

Dancer Name: _____



Vail Youth Ballet Company Dancer Contract Effective August 2025 through April 2026

Welcome to the 2025-26 Vail Youth Ballet Company!

Vail Youth Ballet Company is a prestigious group of select dancers from the (community??) Vail Valley Academy of Dance who display and represent dedication, commitment and desire to grow as it pertains to dance, as well as leadership, respect and personal responsibility. VYBC Dancers are held to a high level of standards and expectations inside and outside the dance studio.

By initialing and signing this contract the VYBC Dancer agrees to the following:

Attendance Policies:

_____ **Enroll in and regularly attend assigned company level ballet classes each week throughout the school year.**

In order to retain status as a VYBC Dancer, dancers may not miss any more than 6 (10%) of their assigned VVAD ballet classes per the fall and spring semesters. Misses do not roll over from fall to spring semester. If more than 6 classes have been missed by December 1st (fall semester) and/or March 21 (spring semester), an understudy will dance your parts.

_____ **Company class/rehearsals on Saturdays (plan for 9 am - 5 pm) is mandatory** and may not be used to fulfill the above requirement. Hours will vary depending on roles. Additionally, dancers should expect intermittent weeknight rehearsals depending on roles. *The detailed schedule will vary and be published 3 weeks out.

_____ **Mandatory Nutcracker and Showcase rehearsals, costume fittings, photo days, fall team building event should not be missed.** Effort should be taken to schedule around these critical dates outlined on the calendar.

_____ **VYBC Dancer is choosing VYBC as their primary extracurricular commitment for the entire school year (Nutcracker through Showcase).** Should a scheduling conflict arise, dancers will prioritize VYBC over other activities. Absences that occur because of other extracurricular activities will not be excused.

_____ Dancers are **allowed a maximum of 2 excused absences throughout Nutcracker rehearsals and 2 excused absences throughout Showcase rehearsals.** Absences must be approved by the Artistic Director in advance. Please be aware there WILL be rehearsals scheduled the Saturday before school breaks; plan accordingly.

_____ **Dancer agrees to refrain from participating in activities which could result in injury** (i.e. skiing, snowboarding, other extreme sports), until after The Nutcracker performances.

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_____ VYBC dancers **must participate in the Costume Fittings, Dress Rehearsals and Theater Week for Nutcracker and Showcase performances.**

_____ Arrive at classes and rehearsals 10 minutes early, **ready to participate** with proper shoes, attire, hair, and attitude. Sleeping during class and/or rehearsals is not acceptable.

Behavior:

_____ **Dancers will respect the casting judgment of the Artistic Director for Nutcracker and Showcase.** Although understudies will be given first consideration to fulfill a role, the Artistic Director reserves the right and has the sole discretion to cast at will.

_____ **Conduct oneself in an exemplary manner.** This includes maintaining a positive attitude and committing oneself for the benefit of the Company through attendance, rehearsals, performances and preparation, both mental and physical. Dancers should exhibit respect and courtesy to instructors, guest teachers, fellow students, choreographers (teachers, guests and students) and parents.

_____ **Bullying of any type (in person or online) will not be tolerated.**

_____ Dancers understand that if social/emotional/behavioral issues arise as a result of activities/actions OUTSIDE of the studio on dancers' own time, it is NOT the responsibility of the Artistic Director or VFOD to resolve those issues.

_____ **Cell phones are not allowed during class or rehearsal,** unless instructed. When not rehearsing, dancers should remain in the studio, watching other dancers respectfully and/or rehearsing on their own in another available studio.

_____ **Vail Friends of Dance has a zero tolerance policy regarding drugs and alcohol, or anything outside of the law. All VYBC dancers are expected to follow state and federal laws. VYBC dancers are expected to refrain from drug and/or alcohol consumption. This includes, but is not limited to, smoking, vaping, marijuana use, alcohol use, or other drug use.**

_____ Dancers understand that membership in VYBC is determined by annual audition results. Current VYBC membership does not guarantee VYBC placement in subsequent years. VYBC acceptance and advancement will be earned through class/rehearsal attendance, effort put forth in class/rehearsal, positive behavior, representing VYBC positively within the studio and outside of dance, commitment displayed, and the achievement of a certain level of ballet technique.

