

**S.D.T.A. Elspeth G. Strathern & J.L. McKenzie
North American Highland Scholarships
& Pre-Scholarships**



Friday 2nd October 2026

Scholarship & Pre-Scholarship Registration

Registration opens on 1st March 2026. Parent/guardians of nominated candidates must register via: <https://www.sdtana.org/register> by 31st July 2026.

A draw will take place to determine the order in which the candidates will dance.

Qualifying Period

Candidates must qualify from grade examinations taken between July 1st 2025 and June 30th 2026.

Juvenile Scholarship

Juvenile Scholarship candidates will qualify from grade examinations 1 & 2. Candidate age on the day of the grade examination must be a minimum of 10 years and under 12 years.

Note: Winners of the Juvenile Scholarship title are no longer eligible to enter the Juvenile section but can enter the Junior Scholarship when they fulfil the selection criteria.

Junior Scholarship

Junior Scholarship candidates will qualify from grade examinations 1 to 4. Candidate age on the day of the grade examination must be a minimum of 12 years and under 14 years.

Note: Winners of the Junior Scholarship title are no longer eligible to enter the Junior section but can enter the Senior Scholarship when they fulfil the selection criteria.

Senior Scholarship

Senior Scholarship candidates will qualify from grade examinations 4 to 6. Candidate age on the day of the grade examination must be a minimum of 13 years and under 18 years.

Note: Senior Scholarship nominees are no longer eligible if they gain a professional Highland qualification prior to the Scholarship event or if they have won the Senior Scholarship.

Scholarship Sections

The overall Scholarship winner will be the candidate with the most total points from sections 1, 2 and 3.

Section 1 – Tribute to J.L. McKenzie

A Juvenile, Junior and Senior 4 step Tribute to J.L. McKenzie will be performed by each candidate in full Highland costume.

Juvenile Steps: 1st 2nd 3rd 6th

Junior Steps: 1st 2nd 3rd 6th

Senior Steps: 1st 4th 5th 6th

Section 2 – Written Paper

Separate Juvenile, Junior and Senior Highland technical papers will be issued.

The Juvenile paper will cover work from Grade 1 and Grade 2.

The Junior paper will cover work from Grade 1 to Grade 4.

The Senior paper will cover work from Grade 1 to Grade 6.

Section 3 – Master Class

Separate Juvenile, Junior and Senior master classes will be held. A lecturer will conduct the class for the candidates, in front of a panel of three judges. Candidates should wear suitable practice clothes e.g., black leotard/t-shirts, shorts and knee-high socks.

Scholarship Winner

The overall scholarship winner will be the candidate with the most total points from sections 1, 2 and 3, which will be scrutineered using the RSOBHD system. In the event of a tie, RSOBHD rules will be applied. Awards will be presented to the overall top six candidates, covering sections 1, 2 and 3, in Juvenile, Junior and Senior.

Scholarships cash prizes will be presented to the winning top three candidates.

1st place - \$500, 2nd place - \$250, 3rd place - \$100.

The Adjudicators' decision is final.

******The choreography competition is now an optional part of the scholarship event.******

****NEW****
Pre-Scholarships

The Pre-Scholarship is a restricted event. To be eligible, dancers must be non-competitive, Pre-Premier, or must not have placed 1st or 2nd in any Premier competition or championship event within the previous two years prior to 2nd October 2026. Dancers who meet these criteria and have received a nomination letter for the Juvenile, Junior, or Senior event may choose to enter either the Scholarship or Pre-Scholarship.

Juvenile Pre-Scholarship

Juvenile Scholarship candidates will qualify from grade examinations 1 & 2. Candidate age on the day of the grade examination must be a minimum of 10 years and under 12 years.

Note: Winners of the Juvenile Pre-Scholarship title are no longer eligible to enter the Juvenile Pre-Scholarship section. However, they may enter other Scholarship or Pre-Scholarship events for which they meet the eligibility criteria.

Junior Pre-Scholarship

Junior Scholarship candidates will qualify from grade examinations 1 to 4. Candidate age on the day of the grade examination must be a minimum of 12 years and under 14 years.

Note: Winners of the Junior Pre-Scholarship title are no longer eligible to enter the Junior Pre-Scholarship section. However, they may enter other Scholarship or Pre-Scholarship events for which they meet the eligibility criteria.

Senior Pre-Scholarship

Senior Pre-Scholarship candidates will qualify from grade examinations 4 to 6. Candidate age on the day of the grade examination must be a minimum of 13 years and under 18 years.

Note: Senior Pre-Scholarship nominees are no longer eligible if they gain a professional Highland qualification prior to the Scholarship event or if they have won the Senior Pre-Scholarship.

Pre-Scholarship Sections

The overall Scholarship winner will be the candidate with the most total points from sections 4, 5 and 6.

Section 4 – Dusty Miller

A Juvenile, Junior and Senior 4 step Dusty Miller will be performed by each candidate in Scottish National costume or practice wear (with an underskirt for the female role).

Pre - Juvenile Steps: 1st 2nd 3rd 6th

Pre - Junior Steps: 1st 2nd 3rd 6th

Pre - Senior Steps: 1st 4th 5th 6th

Section 5 – Written Paper

Separate Juvenile, Junior and Senior Highland technical papers will be issued.

The Juvenile paper will cover work from Grade 1 and Grade 2.

The Junior paper will cover work from Grade 1 to Grade 4.

The Senior paper will cover work from Grade 1 to Grade 6.

Section 6 – Master Class

Separate Juvenile, Junior and Senior Pre-Scholarship master classes will be held. A lecturer will conduct the class for the candidates. Candidates should wear suitable practice clothes e.g., black leotard/t-shirts, shorts and knee-high socks.

Pre-Scholarship Winner

The overall pre-scholarship winner will be the candidate with the most total points from sections 4, 5 and 6, which will be scrutineered using the RSOBHD system. In the event of a tie, RSOBHD rules will be applied. Awards will be presented to the overall top six candidates, covering sections 4, 5 and 6, in Juvenile, Junior and Senior.

Pre-Scholarships cash prizes will be presented to the winning top three candidates
1st place - \$125, 2nd place - \$75, 3rd place - \$50.

The Adjudicators' decision is final.

******The choreography challenge is now an optional part of the scholarship event.******

OPTIONAL - Solo Choreography Challenge

Solo choreography dance will be performed, with a maximum time limit of **one minute and 30 seconds** from the start of the music (not the start of the dance).

There will be an automatic disqualification for exceeding the maximum time permitted.

- *Music must be a Celtic or Scottish theme
- *The theme of the dance to be in keeping with the piece of music used
- *Costume to be in keeping with theme of the dance
- *Lyrics are permitted

Music must be submitted via this form: <https://forms.gle/ttMRbvjysdNhgWAQ6> by 15th September 2026.

Age groups according to entry.

