South Shore Ballet Theatre’s pre-professional ballet students trained to compete in the Youth America Grand Prix worldwide ballet competition March 17-20 at John Hancock Hall, 180 Berkeley St., Boston.

South Shore Ballet Theatre has been sending students to Youth America Grand Prix for the past three years. The competition is open to dancers ages 9 to 19. This year, South Shore Ballet Theatre sponsored five individual competitors and an ensemble of six students ranging in age from 12-18. First-time competitors include Norwell residents 12-year-old Anna Murray and 17-year-old Juliet Brown.

Prizes are awarded to the top 25 dancers in each category. Each dancer competes for a chance to attend the finals in New York, where dancers will receive scholarships and professional performance opportunities.

“The exposure from this competition for the dancer is the most important. The best of the best are all congregated in the same place for what is essentially a group audition. The exposure on stage and comments from the judges is a critical part of a dancer’s progression as they pursue their dream to become a dancer,” said artistic director Marthavan McKeon.

For information: 781-312-7224; southshoreballettheatre.com.