Responsibilities:

_____ Dancers will be assigned to a cleaning schedule to ensure the studio, locker room, and lobby are all clean and tidy (pick up trash, etc.) on Saturday rehearsal days.

_____ VYBC dancers will be asked to participate in community outreach programs and represent VYBC through various team building experiences and extra opportunities to enhance our profile as a philanthropic organization and promote dance awareness and education in the Vail Valley.

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_____ Dancers have opportunities to fundraise for their own personal dancer education account. If a dancer leaves VYBC with unclaimed money in their account, funds are allocated to the Dancer Education General Fund.

_____ Should a dancer choose to quit VYBC mid-year or is dismissed from VYBC (or at any point), the dancer will forfeit participation in VYBC and The Nutcracker for the following year.

_____ Dancer agrees to read the Dancers' Dish newsletter and Ms. Ashley's updates each week in their entirety as critical information is included. It is the responsibility of the dancer to stay updated on rehearsal schedules.

Consequences:

Failure by a dancer to comply with any of the policies outlined above could result in loss of production roles, loss of production opportunities, probation, suspension, dismissal from VYBC, or other actions as deemed appropriate and necessary. Disciplinary actions will be decided at the discretion of the VYBC Artistic Director and the VFOD Board of Directors.

Dancer Signature

Dancer Printed Name

Date

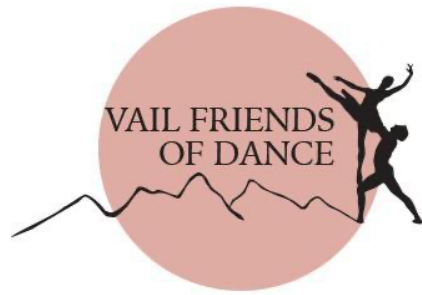
Artistic Director's Signature

Date

VFOD Board President Signature

Date

Dancer Name: _____



Vail Youth Ballet Company & Vail Friends of Dance Parent Contract Effective August 2025 through April 2026

Welcome to the 2025-26 Vail Youth Ballet Company & Vail Friends of Dance!

Vail Friends of Dance (VFOD) is an Eagle County, Colorado nonprofit dedicated to developing, supporting, and inspiring young dancers and teachers from all backgrounds by providing accessible opportunities, equitable resources, and an inclusive environment that fosters artistic excellence.

VFOD consists of volunteers dedicated to providing dance education, financial assistance and performance opportunities. VFOD participation and membership fees support the Vail Valley Academy of Dance and Vail Youth Ballet Company by contributing volunteer time and funding for artistic directors, studio space, choreography, master classes, performances, theater rental, costumes, storage, production, financial aid, scholarships, social events, and teacher continuing education.

In order for the VFOD's annual productions (Nutcracker and Spring Showcase) to be successful, the support of parents is critical.

Upon signing this contract VYBC Parent(s) agree to the following:

Volunteer Requirements:

_____As VFOD is a non-profit, volunteer-run organization, we rely on all member-families to participate. Each family will **volunteer a minimum of 65-hours**, which will be self-tracked and reported to the VFOD Volunteer Coordinator.

_____ Alternatively, VYBC families can opt out of volunteer hours with a cash donation of \$3,250 based on a rate of **\$50 per hour**. If minimum hours are not met by the end of the season, the hours remaining will be billed at \$50/hour.

_____All requirements must be fulfilled before a dancer auditions for the following season. Dancer accounts must be paid in full in order to be eligible to participate in auditions.

Behavior Expectations:

_____Parents will respect the casting judgment of the Artistic Director for Nutcracker and Spring Showcase. Although understudies will be given first consideration to fulfill a role, the Artistic Director reserves the right and has the sole discretion to cast as will.

