CHICAGO (AP) — Hundreds of ballet dancers between the ages of nine and 19 auditioned in Chicago at the Youth America Grand Prix regional semi-finals this weekend. Chicago is one of 12 cities around North America selecting finalists who will compete at New York University’s Skirball Center for the Performing Arts and at Hunter College’s Danny Kaye Playhouse in April. Other cities are Las Vegas, San Diego, Toronto, Houston, San Francisco, Dallas, Salt Lake City, Indianapolis, Denver, Boston and Philadelphia.
Mackenzie Miller auditions in the classical category for the Youth America Grand Prix regional semi-finals at Dominican University Performing Arts Center in River Forest, Ill., on Thursday, Feb. 2, 2017. Hundreds of dancers between the ages of nine and 19 from the Chicago area auditioned for the YAGP regional semi-finals. (AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)

Throughout the weekend in Chicago, the students attend workshops, competitions, and dance classes. The organization awards more than $250,000 a year in scholarships to send young dancers to leading schools and dance companies to continue their training.

The Grand Prix also conducts auditions in several other countries including Belgium, France, Italy, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Japan.

Amari Germany auditions in the classical category for the Youth America Grand Prix regional semi-finals at Dominican University Performing Arts Center in River Forest, Ill., on Thursday, Feb. 2, 2017. Chicago is one of 12 cities around the country selecting finalists who will compete at New York University¿s Skirball Center for the Performing Arts and at Hunter College¿s Danny Kaye Playhouse in April. Chicago is one of the 12 cities in North America selecting dancers who will compete in New York in April. (AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)
Young ballet dancers warm up for the Youth America Grand Prix regional semi-finals at Dominican University Performing Arts Center in River Forest, Ill., on Thursday, Feb. 2, 2017. Hundreds of dancers between the ages of nine and 19 from the Chicago area auditioned for the YAGP regional semi-finals. (AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)
Anna Tsigler prepares to audition in the classical category for the Youth America Grand Prix regional semi-finals at Dominican University Performing Arts Center in River Forest, Ill., on Thursday, Feb. 2, 2017. Chicago is one of the 12 cities in North America selecting dancers who will compete in New York in April. (AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)
Judge Alexei Moskalenko, Youth America Grand Prix assistant artistic director, watches young ballet dancers' compete in the Youth America Grand Prix regional semi-finals at Dominican University Performing Arts Center in River Forest, Ill., on Thursday, Feb. 2, 2017. Hundreds of dancers between the ages of nine and 19 from the Chicago area auditioned for the YAGP regional semi-finals. (AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)
Mackenzie Enger performs in the contemporary category for the Youth America Grand Prix regional semi-finals at Dominican University Performing Arts Center in River Forest, Ill., on Thursday, Feb. 2, 2017. Chicago is one of the 12 cities in North America selecting dancers who will compete in New York in April. (AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)
Isabel Palo performs for the classical category competition in the Youth America Grand Prix regional semi-finals at Dominican University Performing Arts Center in River Forest, Ill., on Thursday, Feb. 2, 2017. Hundreds of dancers between the ages of nine and 19 from the Chicago area auditioned for the YAGP regional semi-finals. (AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)
Ava Geske auditions for the Youth America Grand Prix regional semi-finals at Dominican University Performing Arts Center, Friday, Feb. 3, 2017, in River Forest, Ill. Chicago is one of the 12 cities in North America selecting dancers who will compete in New York in April. (AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)

