

Overview & Benefits

Description:

The Northern Plains Dance Student Company is designed for dancers who are ready to make a deeper commitment to their training, performance experience, and role within the NPD community.

Student Company members commit to consistent, year-round training and participation in NPD production during the Theater Season (August-May). In return, members receive access to exclusive benefits and discounts, additional performance opportunities, and individualized support from NPD faculty as they work toward their personal goals in dance.

Beyond the studio, Student Company members serve as ambassadors for Northern Plains Dance. They are expected to model a strong work ethic and leadership for younger dancers, represent NPD at community performances and events, and participate in fundraising and organizational activities throughout the year.

Student Company participation runs from August through May and reflects a shared commitment between the dancer, their family, and NPD faculty to continued growth, responsibility, and artistic development.

What Membership Includes:

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS	Soloist	Corps	Apprentice	Junior
Playbill Recognition & Company Photo	Included	Included	Included	Included
Student Company Merchandise	Included	Included	Included	Included
Class Discount	10% ¹	10% ¹	10% ¹	10% ¹
NPD Faculty Workshops	No charge	No charge	No charge	No charge
Guest Faculty Workshops	35% off	35% off	35% off	35% off
Summer Youth Ensemble Discount	Included	Included	Included	Included
Casting Agreement Fees	Included ²	Included ²	Included ²	Included ²
Cast Party Admission	Included ²	Included ²	Included ²	Included ²
SDI Discount	\$100	\$100	\$50	\$50
Multiple Role Fee	Waived	Waived	Waived	—
Faculty Goal-Setting Meeting	Included	Included	Included	—
Fundraising Toward Dues	Yes	Yes	Cash fundraisers only	Cash fundraisers only
Audition Video Discount	\$100	\$100	—	—
Cast Meeting Waiver	Yes ³	Yes ³	Yes ³	—

Benefits Included for All Student Company Members

- Invitations to Student Company-only events and activities
- Student Company-specific volunteer opportunities for dancers and their families, with an emphasis on meaningful, public-facing roles that allow members to represent NPD, engage with the community, and serve as ambassadors for the organization

¹ Discount applies to non-required classes and does not apply to drop-in classes.

² Applies to performances required of that Student Company level.

³ Waiver applies until the dancer reaches the Advanced Role level at which point they must attend cast meeting for each performance one time.



Registration & Requirements

Registration:

Registration for Company membership application opens in **August 11** and will close on **August 24**. Student Company Agreements will be due by **September 4**.

Company Membership Levels:

	Soloists	Corps de Ballet	Apprentice Company	Junior Company
Minimum Age	Ages 13+	Ages 11+	Ages 11+	Ages 8+; not en pointe
Performance Commitment	<i>The Nutcracker</i> <i>Dance+</i> <i>Spring Ballet</i>	<i>The Nutcracker</i> <i>Dance+</i> <i>Spring Ballet</i>	<i>The Nutcracker</i> <i>Tiny Tots</i> <i>Spring Ballet</i>	<i>The Nutcracker</i> <i>Tiny Tots</i> <i>Spring Ballet</i>
Minimum Training Level	Ballet 5+ Pointe 3+ Modern 3+	Ballet 3+ Pointe 1+ Modern 2+	Ballet 2+ Pre-Pointe+	Ballet 1A+
Minimum Weekly Class Requirements	3 ballet classes 1 modern class 1 pointe class	2 ballet classes 1 modern class 1 pointe class	2 ballet classes 1 pointe/pre-pointe class	1 ballet class
Required Workshops	Corps de Ballet Workshop	Corps de Ballet Workshop	Youth Ensemble Workshop Corps de Ballet Workshop	Youth Ensemble Workshop
Production Warm-Ups Classes	Saturday and theater warm-up classes during productions*	Saturday and theater warm-up classes during productions*	Saturday and theater warm-up classes during productions*	—

Important Training & Company Expectations:

Technique Classes: Rehearsals do not count toward weekly technique class requirements.

Production Warm-Up Classes: The Advanced Role Fee, which includes designated Saturday morning and theater warm-up classes, is included in Student Company dues for Soloist, Corps de Ballet, and Apprentice Company members for the performances indicated in Membership Benefits.

Attendance at these warm-ups is required for dancers performing a pointe role in *The Nutcracker* or *Spring Ballet*, and for all Student Company members participating in *Dance+*. Company members who are not performing en pointe in *The Nutcracker* or *Spring Ballet* are not required to attend Saturday warm-up classes for those productions but are strongly encouraged to do so.

Warm-up classes are supplemental and may not be used to replace a required technique class or as a make-up class. Warm-up classes are also open to dancers who are not members of Student Company.