Dancer Name: _____

_____ Parents understand that if social/emotional/behavioral issues arise as a result of activities/actions OUTSIDE of the studio on dancers' own time, it is NOT the responsibility of the Artistic Director or VFOD to resolve those issues.

_____ VFOD and VYBC communication with parents and dancers will be done via VFOD President through the weekly Dancers' Dish Newsletter from the vailfriendsofdance@gmail.com address. Parents agree to read the weekly Dancers' Dish newsletter and Ms. Ashley's updates each week in their entirety, as critical information is included. It is the responsibility of the dancer to stay updated on rehearsal schedules.

Financial Responsibility:

_____ Join Vail Friends of Dance organization with a non-refundable membership fee of **\$150 per dancer** (collected with the family's Letter of Intent).

_____ Pay the VYBC **Participation Dues of \$650 (for apprentices) or \$750 (Junior/Senior levels)**. Families can choose to pay in two installments (50% at the Welcome Tea on August 24 and 50% by October 10). Payment in full must be received prior to the Nutcracker in order for dancer to participate.

_____ Should a dancer choose to quit VYBC mid-year or is dismissed from VYBC (or at any point), membership fee and participation dues will not be refunded.

_____ Each member-family is required to solicit / provide **Nutcracker silent auction items and/or Nutcracker Program ads** totaling a minimum of **\$600** value, per VYBC member. **A deposit check of \$600 per VYBC member** will be collected as a guarantee. This check will be securely discarded upon fulfillment of this requirement. If this requirement is not met, checks will be deposited on January 15. *Please review the below Financial Agreement.

2025-26 Financial Agreement

Vail Youth Ballet Company Financial Commitment per dancer include the following:

1. Vail Friends of Dance Membership Fee (paid with Letter of Intent).... \$150
2. 2025-26 Company Participation Fee
 - a. Senior/Junior Company.....\$750
 - b. Apprentice Company.....\$650
3. Commitment check toward Nutcracker fundraising.....\$600
Due on August 24. Held and will be shredded when requirements are met

Payment plan options to fulfill 2025-26 participation fee (check one):

- Option 1: Pay _____ in **full on August 24**
(amount due)
- Option 2: Pay _____ in **2 payments on Aug. 24 and Oct. 10**
(amount due)

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_____ Parent has read, understands, supports and agrees to uphold the VYBC Dancer expectations and contract.

VFOD has a no refund policy once this contract is signed by the dancer and parent(s).

Deadline for contract to be signed, turned in with monies due is Sunday, August 24, 2025.

I have read the above contract, discussed our responsibilities as a family and with our VYBC dancer. I agree to the above requirements and understand fully what is expected of my dancer and myself.

_____ Parent Signature	_____ Parent Printed Name	_____ Date
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_____ Parent Signature	_____ Parent Printed Name	_____ Date
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_____ Artistic Director's Signature	_____ Date
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_____ VFOD Board President Signature	_____ Date
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Dancer Name: _____

Vail Youth Ballet Company Dancer Expectations 2025-2026

Time Management –

Remember, the class/rehearsal start time is when the class/rehearsal will begin, not when you should be arriving. Please change efficiently between weekly technique classes.

Dancer Initials _____ Parent Initials _____

Dress Code and Proper Hair –

Please arrive to class in proper ballet attire. This includes tights and shoes. When it is hot outside, cut off tights are allowed. Only wear warm-ups at the start of class. Baggy pants/shirts are not allowed. Arrive to class/rehearsal with proper ballet hair. It needs to be secured off your face in a bun or a twist. *Claw clips and pigtails will not be allowed.*

Dancer Initials _____ Parent Initials _____

Talking –

If you are asked to stop talking, you will have 2 warnings. On the 3rd occurrence, you will be asked to leave class or rehearsal. If you miss choreography or something important because you were asked to leave class/rehearsal, it will be your responsibility for catching up on choreography.

Dancer Initials _____ Parent Initials _____

Absences –

Please communicate any planned absence at least 48 hours before the absence. If you are ill, please stay home and send us a quick email. You are allowed 2 excused rehearsal absences. If you have more than 2, we reserve the right to put your understudy into your role(s). This will be enforced.

