDance USA Premier 3&1 Traditional Broadsword

Team Entry Fee: \$75

- Maximum of 12 entries will be accepted
- Premier dancers only
- Broadswords will be pre-placed on the stage by the organizer prior to the dance starting
- Please see rule 24 for more information

**Sunday February 15<sup>th</sup>**

(Doors Open: 8:00 am; Registration: 8:30 am; Dancing: 9:00 am)

### Pre-Premier

1 Day Entry Fee: \$30

2 Day (Sat & Sun) Total Entry Fee: \$50

Beginner/Novice/Intermediate Scholarship Dance Entry Fee: \$10.00

- Pre-Premier scholarship dances not part of Aggregate.
- Age groups for scholarship dances will be determined based on entries received.

Primary: 16 Pas de Basque, Pas de Basque & High Cuts, Fling (4), Sword (2&1)

Beginner: Flora (4), Lilt (4) + *Beginner: Scholarship Trophy Fling (4)*

Novice: Flora (4), Lilt (4) + *Novice: Scholarship Trophy Fling (4)*

Intermediate: Flora (4), Lilt (4) + *Intermediate: Scholarship Hornpipe Challenge (4)*

### Premier Nationals

1 Day Entry Fee: \$50

2 Day (Sat & Sun) Total Entry Fee: \$80

Premier 11 & Under: HP (4), Blue Bonnets (4), Strathspey & ½ Tulloch

Premier 13 & Under: HP (4), Blue Bonnets (4), Strathspey & ½ Tulloch

Premier 15 & Under: HP (4), Blue Bonnets (4), Strathspey & ½ Tulloch

Premier 17 & Under: HP (4), Blue Bonnets (4), Strathspey & ½ Tulloch

Premier 20 & Under: HP (4), Blue Bonnets (4), Strathspey & ½ Tulloch

Premier 24 & Under: HP (4), Blue Bonnets (4), Strathspey & ½ Tulloch

Premier 25 & Over: HP (4), Blue Bonnets (4), Strathspey & ½ Tulloch

### Afternoon Professional Development

Fee: No fee for this event

- Topic: TBA
- All current teachers of BATD/SDTA/UKA are all invited to participate

# Scholarship Awards

## Primary Scholarship Drawing

Primary dancers who compete in all 4 Primary events both days will have numbers placed in a hat for the drawing of a \$50 scholarship.

## Beginner Trophy Fling Scholarship

The winner of the Beginner Trophy Fling in each age group will receive a \$75 scholarship.

## Novice Trophy Fling Scholarship

The winner of the Novice Trophy Fling in each age group will receive a \$75 scholarship.

## Intermediate Hornpipe Challenge Scholarship

The winner of the Intermediate Hornpipe Challenge in each age group will receive a \$75 scholarship.

## Premier Scholarship Drawing

Premier dancers who compete in both a Saturday and Sunday aggregate event will have their number placed in a hat for the drawing of a \$100 scholarship.

## ScotDance USA Premier Challenge Scholarships (Saturday)

Overall Winners in the USA Premier Challenge on Saturday will receive the following scholarship awards.

\*If age groups are combined the highest applicable scholarship rate for the group would be paid out to that category of dancers.

	1 <sup>st</sup> Overall	2 <sup>nd</sup> Overall	3 <sup>rd</sup> Overall	4 <sup>th</sup> Overall	5 <sup>th</sup> Overall	6 <sup>th</sup> Overall
11 & Under	\$90	\$75	\$60	\$40	\$35	\$25
13 & Under	\$90	\$75	\$60	\$40	\$35	\$25
15 & Under	\$175	\$150	\$125	\$100	\$75	\$50
17 & Under	\$175	\$150	\$125	\$100	\$75	\$50
20 & Under	\$275	\$250	\$225	\$200	\$175	\$150
24 & Under	\$275	\$250	\$225	\$200	\$175	\$150
25 & Over	\$275	\$250	\$225	\$200	\$175	\$150

## Premier 3&1 Traditional Broadsword Scholarships

The Top 6 overall Broadsword teams will receive the following scholarships.

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	4 <sup>th</sup> Place	5 <sup>th</sup> Place	6 <sup>th</sup> Place
\$500	\$400	\$300	\$200	\$100	\$80

## Premier Nationals Scholarships (Sunday)

Dancers will receive scholarship awards for each dance placing in the Premier Nationals.

\*If age groups are combined the highest applicable scholarship rate for the group would be paid out to that category of dancers.

	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	4 <sup>th</sup> Place	5 <sup>th</sup> Place	6 <sup>th</sup> Place
11 & Under	\$25	\$20	\$15	\$10	\$5	\$5
13 & Under	\$25	\$20	\$15	\$10	\$5	\$5
15 & Under	\$40	\$35	\$30	\$25	\$20	\$15
17 & Under	\$40	\$35	\$30	\$25	\$20	\$15
20 & Under	\$65	\$55	\$45	\$35	\$25	\$15
24 & Under	\$65	\$55	\$45	\$35	\$25	\$15
25 & Over	\$65	\$55	\$45	\$35	\$25	\$15

## 2026 Sponsorships/VIP Ticket Opportunities

### Sponsorships

#### **Grand Staircase\* \$50**

Pre-Premier Medal Sponsorship

#### **Capitol Reef\* \$75**

Pre-Premier Trophy Sponsorship

#### **Canyonlands\* \$100**

Premier Medal Set

#### **Arches\* \$150**

Premier Trophy Sponsorship

#### **Bryce Canyon\*\* \$500**

Hospitality for Judge/Piper

#### **Zion\*\* \$1000**

Travel for Judge/Piper

\*Acknowledged at event, including in program

\*\*Elevated acknowledgements before, during and after event & present award (if interested)

