

Student Company Program Details: **Apprentice**

Ages: 11 and Above

Level: Ballet 3 or Higher | Pointe 1 or Higher

Description:

The Student Company at Northern Plains Dance (NPD) aims to amplify and celebrate students' commitment to their dance training and performance quality. As such, Student Company members are invited to make a commitment to the 2024/25 school year (August-May) to receive exclusive discounts and benefits. Student Company members are expected to train year-round and perform in NPD productions. They will also serve as NPD ambassadors both inside and outside the studio, acting as role models for younger dancers, performing at community events, and actively participating in fundraising efforts. Student Company members will work closely with the faculty to achieve their individual goals in dance.

Performance Commitment:

- Participation in The Nutcracker (December 13-15), Youth Ensemble (Friday, March 14) and Cinderella (May 9-11) as set forth in the casting agreements for each production, abiding by all rules.
- Apprentice Company members are required to enroll in Youth Ensemble Workshop & the Corps de Ballet Workshop during NPD Winter Workshop Series (Jan-Feb, culminate in March).

**Apprentice Company members who are eligible to audition for Dance+ are strongly encouraged to do so. Company dues (outlined below) do not include the fees associated with Dance+ and must be paid on the applicable due dates.*

Enrollment Requirements:

- A minimum of two ballet technique* classes per week at NPD.
- A minimum of one pointe technique class per week.
- Youth Ensemble Workshop (Saturday afternoons January – March)
- Corps de Ballet Workshop (Saturday afternoons January – February)
- Attend additional Saturday warm-up** classes and theater warm-up classes.
- Demonstrate a history of hard work, commitment, and dedication while attending technique classes and rehearsals with a positive attitude.

**Rehearsals are not considered technique classes.*

*** Saturday warm-up refers to the AM Saturday class prior to rehearsal, which is required for all Company members when NPD is in production. Company members may NOT use warm-up to substitute a required technique class or use warm up as a makeup class. Warm-up is not limited to Company Members.*

Perks:

- A photo of the members of the Apprentice Company will be featured in the performance playbill for The Nutcracker and Cinderella.
- Exclusive Student Company merchandise
- Invitation to events specifically for Student Company members
- Class & Workshop Discounts (outlined below)
- No fees with Casting Agreements for the included performances – these are included in your dues.
- Free Workshops throughout the year
- Admission for your dancer to cast parties of the included performances.
- The ability to fundraise against your Company dues.

- Discounts on Summer Youth Ensemble fees.
- No need to fight for Volunteer hours!

Company Dues:

Apprentice Company dues of **\$1,026** will be split into **8** equal payments of **\$128.25** and will be charged to your card on file the last week of September, October, November, December, January, February, March, and April.

Offsetting Dues by Fundraising

To make Apprentice Company participation financially possible for all NPD students, Company students and families have the option to fundraise throughout the year. You may offset your Company dues by participating in any or all the options below. Any funds raised through these methods will be taken off the following month(s) dues. Any other donations of money, goods or services outside of the options listed below will not count towards fundraising totals.

Fundraiser for Apprentice Company:

- \$10,000x200 will be figured at 50%. Example: If a check is received in your honor for \$100, you will be given credit for \$50.
- Giving Hearts Day will be figured at 50% according to the name in the dedication box. Example: If a donation is made in your name for \$100, you will be given credit for \$50.

if the dancer's name is not prominent in the donation, we will not be able to track the donation and it will not count as fundraising on your behalf

Positive Role Model Requirements:

One purpose of the Student Company is to provide positive student leadership within NPD. To do so, Apprentice 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 take a look at our policy on social media and bullying as listed in our handbook).

Volunteer Requirements:

- Parents of Apprentice Company members are required to complete the designated Performance Volunteer Hours to receive credit towards their Volunteer Fees. NPD staff will assign parents to assist with forward-facing tasks, such as overseeing the audition check in or studio dress. Failure to fulfill these assigned duties will result in a \$75 charge to the card on file.
- Company members are required to:
 - Sew closures and nametags on their own costumes for each production and have it checked by a staff member within one week of fitting.
 - Participate in outreach efforts and additional performances throughout the year as they arise.
- Assist with one Special Assignment as assigned. All activities must be completed at the designated time, substitution is not allowed:
 - Example: Giving Hearts Day thank you letters (picked up the day after GHD and returned the following Monday)

Summer Performance Requirements:

Throughout the summer, NPD is asked to perform Stories In Motion at a series of outdoor events, typically Kids Summer Stage (three Wednesdays in late June-July), Family River Walk (one Wednesday in July), Bismarck Library (three weekdays in July) and BisMarket (three Saturdays in late July to early August). Company members are strongly encouraged to participate in the Summer Youth Ensemble. If Apprentice Company members choose to perform and are available for at least 50% of the performance dates; 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.

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 9 (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; attend required technique classes and rehearsals with a positive attitude.
- Continue dance studies over the summer months as discuss 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.

Tuition Discount:

- At the end of each Apprentice Company member's selected tuition billing period, the faculty will assess whether the student is meeting the requirements of their agreement. If the student has satisfactorily met the requirements, they will
- receive a tuition discount of 10% for all non-required classes (i.e. contemporary, cross training, etc) for the following billing cycle.
- If you are currently receiving another discount, i.e. sibling discount, the greater of the two will be applied not both discounts.
- Discounts will be applied to student's account and used towards the next scheduled tuition payment.
- Discounts from the last billing cycles will be applied to summer semester classes but not toward SDI tuition.
- Credits remaining at the end of the summer will be voided and cannot be applied to the 2025-26 school year.

SDI Discount:

Members of the Apprentice Company will receive a \$50 discount if you sign up for both full sessions.

- If early bird registration discount is used, you will receive the greater of the two discounts, not both.
- The \$50 discount is not eligible for drop-in classes.

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
- 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)