

One Team.

One Company.

We are thrilled that you are considering joining our Competitive Dance Company for Season 16! This handbook has been carefully prepared to give you and your family a complete picture of what it means to be part of our team — from auditions through competition season and everything in between.

Membership on our competitive team is one of the most rewarding experiences a young dancer can have. It builds discipline, artistry, teamwork, and lifelong friendships. We want every family to enter this commitment with full knowledge of what to expect, so you can make the best decision for your dancer.

Season 16, there is one team. **SCD Company** — a name that carries the weight of tradition, artistry, and belonging. Company trains together, competes together, and celebrates together. Company will blend the best of competition and convention in a season that feels *challenging and inspiring*.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to develop well-rounded, technically strong dancers in a supportive, empowering environment. We believe that competition is a vehicle for growth — not just on the stage, but in character, resilience, and teamwork.

COMPANY OVERVIEW

AGES + LEVELS

- Mini Level | Ages 5-7
- Petite Level | Ages 8-10
- Junior Level | Ages 11-12
- Teen Level | Ages 13-15
- Senior Level | Ages 16-19

Age divisions are based on the Convention circuit and may vary slightly depending on the competition or convention attended.

T R A I N I N G + S C H E D U L E

SCD Company trains separately from the core program, creating a dedicated environment built around the standards, focus, and culture of competitive and convention training. The only exception to Company's separate training structure is optional classes, which are open to all dancers across both Company and the core program.

Following auditions, Placement is determined solely by a dancer's training level, technical execution, and readiness — not by age or competition level. Every dancer is evaluated as an individual, and placement decisions are made by our staff with each dancer's growth and long-term development at the forefront.

Company membership **requires a full commitment to the SCD training schedule**. Required classes and rehearsals are non-negotiable and must be attended consistently each week — this is the foundation of what makes our team strong.

We wholeheartedly support dancers who pursue additional Ballet training outside of SCD, and we encourage the growth that comes with it. However, SCD's program must always remain the scheduling priority. Outside training should complement your commitment here, never compete with it.

Season 16 Required Classes:

- Ballet 2x per week (1x per week for Mini Dancers, 3x Optional for Higher Level)
- Lyrical
- Jazz/Progressions
- Contemporary (higher levels only)
- Pilates/Stretch

Optional: Acro, Pointe, Tap, Hip-Hop

Mini + Petite Level Dancers:

- **Dancers will train between 2-3 days per week + additional day for rehearsals which could include Friday evening or Saturday morning.**

Junior Level and Up Dancers:

- **Dancers will train between 3-4 days per week + additional day for rehearsals which could include Friday evening or Saturday morning.**

Each dance will have its own dedicated 30 or 45-minute rehearsal slot.

Unlike previous seasons, rehearsals will no longer be shared, ensuring dancers are not pushed to the point of mental or physical exhaustion.

The **Season 16 schedule** has been thoughtfully designed to provide a balanced weekly structure that prioritizes technical growth while also incorporating a fun and artistically expressive approach to training. Season 16 Training Schedule will be released April 20th, 2026

C O M P E T I T I O N S / C O N V E N T I O N S

REQUIRED EVENTS:

- 3 Team Conventions (Travel up to 4hrs)
- 1 Team Competition (Travel up to 4hrs)
- 1 National Event in June 2027 (7 day event)

OPTIONAL EVENTS:

- Additional Conventions (see details)
- Additional Competitions (after Jan 2027)
- YAGP, TDA, and other circuits

Solos remain entirely optional at both conventions and competitions. Our goal is to foster each dancer's individual growth and give them the freedom to compete in the environment that best suits where they are as an artist.

SCD Company ***will not compete*** or ***attend conventions as a team*** prior to January 2027. This decision is intentional. The first semester of Season 16 is dedicated to technical development, artistic growth, and building the foundation that allows every dancer to step onto any stage with confidence, preparation, and excellence.

The January 2027 Team Showcase marks the official beginning of SCD Company's performance season and is a required event for all Company members. All team competitions and conventions will be scheduled following this date. For information regarding individual early convention opportunities prior to January 2027, please see the details outlined below.

A full season calendar — including event names, dates, and locations, will be released as details are confirmed.

We also deeply value the individual goals of our dancers. For those wishing to pursue additional opportunities such as YAGP, TDA, or other circuits, we will do our best to honor and support those goals when building our schedule. Your growth as an individual artist matters to us just as much as your growth as part of this team.

C H O R E O G R A P H Y + G U E S T A R T I S T S

PRODUCTION IS BACK! Expect the energy, the artistry, and the performance quality that this studio is known for! Participation in the Season 16 Production is required for all SCD Company members.

