



# Tryouts 2019!

Anyone wishing to dance on 2019-2020 Season Beginning through Pro Competition Team is required to try out. If you are interested in being on a Novice Competition team you do not have to try out, just let us know and sign up.

Leah and Dan have been teaching, directing and competing clogging for many years and have seen a lot of changes in the clogging world. One major change in the last few years has been that competition has become *much harder* and *much more competitive*. There are now a majority of studios that consistently put together teams that are very strong and dance clean with little mistakes. *However, though it is more competitive, competitions have become more fun since these studios are also very friendly and practice treating competition as a gathering of friends, which is our standard as well. We are very fortunate to compete with these studios and have America On Stage competition directors that promote such a friendly and dancer appreciative environment.*

With these competitive changes, we are required to adjust our level requirements accordingly and adhere to the level requirements more closely. What this means is that even though our students have been consistently progressing and becoming more skilled, we expect most to not move up a whole level this year. Note- In any year, most students are expected to stay in the same level for ~2 years, especially for the Intermediate, Advanced, and Championship levels.

Our goal is to build teams this next year that are very strong within their level and can dance with a high degree of skill. We wish all levels to look and feel as if they were our top level team! *(This also means we will need more cooperation in class from the dancers as far as listening and helping the teacher to be able to teach efficiently. ☺)* We will choreograph dances with an emphasis on playing to the strengths of the team and their level and also executing the routines cleanly with little to no mistakes. As we do this, teams will be able to learn their dances more quickly and be able to have more time to polish before competition. Also, we will be able to teach each team the next level steps immediately starting at the beginning of the year which will prepare them better for the next tryouts and possibly put them on a faster track to move up levels and accomplish their goals.

## Tryout Requirements

### Tryout Classes

We will have 2 weeks of Required Tryout Classes on Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> and Tuesday, May 28<sup>th</sup>. Sign-up at [www.gemcloggers.com/tryouts](http://www.gemcloggers.com/tryouts) so we know who to expect. Use this password to register: "tryout"

### Tryout Class Schedule:

4:45-6:00pm Intermediate I & II  
6:00-7:00pm Beginning I&II  
6:00-7:15pm Advanced  
7:00-8:45pm Championship & Pro

### Tryout Level Recommendations for 2019-2020:

Novice-(No Tryout) Any Smarties or New Cloggers aged 6-7+  
Beginning- Any Starbursts, Red Hots, Stride, Kickers  
Intermediate- Any Stride (w/director's recommendation), Rockstars 1 or 2  
Advanced- Any Rockstars 2, Eclipse  
Championship- Any Eclipse with 2+ yrs experience, Element  
Pro- Any Element

Both classes are required. Each class will teach the Level Step Requirements and also a portion of a Solo from one of the two repeating solos for that year. If you already know the solo because you are trying out for the same level, we ask that you go back over the solo with us and make sure you know every detail and tip from the teacher.

### Tryout Steps

Each Level has Tryout Steps listed in the separate "Tryout Steps List 2020" we will give everyone. Some levels require the steps listed under that level plus steps from some previous levels marked with \* or \*\*. Steps must be auditioned during Tryouts with the skills explained on the list, such as with hands on hips with fingers together and straight wrists, or hands pressed that stay tight and don't move around. We are looking for Steps that are demonstrated strong, loud, and clear. We also want to see high feet and knees, proper balance and rhythm, and correct use of the foot in relation to the ball and heel (most of the time steps use the ball of the foot only with the heel raised; other times the whole foot with the ball and heel at the same time like a stomp or just the heel with the ball raised).

### Tryout Solo

There will be a partial Solo taught regardless of if they know it already. *(If you already know the solo because you are trying out for the same level, we ask that you go back over the solo with us and make sure you know every detail and tip from the teacher.)* The solo will be judged at tryouts as if you were at competition. We will be looking for those that would score a solid 1<sup>st</sup> place which requires confident showmanship, a natural smile, high lift, correct steps, strong and tight arms, and the ability to make it look easy while dancing with intensity.

## Tryout Day

Tryouts will be held Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. There are time slots on each day for each level. Only sign up for one of the two days. Go to [www.gemcloggers.com/tryouts](http://www.gemcloggers.com/tryouts) to sign up. If you cannot make the scheduled times, please contact us. Use this password to register: "tryout"

### Requirements for Competition Teams 2019-2020

We will be sending out the Competition Team Requirements soon. These will include updated practice requirements for during the year, required individual events for competition, class tuition rates and discounts, etc...

Competition Teams will continue to be required to commit to the whole year through the next Summer as we will be performing our dances until the next Season starts around September. Regular classes are expected to follow the same pattern as we have previously, which is from September to May (monthly tuition). There will most likely be required Camp classes in the Summer (charged separately; there will be options) that will concern both required and optional individual events.

### Questions

We welcome your questions and concerns! Please feel free to ask us anything! Competition is both fun and challenging. We hope that you will join us next year for a new and exciting season!

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