Dancer Initials _____ Parent Initials _____

Supportive Environment –

You are a *company* of dancers. You need to respect one another and remember we are all here for a common goal, because we love to dance. There is no room for bullying or critical behavior between dancers. It is your teacher's job to provide feedback, if you don't have anything nice to say, please don't say anything at all. You are not required to be friends with every person in company, but you are required to show respect and dignity. This also goes for all other dancers at the studio. Please also think about what you post online. If you are found posting things online that are not supportive or respectful of VVAD/VYBC/VFOD or other students, you will be called into a meeting with the AD and Board Vice-President to evaluate the gravity of the situation. Repercussions could be but are not limited to suspension from VYBC or removal from VYBC and VVAD.

Dancer Initials _____ Parent Initials _____

Dancer Name: _____

Cell Phones and Apple/Smart Watches –

Cell phones and Apple/Smart Watches will not be allowed in class/rehearsals. Please leave your phone/watch in your locker. If we need to have you video anything, we will ask you to go get your phone. This will be strictly enforced. If you do bring your phone/watch to class or rehearsal the teacher will take your phone/watch to the office and give it back to you at the end of the day.

Dancer Initials _____ Parent Initials _____

Saturday Warm-Up Classes and Lunches –

We expect all dancers to be at Saturday warm-up classes unless you have previously communicated your excused absence. These classes are not only to get your bodies ready for the day of dancing, but they are also to get your brain focused on your day of dancing. If your rehearsal is not scheduled right after the warm-up class, you are still required to be in attendance and we recommend that you watch and learn as much of the ballet as possible. You will be allowed to wear your theme outfit for warm-up but will need to be in black dance attire for the Saturday rehearsals. (Example – black leo/pink tights or black leo/black tights, skirts will be allowed). You are also required to be at the company lunches. This is a fun way to connect with the other company members and we often hand out important company information at the lunches.

Dancer Initials _____ Parent Initials _____

Conditioning Outside of the Studio –

We expect that you are going over choreography, stretching and working to keep your body healthy outside of class/rehearsal time. There is a lot we must get through in daily classes/rehearsals and we need you to be taking care of your bodies. Stretching and finding ways to help have consistent improvement in your technique. *Examples include* – TheraBand stretches at home, ankle strength exercises before or after class, following any Physical Therapy guidelines, asking for help, and speaking up if something is hurting or causing pain. We will be setting goals for each dancer at the beginning of the year and taking before and after pictures to help with progress. You will be receiving a VYBC Goals sheet that will be turned in bi-weekly.

Dancer Initials _____ Parent Initials _____

Band App Expectations –

We video the dances each week and post them in their respective Bands for your benefit. When you go over your dances prior to coming to rehearsal the next week we spend less time going over the previous week's choreography. This is a tool we use to help the whole group, if you are not watching the Bands and we must keep going over choreography, we will consider putting in your understudy. We can see who has watched each video and how long they watched it.

Dancer Initials _____ Parent Initials _____

Dancer Name: _____

Ballet Class Etiquette -

- Do not go in the first group if you do not know the combination. This has nothing to do with age. Seniority does not matter.
- Do not stand in the front line if you do not know the combination. This has nothing to do with age. Seniority does not matter.
- Raise your hand to ask any questions. Listen to questions from other dancers it most likely applies to you.
- Listen to corrections for other dancers; they most likely apply to you.
- When another group or dancer is dancing, please walk around the back of the room. Do not walk in the front of the studio.
- Clean up after yourselves. We spent a lot of time throwing away old Starbucks cups, socks, water bottles and clothing.

Dancer Initials _____ **Parent Initials** _____

These expectations are due back to Ms. Ashley, signed at the Welcome Tea 2025.

Please be mindful of these expectations. If all dancers follow them, class/rehearsals will move more quickly and the mutual respect will continue to grow.

~Ms. Ashley