Additional Competition Genres:

- Lyrical
- Contemporary
- Jazz
- Hip-Hop
- Open/Specialty

SCD Company is proud to welcome back beloved guest artists and introduce exciting new choreographers to our program for Season 16. The names confirmed to date are listed below, and conversations with additional choreographers are actively underway as we continue curating the very best experiences and opportunities for our dancers.

Guest artist experiences are an essential part of what makes SCD Company exceptional. These opportunities challenge our dancers to grow not only as technicians, but as artists — learning to audition, adapt to new creative voices, collaborate with industry professionals, and step confidently outside of their comfort zones. These are the experiences that shape well-rounded, resilient performers ready for any stage or opportunity that comes their way.

Guest Artists (in the works) + SCD Staff

- **Nina Pollzzie** (Porcelain Empire Choreographer) *Contemporary*
- **Meghan Sanett** (Choreography to be set in NYC, details on the Fall NYC trip coming soon!) *Jazz*
- **Jackson Hollis** *Hip-Hop*
- **Lauren Hummel** *Jazz + Open*
- **Chelsea Sebes-** *Contemporary*
- **SCD Staff** *Lyrical + Jazz + Production + Open*

Auditions & *Details.*

K E Y D A T E S

- ◆ **Audition Dates:** June 2 & June 3, 2026 | 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- ◆ **Acceptance Notifications:** Thursday, June 4, 2026
- ◆ **Dance Placements Released:** Wednesday, July 1, 2026 (Following the Forge Summer Series)
- ◆ **Solo Auditions:** Friday, July 10, 2026 | 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM
- ◆ **Mandatory Season 16 Company Intensive:** Wednesday, July 29 through Friday, August 7, 2026 | Evening Classes + Rehearsals (detailed schedule coming soon)

- **Registration on DanceStudio Pro** is required for all those auditioning. Dancers should be registered according to their age at the time of the audition.
- **The Audition Form** will be released via email closer to the audition date and must be completed by all participants.
- **Audition Fee** \$50 per dancer (non-transferable or refundable) This includes Team and Solo Auditions

- **Attendance:** Dancers must attend all classes AND the full audition process to be considered for Company placement.
- **Ballet Attire:** Proper Ballet attire required for the Ballet portion including a Black Leotard, hair in a low or classical bun, ballet tights, and ballet shoes.
- **Jazz/Stretch/Acro:** All-black, form-fitting attire required. Turners or Jazz Shoes.
- **Season 16 Company Intensive:** Participation is required for all company members. A detailed schedule will be provided following dance placements. The cost of the Intensive varies by level and ranges from \$150 to \$225.

June 2nd — Schedule

Time	Class
3:00 – 4:00 PM	Ballet
4:00 – 5:00 PM	Jazz
5:00 – 6:00 PM	Choreography Round 1
6:00 – 7:00 PM	Choreography Round 2

June 3rd — Schedule

Time	Class
3:00 – 4:00 PM	Stretch + Strength
4:00 – 5:00 PM	Acro + Skills
5:00 – 6:00 PM	Audition
6:00 – 7:00 PM	Audition

WHAT WE ARE EVALUATING

- ◆ Technical execution, skill proficiency, flexibility
- ◆ Focus, presentation, and artistic presence
- ◆ Work ethic and coach-ability throughout every class — not just the audition
- ◆ Team dynamic and overall readiness

Dance placements will be announced after staff has had the opportunity to observe dancers in the FORGE Summer Series classes. This allows for a thorough evaluation of work ethic, team dynamic, and readiness before choreography assignments are finalized.

FORGE Summer Series: Not mandatory for Season 16 members, but strongly encouraged. These classes influence performance opportunities and casting considerations.

Attendance & Commitment.

To maintain the integrity and professional standard of the Company Team, all members and families are expected to uphold the attendance requirements outlined in this section. It is important to understand that this commitment extends beyond the dancer — **it equally applies** to the parent or guardian responsible for ensuring their dancer is present at all classes, rehearsals, and events.

We are proud of the elite, award-winning standard this team has achieved, and sustaining that level of excellence requires serious dedication from every family who chooses to be part of it. We want all families to enter this season with a full and clear understanding of what is expected, so that every commitment made is one that can be honored with confidence.

We kindly but firmly ask that families carefully consider these expectations before auditioning. If the demands of a full competitive season are not a realistic fit for your dancer or your family at this time, we encourage you to wait until the timing is right. Every spot on this team is held by a dancer and family who are fully prepared to commit to the season ahead.