Company Expectations: Student Company members are expected to demonstrate consistent effort, preparedness, commitment, and a positive attitude in all classes, rehearsals, performances, and Company activities. Members should represent NPD respectfully and serve as positive role models for younger dancers and peers.

Dues & Fundraising

Company Dues:

Company dues will be split into **9** equal payments and will be charged to your card on file the first Friday of September, October, November, December, January, February, March, April, and May. Attend the Student Company Meeting Info Session for more details.

Soloists	Corps de Ballet	Apprentice Company	Junior Company
\$197 per month	\$182 per month	\$125 per month	\$50 per month

Offsetting Company Dues Through Fundraising:

To help make Student Company participation more financially accessible, Company members are expected to participate in approved fundraising opportunities throughout the year.

Funds raised through eligible fundraising opportunities may be applied directly toward upcoming Company dues. Families may choose to participate in any or all approved fundraisers, and fundraising credits will be applied to future dues until the available credit is used.

Fundraising credit eligibility varies by Company level. Soloist and Corps de Ballet members may receive dues credit through approved donation-based fundraisers and approved fundraisers involving the sale of goods. Apprentice and Junior Company members may receive dues credit only through approved donation-based fundraisers; proceeds from fundraisers involving the sale of goods will not be credited toward their Company dues.

Only funds earned through approved Student Company fundraising opportunities are eligible to offset dues. Donations of money, goods, or services made outside of these approved fundraisers will not be applied toward a family's Company balance.

Any unused fundraising credits will expire after the final Student Company dues payment in May.

Fundraiser Options:

2026-2027	Soloist	Corps de Ballet	Apprentice Company	Junior Company
\$10,000-by-200 Letter Writing Campaign	75% credit (ex: \$100 donation = \$75 credit)	50% credit (ex: \$100 donation = \$50 credit)	50% credit (ex: \$100 donation = \$50 credit)	50% credit (ex: \$100 donation = \$50 credit)
Giving Hearts Day	75% credit (ex: \$100 donation = \$75 credit)	50% credit (ex: \$100 donation = \$50 credit)	50% credit (ex: \$100 donation = \$50 credit)	50% credit (ex: \$100 donation = \$50 credit)
Bacon for Ballet	\$3.75 per bag sold (ex: 100 items sold = \$375 credit)	\$3.75 per bag sold (ex: 100 items sold = \$375 credit)	N/A	N/A

Important Note: For Giving Hearts Day donations, the dancer's name must be clearly and prominently listed in the dedication to receive fundraising credit. Donations without a clearly identifiable dancer name cannot be tracked and will not count toward fundraising totals.

Volunteer Requirements

Parents of Company Members are required to complete the designated Volunteer Activities to receive credit towards their Volunteer Fees. NPD has split the season into 3 service periods, rather than 3 performances. NPD staff will assign parents to assist with forward-facing tasks during these times. NPD will be respectful of the parent & dancer commitment level and will make best efforts to assign tasks that are relevant to your family. As a Student Company parent, you are “excused” from traditional Production Volunteer Hours. However, you are still expected to help when asked, even if the hours seem to coincide with Production Volunteer Hours. Tasks will not be time-based like regular Production Volunteer Hours but rather will support the overall customer service needs of the organization. Failure to fulfill assigned duties will result in a \$75 charge to the card on file per offense.

Important Note: If a family has multiple students and they are not all Student Company members, the oldest child that is **not** in the Student Company will serve as the family’s “child number 1,” and the family will be responsible for 3 hours for that child, 2 hours for the next, and so on. Families will still be required to put down a volunteer deposit for dancers who are not members of the Student Company.

Student Company Volunteer Service:

Service Period	Service Type	Soloist	Corps de Ballet	Apprentice	Junior
Fall September–December	Family	Nutcracker Will call, Nutcracker merchandise table, Nutcracker video support, Tea Party Chair, Cast Party Chair, Nutcracker audition support, Nutcracker studio dress, Nutcracker ushering, Community Booth chaperone			
	Student	Nutcracker Audition help, Nutcracker move-in, Nutcracker rehearsal assistance		Nutcracker audition help, Nutcracker move-in, community booth attendant	Age-appropriate assignments based on production & community event needs
Winter January–March	Family	Dance+ Will Call, Dance+ poster distribution, Dance+ merchandise table, Dance+ video support, Cast Party Chair, Dance+ audition support, Dance+ studio dress, Dance+ ushering		Poster distribution, Tiny Tots prop building, Tiny Tots move-in/load-out, Tiny Tots chaperoning*	
	Student	Dance+ Move-in, Butterfly Ball / Prince Charming		Giving Hearts Day thank-you letters	
Spring April–May	Family	Spring Will call, Spring merchandise, Student Showcase/ Spring video support, Tea Party Chair, Cast Party Chair, Spring audition support, Spring studio dress, Student Showcase move-in/load-out, Spring ushering			
	Student	Spring Audition help, Spring move-in, Showcase runner/backstage help, Butterfly Ball / Prince Charming, Spring rehearsal assistance		Spring Audition help, Spring move-in, Showcase runner/backstage help, Butterfly Ball/ Prince Charming	Age-appropriate assignments based on production & community event needs

