

What is the point of PAW's Company Program?

Company is for students who want more from their dance experience. It provides additional training, performance opportunities, professional dance exposure, field trips, workshops, community experiences, and time to grow as a team. We want students to become stronger dancers while learning to show up for one another, take increasing responsibility for themselves, and experience more of the dance world beyond our studio.

Who can join?

There are no auditions. Students are eligible when they meet and maintain the required full-season class enrollment and are ready for the commitment.

- **Minis 6-8:** Ballet & Jazz + Acro or Tap (2–2.5 hrs/week)
- **Juniors 9-11:** Ballet & Jazz + Acro or Tap (3.5–4.5 hrs/week)
- **Seniors 12-17:** Ballet & Jazz + Acro or Tap (3.75–4.75 hrs/week)

When is Company Training?

Minis & Juniors: Thursdays, 5:15 -6:15 PM

Seniors: Thursdays, 6:15-7:45 PM

How much does Company participation cost?

Weekly Company Training is tuition-free. The \$525 annual Company Membership Fee helps offset staffing, administration, planning, event preparation, and other shared program expenses.

What is included at no extra cost?

At least one in-studio special event/workshop, and two Company outings to professional dance performances in NYC.

Will there be other costs?

Costumes and team gear, when needed, are separate. Additional costs related to optional experiences are flexible. Field trips, workshops, conventions, and special experiences will be offered with costs shared in advance so families can decide what works for their interests, schedules, and budgets. Choosing not to participate in an optional experience (within the RSVP window) does not affect a dancer's standing in Company.

Can we fundraise?

Yes. Families may fundraise toward the \$525 membership fee and continue building credits toward costumes, team gear, and other eligible Company experiences. Fundraising is optional.

What fundraisers are you planning?

We are planning several opportunities throughout the season so families have multiple chances to build credits rather than relying on one big fundraiser. The fundraising calendar will be shared as dates are finalized.

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What does the year look like?

October: Included in-studio team-building & mindset workshop + optional dance convention

November: Optional field trip and private class at a NYC industry professional training facility

December: Included professional performance outing + community performance commitment

January: Included professional performance outing

February: Optional field trip/special experience

March: Optional field trip/special experience

April: Community performance commitment

May: PAW Spring Showcase commitment

June: Optional field trip/special experience

July: Optional field trip/special experience

This calendar is preliminary. Specific dates, locations, and details will be shared as events are confirmed, and additional opportunities may be added.

How serious is the attendance commitment?

We expect Company dancers to be here consistently. PAW is investing in these students by providing Company Training tuition-free, and their teachers and teammates are counting on them.

Illness, family circumstances, important school obligations, and other legitimate conflicts happen.

Patterns of avoidable absences, frequent lateness, or routinely prioritizing other recreational commitments over Company do not work.

What happens if my child has to miss?

Share known conflicts on the Company Conflict Calendar and communicate unexpected absences as early as possible. An occasional absence with appropriate communication will not jeopardize membership. Dancers are responsible for catching up and returning prepared. Private instruction may be required at the family's expense when individual catch-up is necessary.

What is an unexcused absence?

We generally take what families tell us in good faith and do not expect detailed explanations of illnesses or private circumstances. We expect the same honesty in return. Misrepresenting an absence to have it excused breaches that trust. More than **two unexcused absences** from required classes and/or Company Training will prompt a conversation about continued participation.

Can absences affect performances?

Yes, when necessary. Excessive absences may affect choreography or performance participation if there is not enough time for a dancer to be adequately prepared. Individual circumstances and the needs of the full Ensemble will both be considered.

Does my child have to participate in every event?

No. Some events are Company commitments and others are optional. Not every dancer will participate in every additional opportunity. Once a dancer accepts a performance or group opportunity, that commitment is expected to be honored.

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What do you expect from Company dancers?

Arrive on time and prepared to participate fully, be open to feedback, respect teachers and teammates, contribute positively to the Ensemble, consistently review material after rehearsal, and honor commitments. We expect increasing responsibility as students gain more experience as Company members.

What do you expect from families?

Maintain required class enrollment, support consistent attendance, read and respond to Company communications, communicate conflicts promptly and honestly, and help dancers take responsibility for their commitments. Questions or concerns should come directly to the Director. PAW does not discuss one student with another student's family.

What happens if conduct becomes a concern?

Company dancers represent PAW in the studio and throughout the community, and are expected to treat themselves, their teammates, teachers, guests, and the spaces we enter with respect. Concerns are addressed carefully and directly, and may include a conversation with the dancer and family, modification of participation in a piece or event, or dismissal from Company in cases of repeated, serious concerns.

How do we enroll?

Enroll in the required regular classes, complete the Company Member Agreement and Conflict Calendar, and pay a designated percentage of the annual membership fee as an enrollment deposit. Company enrollment is a full-season commitment.

This FAQ provides an overview for interested families while the complete 2026-27 Company Enrollment Packet is finalized. Final enrollment materials will contain the full program policies and agreement.