Studio Break Alignment

We deeply value the time and dedication each family invests in this program, and we understand that life outside the studio is equally important. To ensure the success of every dancer and the team as a whole, we ask that all family vacations and travel be planned in alignment with the studio's officially scheduled breaks listed below.

Because every dancer plays an irreplaceable role in the choreography, formations, and overall performance quality of each piece, unplanned absences — even one — can significantly impact the progress of the entire group. For this reason, **all absences outside of illness will count toward the 3 total allowed rehearsal absences per season.** This policy exists not to create hardship, but to protect the standard of excellence that every family on this team has chosen to be part of.

We are committed to providing ample notice of all scheduled breaks well in advance so that families have every opportunity to plan accordingly. We appreciate your understanding, cooperation, and continued commitment to the Company Team.

- Fall Break | October 12th-16th, 2026
- Thanksgiving Break | November 25th-29th, 2026
- Winter Break | December 21st-January 3rd, 2027
- Spring Break | March 22nd-26th, 2027

We will have rehearsals on the following Holidays:

- Labor Day | Monday, September 7th
- MLK Day | Monday, January 18th
- Presidents' Day | Monday, February 15th

Scenic City Dance will be closed during the following periods:

- The week following the Season 16 Showcase (*date TBD*)
- The week following the Season 16 National Event (*date TBD*)
- The week of July 4th, 2027

T E C H N I Q U E C L A S S E S

- Missing more than **5 required technique classes** will result in **removal from the team.**

- Mandatory school events are excused; however, SCD must be **notified at least 30 days in advance**.
- If additional rehearsals are scheduled, attendance is **required by all dancers**.
- Illness will only be excused with a **valid doctor's note**.

R E H E A R S A L S

- Missing more than **3 rehearsals for any reason** will result in **removal from the team**.
- Dancers are required to attend **all rehearsals scheduled within the two weeks leading up to a convention or competition**. There are no exceptions.
- Any dancer who misses a rehearsal within this designated timeframe will be **removed from the upcoming event**, including all group and solo performances.
- Illness will only be excused with a **detailed doctor's note**.

Additional Conventions & Competitions

Eligibility & Approval

- Dancers who are **new to Company** or are **Mini/first-time Junior age** may not attend any additional conventions prior to the team's first convention if they conflict with any rehearsals. Solos are not permitted for this group during that period.
- Dancers wishing to compete at an "early" convention — defined as any event occurring between September 2026 and early January 2027 — must receive prior approval from their solo choreographer.
- All additional conventions and competitions must be approved at the beginning of the season, no later than September 1st, 2026.

Solo Preparation

- Solo rehearsals for dancers attending an early convention will begin in **July** to allow for thorough preparation and a well-paced process for both the dancer and staff.
- If additional rehearsal sessions beyond the standard weekly appointment are needed, those sessions will be **scheduled as privates and paid directly to the choreographer**.
- The solo choreographer retains **full discretion** to assess readiness and may decline early competition participation if the piece or dancer is not adequately prepared.

New for Season 16

- Any additional convention selected outside of the official Company season must be **registered and paid in full within 48 hours** of the request once registration opens.
- All additional convention and competition registrations are **final. No refunds, credits, transfers, or changes will be permitted under any circumstances**. Families are expected to confirm their plans prior to registration opening.
- Any changes made to an existing registration — such as updating a solo title — will result in a **\$50 change fee**.

Absences & Rehearsal Conflicts

- Any rehearsals missed due to attendance at an additional convention will **count toward the maximum of three (3) allowable absences**.

Staff Attendance

- SCD staff will **not attend** any additional conventions or competitions unless all travel expenses are **fully covered** by the participating dancers.

- If multiple dancers plan to attend the same convention and wish to have a staff member present, travel arrangements and associated fees may be discussed via email with Stacey at stacey@sceniccitydance.com. Please note that staff attendance is **not guaranteed** and will be determined based on availability and feasibility.

Solo Choreographer, Fees & Costume.

Choreographer Assignment

- Dancers will be invited to indicate their **top two preferred in-house choreographers** as well as their **preferred genre**.
- While these preferences will be thoughtfully considered, **final choreographer and genre assignments are determined by SCD staff** based on what best supports each dancer's individual growth and development.

Solo Choreography Fee

- The solo choreography fee is determined at the discretion of the assigned staff member and is **up to \$500 per solo**, payable **directly to the choreographer**.
- Once a choreographer has been confirmed, detailed information and payment instructions will be sent directly to the family.
- **Full payment of the choreography fee is required before solo rehearsals may begin.**
- **Please note:** the choreography fee **does not include** rehearsal time.
- **Should a dancer or parent request** a new solo at any point during the season, a choreography fee will be required. This applies regardless of whether the piece is being created by the same staff member or a different choreographer.