Young ballet dancers warm up for the Youth America Grand Prix regional semi-finals at Dominican University Performing Arts Center in River Forest, Ill., on Thursday, Feb. 2, 2017. Hundreds of dancers between the ages of nine and 19 from the Chicago area auditioned for the YAGP regional semi-finals. (AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)
Young ballet dancers warm up for the Youth America Grand Prix regional semi-finals at Dominican University Performing Arts Center in River Forest, Ill., on Thursday, Feb. 2, 2017. Chicago is one of the 12 cities in North America selecting dancers who will compete in New York in April. (AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)
Dahlia Winders performs in the Youth America Grand Prix regional semi-finals at Dominican University Performing Arts Center, Friday, Feb. 3, 2017, in River Forest, Ill. Hundreds of dancers between the ages of nine and 19 from the Chicago area auditioned for the YAGP regional semi-finals. (AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)
Hans Anderson performs in the Youth America Grand Prix regional semi-finals at Dominican University Performing Arts Center, Friday, Feb. 3, 2017, in River Forest, Ill. Chicago is one of the 12 cities in North America selecting dancers who will compete in New York in April. (AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)
Young ballet dancers warm up for the Youth America Grand Prix regional semi-finals at Dominican University Performing Arts Center in River Forest, Ill., on Thursday, Feb. 2, 2017. Hundreds of dancers between the ages of nine and 19 from the Chicago area auditioned for the YAGP regional semi-finals. (AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)
Audrey Dyving performs in the Youth America Grand Prix regional semi-finals at Dominican University Performing Arts Center, Friday, Feb. 3, 2017, in River Forest, Ill. Chicago is one of the 12 cities in North America selecting dancers who will compete in New York in April. (AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)
Samantha Srebnik performs in the classical category for the Youth America Grand Prix regional semi-finals at Dominican University Performing Arts Center in River Forest, Ill., on Thursday, Feb. 2, 2017. Hundreds of dancers between the ages of nine and 19 from the Chicago area auditioned for the YAGP regional semi-finals. (AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)
Emma Gramm performs in the Youth America Grand Prix regional semi-finals at Dominican University Performing Arts Center, Friday, Feb. 3, 2017, in River Forest, Ill. Chicago is one of the 12 cities in North America selecting dancers who will compete in New York in April. (AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)
Amari Germany performs in the contemporary category for the Youth America Grand Prix regional semi-finals at Dominican University Performing Arts Center in River Forest, Ill., on Thursday, Feb. 2, 2017. Hundreds of dancers between the ages of nine and 19 from the Chicago area auditioned for the YAGP regional semi-finals. (AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)

Cienna Cocilova performs in the contemporary category for the Youth America Grand Prix regional semi-finals at Dominican University Performing Arts Center in River Forest, Ill., on Thursday, Feb. 2, 2017. Chicago is one of the 12 cities in North America selecting dancers who will compete in New York in April. (AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)
Emma Geiger performs in the Youth America Grand Prix regional semi-finals at Dominican University Performing Arts Center, Friday, Feb. 3, 2017, in River Forest, Ill. Hundreds of dancers between the ages of nine and 19 from the Chicago area auditioned for the YAGP regional semi-finals. (AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)

Emma Donnelly performs in the contemporary category for the Youth America Grand Prix regional semi-finals at Dominican University Performing Arts Center in River Forest, Ill., on Thursday, Feb. 2, 2017. Chicago is one of the 12 cities in North America selecting dancers who will compete in New York in April. (AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)
Anna Tsigler performs in the classical category for the Youth America Grand Prix regional semi-finals at Dominican University Performing Arts Center in River Forest, Ill., on Thursday, Feb. 2, 2017. Hundreds of dancers between the ages of nine and 19 from the Chicago area auditioned for the YAGP regional semi-finals. (AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)
Jordan Dawson performs in the Youth America Grand Prix regional semi-finals at Dominican University Performing Arts Center, Friday, Feb. 3, 2017, in River Forest, Ill. Chicago is one of the 12 cities in North America selecting dancers who will compete in New York in April. (AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)

Kate Donnelly performs in the contemporary category for the Youth America Grand Prix regional semi-finals at Dominican University Performing Arts Center in River Forest, Ill., on Thursday, Feb. 2, 2017. Hundreds of dancers between the ages of nine and 19 from the Chicago area auditioned for the YAGP regional semi-finals. (AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)

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