### Individual VIP

#### **The Great Salt Lake \$250**

#### **Premier Scholarship Sponsorship**

Weekend Ticket

1 Reserved VIP Seat

Special Welcome Amenity

Access to dedicated VIP Room

Donation to Premier Scholarship Award

1 Pizza Party Ticket & 1 Drink Ticket at Pizza Party

Elevated Buffet Breakfast on Saturday & Sunday

Elevated Buffet Luncheon on Saturday and Sunday

### Donate to Heart of the USA:



# Dancing Rules

1. This competition is governed by RSOBHD and ScotDance USA rules.
2. All dancers must be registered with ScotDance USA, or another RSOBHD approved registration body in order to dance. Registration Number must be on Entry Form.
3. Registration is contingent on your 2026 RSOBHD dancer registration number being produced the day of the event.
4. Dancer registration card must be produced on the day of the event in order to compete.
5. Age groups may be modified based on entries received.
6. Dancer age will be determined as of Friday February 13, 2026.
7. Pre-premier dancers will have the ability to earn one stamp on their registration card over the two-day event.
8. Organizer reserves the right to split or combine classes the day of the competition.
9. Dancers who are last to enter will be first to dance, and when applicable the dancer **must** fill in for the Strathspey & ½ Tulloch.
10. The organizer reserves the right to make changes to any information given in the entry form if necessary.
11. Communication by a dancer or parent of a dancer with the judge or piper is not allowed and is grounds for disqualification.
12. Pre-Premier category changes must be made by January 31, 2026. To make a pre-premier category change please contact Diane Krugh at the following email: NationalRegistrar@scotdanceusa.com
13. Dancers not present when their class is called will forfeit entry on that event.
14. All winners must be in competition dress to accept awards.
15. All dance competitors and teachers are expected to comply with the RSOBHD & SDUSA Code of Ethics.
16. Entry fee includes dancer admission to the venue.
17. **Entries must be SUBMITTED by January 31, 2026. Late entries will be accepted with DOUBLE FEES beginning February 1, 2026 – February 7, 2026 and name will not be included in program.**
18. No field entries will be accepted.
19. All Entry fees and other related payments are non-refundable.
20. Judge's decision is final. Any protest must be in writing, signed, and handed to the Dance Director by the end of the competition, accompanied by a fee of \$50 that would be refundable if the protest is sustained.
21. **3 Month Rule:** Judges who conduct teaching or coaching classes, seminars or any other forms of tuition (e.g. by video conferencing), may not adjudicate any competitor who has attended any of these classes, for a period of three months after the last class, workshop or any other form of tuition that competitor has attended.
22. **Premier Challenge: Each dance in the Premier Challenge will be judged by an individual judge. The top 6 winners in each individual dance will be announced on stage and receive a recognition medal. Top 6 overall dancers will receive a trophy and scholarship.**
23. **Premier "& Overs" Challenge:** Dancer must be at least age 30 and may only compete in "& Overs" Challenge or SDUSA Premier Challenge but not both. Medals will be awarded for every dance and trophies will be awarded for top 6 overall winners.
24. **Traditional Broadsword:**
  - a. Premier dancers only.
  - b. Initial registration will be limited to the first 12 entries. If you are unable to register, please contact Diane Krugh, National Registrar, via email (nationalregistrar@scotdanceusa.com) and request to be added to the waitlist. Additional entries may be accepted from the waitlist at the discretion of the organizer. If, after entering, circumstances prevent your team from participating, please contact Diane Krugh, National Registrar, via email (nationalregistrar@scotdanceusa.com) as soon as possible so another team from the waitlist can be added to the event.
  - c. Music to be used: Donald MacPhee Definitive Collection Track 71- Broadsword 3&1.
  - d. The traditional Broadswords dance is a sword dance performed by four people wearing traditional Highland Dress, round and over four Highland Broadswords placed tip to tip in the form of the St. Andrews Cross. The dance consists of a number of steps in Strathspey tempo, followed by steps in Reel tempo, the steps to be based on Highland technique.
  - e. Schools can enter more than one team; however a dancer is restricted to dancing in a maximum of 2 teams.
  - f. Broadsword Teams should consist of: a) One school only OR b) More than one school, in which case, the teacher/choreographer must abide by the three month teaching/judging rule.
  - g. Broadsword teams comprised of two or more schools must fill out and submit the Joint School Choreography Team Form by January 31, 2026.
  - h. Broadsword will be judged by a panel of 3 judges and scrutineered per championship scoring methods.
  - i. The Broadswords will be pre-placed in the St. Andrews Cross by the organizer prior to the dance starting.
25. **Solo Choreography:** Pre-Premier includes: Beginner, Novice, and Intermediates. Age groups to be determined based on entries received. All dancers in the choreography competition must use the track of "Nelson Mandela's Welcome to the City of Glasgow" by Blair Douglas and is available on Heart of the USA website: <https://www.scotdanceusa.com/heart-of-the-usa/>. We are grateful to Mr. Douglas for kindly granting permission for the use of his work. Please respect his generosity by using this track only in connection with your choreography for this event. Props are allowed (no live animals). Dance should consist primarily of movements from Highland, National, Hornpipe or Jig books.
26. For any questions please contact Heart of the USA at: heartoftheusa@scotdanceusa.com