Solo Rehearsal + Entry Fees

- Solo rehearsal fees are **included in your monthly tuition** beginning **August 1st, 2026**.
- The monthly solo rehearsal fee is **\$85 per month** and includes **one (1) solo rehearsal per week**.
- Any additional rehearsals beyond the weekly allotted session must be scheduled directly with the choreographer and are billed at **\$35 per 30 minutes**, payable directly to the choreographer.
- The cost to compete a solo **per event** ranges between **\$245–\$275**.
- Families may choose to compete the solo at **all events** or select **specific events** throughout the season.

Second Solos

- Second solos will **not be considered until December 2026**.
- Families interested in pursuing a second solo may begin discussions with SCD staff in December 2026, with choreography beginning **January 2027**.
- A second solo will require an **additional choreography fee** as well as **separate rehearsal fees**.
- SCD staff reserves the right to **decline a second solo request** if it is determined that the dancer is not ready or that an additional solo would not be in the best interest of their overall development.

Solo Choreography Requirements

- All Company dancers are **required to have their first solo choreographed by an SCD staff member**.
- Additional solos may be set by an outside choreographer; however, once the piece is complete, a **rehearsal fee will be added** for SCD staff to clean, refine, and rehearse the work to ensure it meets Company performance standards.

Solo Costumes

- Costumes will be **selected, designed, and ordered by SCD staff** unless otherwise agreed upon with the choreographer prior to the start of the season.
- Families are **not permitted to hire an outside costume designer or company** without prior written approval from SCD.
- Any custom costume secured independently must be:
 - Properly fitted prior to competition
 - Stage-ready by Team Showcase or the First Convention if prior to January 2027.
- SCD will **not be responsible** for any alterations, adjustments, or corrections to costumes obtained outside of SCD.

Groups & Fees.

Casting & Dance Placement

- Dancers will be cast based on the number of dances the family feels comfortable with in terms of both **time and financial commitment**. Families will indicate their maximum number of dances on the audition form.
- SCD staff makes the **final decision** on all casting for the upcoming season.
- All Company members are **required to participate in Production**.
- All dancers auditioning for Company must be cast in a **minimum of 2 group dances**. Duo/trios and solos are **not counted** toward the maximum dance total.

A Note on Solos + Duo/Trios

- Solos & Duo/Trios represent the most significant financial investment on the team. For families who wish to fully embrace the team experience and benefit from the standards and excellence of this program, we **encourage you to prioritize group participation** over pursuing a solo or duo/trios.

Competition Fees Per Event

- Group dances: **\$75–\$100 per dance, per event**
- Duo/trio: **\$95–\$110 per dance, per event**
- Convention registration (*required for all competing dancers*): **\$375–\$450 per event**
 - Convention registration includes a full weekend of classes taught by leading choreographers, educators, and industry judges, and provides opportunities for **scholarships, cash prizes, artistic growth, and industry exposure**. These events are an incredible opportunity for dancers to build confidence, refine their artistry, practice auditioning, and gain meaningful experience in the industry.

Choreography Fees

- All duo/trios and group dances require a **choreography fee**, applicable to both SCD staff and guest artists.
- SCD staff choreography fees range from **\$50–\$100 per dancer**, depending on the size of the piece.
- Guest artist fees may be significantly higher. If your dancer is being considered for a guest artist piece, all associated fees will be communicated to the family **prior to making a final commitment**.

Costumes

- Costume costs range from **\$250–\$350** for custom designs and may be significantly lower for semi-custom or pre-owned costumes selected by staff.

- Costume fees are **due in full no later than September 1st** to ensure timely ordering and readiness for stage.
- Costumes will **not be ordered** until payment has been received in full.
- A detailed cost outline will be provided once dances have been announced. At that time, the **Company Contract, monthly payment plan, and any additional fees** will also be released.

Financial Policies & Responsibilities.