* Apprentice Company families whose dancer elects to participate in Dance+ must submit the standard volunteer deposit with the Casting Agreement and complete the required Dance+ volunteer service separately from Student Company volunteer requirements.

In addition, Company members are required to:

- Sew closures and name tags on their own costumes for each production and have them checked by a staff member within one week after fitting.

- Participate in outreach efforts and additional performances throughout the year as they arise.

Summer and Additional Requirements

Summer Performances:

Throughout the summer, NPD is asked to perform at a series of outdoor events, typically Kids Summer Stage (two/three Wednesdays in late June-July), Family River Walk (one Wednesday in July), Mandan Library (one Weekday in July), Bismarck Library (two weekdays in July), Capital A'Fair (one Saturday or Sunday in August) and BisMarket (one Saturday in August). All Company members are strongly encouraged to participate in the Summer Youth Ensemble. If members choose to perform and are available for at least 50% of the performance dates and are enrolled in a minimum of 1 technique class, NPD will waive the Summer Youth Ensemble fee. NPD reserves the right to cast each performance as necessary to ensure that each Company member gets a chance to perform. Company members are expected to perform in the Relevé on the Rooftop event if they are available.

Positive Role Model Requirements:

One purpose of the Student Company is to provide positive student leadership within NPD. To do so, Student Company members are asked to do the following:

- Respect the space. Company members are expected to do their part in keeping the facility presentable without being asked. This includes taking out the trash when it is full, picking up food waste, etc. This will demonstrate to the younger students and parents that you take pride in NPD, and you are willing to help keep the building looking good.
- Treat the Director, teachers, choreographers, guests, and fellow company members in a respectful manner, both in and outside the studio (please look at our policy on social media and bullying as listed in our handbook).
- Follow the published dress code for all classes, rehearsals, and performances.

Buddy System Mentorship:

- Student Company members will be grouped into the Buddy System. Older dancers help younger Company members navigate performance expectations, backstage etiquette, stage makeup, theater traditions, and other aspects of Company life.
- The program is designed to build leadership, strengthen connections across Company levels, and provide younger dancers with a trusted peer resource throughout the season and provide parents the same support.
- Grouping will not be set until all Company Agreements have been received, and all levels of Company are finalized.

Additional Requirements:

- Follow all rules set forth in the handbook, including, but not limited to, dress codes.
- Attend Student Company meetings
 - October 1 (subject to change)
 - January 21 (subject to change)
- One unexcused absence per class per quarter is allowed. Student Company members are expected to make up any absences.
- Any violation of the above will result in a meeting with a faculty member to discuss appropriate next steps.
- NPD Staff and Faculty reserve the right to void the tuition discount (see below), increase company dues, and dismiss a company member in case of repeated violations of the requirements and expectations.

Requirements for Consideration in Subsequent Years:

- Demonstrate a history of hard work, commitment, and dedication while attending technique classes and rehearsals
- Complete the previous year of Company membership in good standing (if applicable); attend required classes and rehearsals with a positive attitude.
- Continue dance studies over the summer months as discussed and approved by the NPD Faculty.
- Show the ability and desire to act as a role model and mentor to younger students throughout all levels of NPD.

Withdrawal from Student Company

If circumstances arise that make it so the dancer cannot fulfill their commitment, the following Withdrawal Fees will apply and will be charged to the card on file when the Drop Form is received:

- Tuition Discount: Any tuition discount that has been used as of the date of withdrawal.
- Cast Party Admission: Any admissions to the eligible cast parties as of the date of withdrawal.
- Student Company Merchandise: Any merchandise given to the dancer as of the date of withdrawal will be charged at retail price.
- Advanced Role Fee: This will be charged at the rate listed in the handbook and will be prorated for any classes taken if the withdrawal date is mid-production. (Minus any dues paid)
- Photography Fee: \$75 will be charged to cover the cost of retaking Student Company photos published in all performance programs.
- Workshop Fees: Any workshops attended free of charge as of the date of withdrawal

**Information in this handbook is subject to change as questions or needs arise. Families will be notified by email of any updates or changes to the Company Handbook.*

