Poised for Success Freestyle







Guide to the Candy Cane Gala

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Etude Titles

Etude Titles are "Special Event" Titles that are offered by Poised for Success Freestyle for a limited time.

In music, an "etude" is a short musical composition that is designed to provide practice material for perfecting a particular musical skill in an aesthetically pleasing way.

Likewise, the Etude Titles provide Poised for Success Freestyle teams with the opportunity to create short practice exercises to perfect a particular Freestyle skill in an enjoyable way and to earn titles for performing those exercises.

These are offered through Poised for Success Freestyle at certain times throughout the year, and each one is offered for a limited time.

Anyone is eligible to enter submissions for Etude Titles. No prerequisite titles are necessary. All you need is a Poised for Success Registration number. For information on how to register, see the "Titling in Musical Freestyle" page on the Poised for Success website.

http://www.poisedforsuccessfreestyle.com/titling-in-musical-freestyle

Titling Classes

Three titling classes are offered for the Etude Titles:

- **Debut Class:** Puppies and adult dogs who are new to training are eligible to enter the Debut Class

- **Laude Class:** Senior dogs and dogs with disabilities are eligible to enter the Laude Class

- **Performer Class:** All dogs are eligible to enter the Performer Class

For teams in the Debut and Laude Classes, treats may be visible to your dog during a performance, and you may treat at any time during the performance. Handlers are encouraged to reinforce in a way that maintains as much flow as possible within the performance, although loss of flow for reinforcement will not cause a team to NQ.

For teams in the **Performer Class, treats or toys being used as reinforcers may not be visible to your dog during a performance, although you can have them in a pocket or bait bag**, and you may not treat until after the performance is fully complete.

A team may enter any given Etude event in one titling class only per offering of that event.

However, a team that enters in the Debut Class one year can enter the same event in the Performer Class in another year, once the dog is ready to do so. And a team that enters in the Performer Class in one year can enter the same event in the Laude class in a later year, once eligible to perform in that Class.

The Candy Cane Gala
Title Open for Entries November 28, 2025 – January 15, 2026

This new title open at one level:

- First Level – The Candy Cane Gala

Video Editing

For the Candy Cane Gala, the only editing that is allowed is a music overlay..

Use of a title on your video and/or some kind of closing picture/thank you screen is allowed, but not required.

Whether you are going to use a music overlay or not, you should always video with music playing in the background. You should be performing to music even if you are going to use a music overlay for your submission.

Performance Video

Remember, as always in Poised for Success Freestyle, all of you and your dog should be in the picture throughout the majority of the performance. If you "lose" a bit of yourself or your dog briefly, it is OK, especially if you move in close to the camera, but the overall impression of the performance should be that you and your dog are both performing. Take care not to cut your head off completely throughout the video of the performance.

The Candy Cane Gala

To earn this title, the handler must **design a movement sequence that includes the performance of a "featured" move or movement that will be performed in opposite directions.**

The sequence should be performed as follows:

- Opening move or pose (but not the featured move or movement).
- Performance of the "featured" move or movement in one direction.
- Performance of 1 – 2 different moves or movements (not including another performance of the "featured" move.
- Performance of the "featured" move or movement in the opposite direction.
- Closing move or pose (but not the featured move or movement).

There is no minimum or maximum time for the performance of the sequence.

Props are permitted, but not required, and props can be incorporated into performance of the "featured" move or movement, as long as the prop behavior chosen can be performed in opposite directions.

Examples

Here are some examples of moves or movements that can be performed in opposite directions. Teams are not limited to these choices.

- Spin clockwise/spin counter-clockwise
- Send around a prop clockwise/send around a prop counter-clockwise
- Dog circles handler clockwise/dog circles handler counter-clockwise
- Dog and handler heel in a clockwise circle/dog and handler heel in a counter-clockwise circle
- Dog circles prop clockwise/dog circles prop counter-clockwise
- Dog weaves under right leg from center position/dog weaves under left leg from center position
- Dog and handler sidepass to the left with dog in heel position/dog and handler sidepass to the right with dog in side position

Candy Cane Gala Title

The first level title consists of only this one leg, and teams who qualify on this single submission will earn the Candy Cane Gala Etude Title.

PFS – CCG

Or

PFS-CCG (Debut)

Or

PFS-CCG (Laude)

Submit Your Entry

The entry fee for each submission is $15.00. One video makes up a single submission for each Candy Cane Gala title.

Each qualifying team will receive a printed certificate and flat ribbon in the mail. If you prefer to have your certificate emailed, please indicate that preference when you submit.

Entries – Candy Cane Gala

Please fill out the Jotform entry at the following link:

https://form.jotform.com/253188116592058

Submit $15.00 payment to:

pfsfreestyle@gmail.com

Entries for the Candy Cane Gala will open on November 28, 2025, and close on January 15, 2026.

I look forward to seeing your entries!