Payment Requirements + Tuition

- All Company members are required to maintain a **valid credit card on file** at all times.
- All tuition, rehearsal, convention, and competition fees are **due by the 1st of each month from August 1st, 2026 through June 1st, 2027.**
- **Families will receive a detailed spreadsheet outlining all anticipated fees for the season**, divided into 11 equal monthly payments to allow for clear and confident financial planning.
- Once established, the monthly payment amount will not change for the duration of the season. Depending on level of classes, dance count, etc. the cost of the competitive company per season can range from \$4,500 to \$7,500 not including travel.
- Any account with a missed due date or outstanding balance will result in the **removal of the dancer's solo from the next competition or convention.**
- If the dancer does not have a solo, SCD staff will determine and apply an appropriate consequence for the outstanding balance.
- A **10% late fee** will be applied to any outstanding balance not paid by the 5th of each month.
- Monthly tuition is determined by the number of hours per week and ranges between **\$175 and \$225 per month.**
- All Company members benefit from a **capped tuition rate**, ensuring consistent and predictable monthly billing regardless of additional class hours.

Injury Policy

- In the event of a dancer injury, **all convention and competition fees remain due in full** to cover the cost of the replacement dancer and any related expenses.
- All costume fees associated with the injured dancer's pieces are also **still required.**
- Please note that costumes **may be altered to fit the replacement dancer** as needed.
- Injured dancers are still required to attend all classes and rehearsals to observe and take notes during their recovery period.
- While tuition may be suspended during an injury, all additional fees remain due and will not be waived.
- Injury accommodations will be handled on a case-by-case basis and discussed directly with Stacey.

Dismissal & Termination Fees

- Any dancer dismissed from the Company Team for any reason will be **automatically charged a \$200 inconvenience fee**, in addition to all remaining balances including costumes, competitions, conventions, showcase fees, and any other outstanding costs, charged to the credit card on file.
- Any dancer who accumulates **5 unexcused absences from classes or 3 unexcused absences from rehearsals** and is subsequently removed from the team is subject to the **\$200 termination fee** along with all remaining fees outlined above.
- If a dancer voluntarily withdraws from the team, the same financial obligations apply.

Additional Rules and Requirements.

Team Wear

- All Company dancers are required to purchase the **newest Company team wear**, which includes the jacket, pants, and backpack.
- The total cost for all three items is approximately **\$225**.
- Team wear is required to be worn for **awards ceremonies, conventions, competitions, and all team events**.

Social Media Policy

- When posting any content related to SCD on social media or any media platform, dancers and families are required to tag **the choreographer** as well as **@sceniccitydance** in all posts and stories.

Code of Conduct

- Scenic City Dance maintains a **zero-tolerance policy** for inappropriate behavior and bullying of any kind, from both dancers and their families.
- Any misconduct or inappropriate behavior from a dancer or family member will result in **immediate dismissal** from the SCD Company Team and the program as a whole.

A N O T E F R O M S C D

We could not be more excited about what Season 16 has in store for the Company Team and the Scenic City Dance family as a whole. This season marks a significant and intentional shift for our program — one that we believe will reignite the dominance and excellence that SCD has always been known for. By combining our two teams into one unified group, we are creating a stronger, more dynamic team that will have access to a wider range of performance opportunities, genres, and choreographic experiences. This is an exciting evolution for our program, and we are confident that the results will speak for themselves on every stage we step onto this season.

Thank you for your continued trust, dedication, and passion for this program. We are honored to do this alongside each and every one of you, and we cannot wait to show the world what Season 16 looks like for Scenic City Dance. Let's make it unforgettable.

— Stacey Perkinson

Owner/Artistic Director

Team *Collective*.

- For families who are not yet ready for the full commitment of Company, we are pleased to offer the opportunity to audition for the **Collective Team**.
- **Auditions for the Collective Team** will be held alongside Company auditions on **June 2nd and 3rd**. Full participation and registration is required, including the \$50 audition fee. Register on DanceStudio Pro.
- **Selection for the Collective Team** will be based on each dancer's previous commitment to classes, rehearsals, and performances as well their audition process.

Required Technique Classes

- Collective dancers will train within the **CORE program** and are required to enroll in the following technique classes. Regular attendance is mandatory:
 - Ballet
 - Jazz
 - Lyrical (*if applicable based on level*)

Rehearsal Requirements

- Dancers are required to attend a **weekly rehearsal** throughout the season.
- Attendance is **mandatory during the two weeks leading up to any listed performance.**

Calendar & Event Participation

- Collective dancers are required to participate in **all calendar events** announced prior to the start of Season 16.
- If a dancer withdraws from a performance for **any reason other than illness** accompanied by a valid doctor's note, they will be **immediately removed from the Collective Team.**

Competition Opportunities

- Collective dancers *may have* the opportunity to compete at **one local Chattanooga competition**, based on readiness and staff discretion following auditions.
- Competition participation will be confirmed and outlined in the **Collective Contract.**
- Competition costs range from **\$75–\$95 per dancer, per dance.**

Team Wear

- All Collective dancers are required to purchase the **SCD Team Jacket.**