

# LEAP Performing Arts Company

## Student Contract 2023 - 2024

Welcome to LEAP Performing Arts Company! We hope you are excited to continue your dance journey with us. By joining our Company, you are taking an extra step to become more dedicated to your dance career. We look forward to helping you and watching you continue to grow, not just as dancers, but as individuals. As we are looking for members who are dedicated both to dance and to leadership, please carefully read through our policies below.

### **Placement:**

Placement in LEAP Company is based on the following criteria: technique, stage presence, potential, commitment level, enthusiasm, attitude and behavior in class, and attendance. We place students together in groups that we feel will work best together in rehearsals and performances. Company members are selected by instructors and will be invited into the appropriate Company level.

### **Attendance & Commitment:**

A dance company is a team. Just as sports teams require all players to attend practices, dance companies require their dancers to attend all classes and rehearsals. Absences will not only affect the individual dancer, but the Company as a whole.

- **Junior and Teen Company:** Must take a minimum of **five hours** of dance per week
  - At least one class must be ballet (preferably two classes of ballet)
  - Students en pointe must take a minimum of two classes of ballet per Little Leapers' safety rules
  - At least 3 of 5, or 60% of total class hours taken per week must be with Little Leapers & LEAP Performing Arts Academy, at least one class must include ballet
  - Non-ballet class requirements:
    - Petite & Junior Members: At least one hour must be a non-ballet class.
    - Senior Members: At least two hours must be a non-ballet class.
  - Company rehearsals will count towards weekly hours when they occur.
  
- **Apprentice, Petite Company, and Mini Company:** Must take a minimum of **three hours (teen and senior apprentice) or two hours (mini/petite members)** of dance per week
  - At least one class must be ballet
  - At least 2 of 3, or 60% of total class hours taken per week must be with Little Leapers & LEAP Performing Arts Academy, at least one class must include ballet
  - At least one hour must be a non-ballet class
  - Company rehearsals will count towards weekly hours when they occur.
  
- Dancers are expected to observe class/rehearsal in the case of injury or mild illness.
  
- **All studio classes and company classes/rehearsals are mandatory**
  - Students may miss up to **two days** of classes **per month** (does not accumulate).

- Students may miss up to **two Company classes/rehearsals per semester** (does not accumulate).
  - All classes missed must be made up by attendance in a similar class style and level (students have no more than 2 weeks to make up any missed classes).
  - Classes where the dancer is present but has to sit out due to injury or illness will not count against the dancer's attendance as long as the teacher deems the reason for not participating to be valid.
  - If more than the allotted classes/rehearsals are missed, students are at risk to be pulled from routines, starting with their solo, lead role, and/or other special role (this includes in Nutcracker and in Spring performances).
  - Continued failure to regularly attend may result in probation, suspension, or dismissal from Company.
  - If a dancer misses more than 2 consecutive days of dance, a doctor's note will be required to excuse an absence, and classes must still be made up.
  - **While attendance will be enforced, please note that advanced notice (to a reasonable degree) and emergency situations will be respected.**
- **Company members must be present in ALL their classes and rehearsals the week prior to every performance and competition. If a dancer is taken out of a performance/competition because of missed classes in the week prior, no refunds for said event will be issued.**
- Students are expected to show up on time and prepared for classes and rehearsals.
- **Two occurrences** of tardiness will count as an absence
  - **Ballet (girls):** Leotard, tights, ballet shoes, hair pulled back in a neat ballet bun. Warm-ups may be worn, but must come off no later than half way through barre
  - **Ballet (boys):** White shirt, men's tights, ballet shoes. Warm-ups may be worn, but must come off no later than half way through barre
  - **Non-Ballet classes:** Hair pulled back neatly, appropriate dance shoes for genre at the discretion of the teacher, leggings/other tightly fitted dancewear as long as presented neatly. **No bare-midribs.**
- Members must show up on time and properly dressed for Company rehearsals - appropriate attire depends on the class style and intent of the rehearsal.

### **Solos/Duets/Special Dances**

Having a solo or special dance is a privilege, not a right. These will be awarded to deserving dancers and must be approved by Heather, Claire, and the teacher/choreographer and will only be allowed to perform/compete if they are deemed ready by their teacher. A solo can be taken away due to a number of reasons, including but not limited to:

- Repeatedly breaking company attendance policy
- Disrespecting Little Leapers staff/other dancers
- Breaking any aspect of the company contract

### **Performances & Competition:**

We are a performance and outreach driven Company. We expect that all members want to have as many performance opportunities as possible.

- Members must participate in our Nutcracker and Spring Show(s) in addition to all Company related performances. Company members will be given special consideration when casting for shows.
- Members **are expected** to participate in Leadership and Outreach events throughout each semester. Opportunities will be communicated to LEAP families as soon as possible.
  - Each member **must** take on some form of leadership in the studio as a part of their membership in Company in accordance with the Leadership Points System. This includes but is not limited to:
    - Being a junior helper
    - Being a teacher
    - Planning an outreach event/performance (with the help of staff)
    - Serving as Captain of one of our Company levels (Invite Only)
- Competing at dance competitions is optional. However, as our Company members are expected to be a team, non-competing members will be required to attend at least one competition in support of their competing members.
- Company members may audition outside of our Company for performance opportunities, however, they may not be a member of another dance company, with the exception of school based clubs or dance teams. However, if any opportunities conflict with the requirements of our Company, members may be restricted to Apprentice membership, suspended or dismissed.
- In order to compete in any capacity under the name of any Little Leapers LLC subset, dancers must be an active member of the LEAP Performing Arts Company. At a bare minimum, these dancers must compete with the Company in at least one group routine and must meet requirements for leadership involvement.

As a company, we will be attending a minimum of two competitions, and a convention. Dates and registration information will be shared as soon as they are decided.

**Dancers may present performance opportunities and new ideas to the Company Director**, who will work with the dancer to make them happen. Initiative will always be met with enthusiasm and encouragement.

Costume costs will be kept to a minimum. Dancers will be responsible for costs associated with solo/duet costumes, but beyond that, we will work to keep prices down to the best of our ability in this regard.

**Courtesy & Respect:**

All Company members will be held to the highest standards of conduct. LEAP dancers are always respectful, supportive, and encouraging, and they are positive in spirit, attitude and behavior. Communicating negatively about anyone in or outside our studio will not be tolerated.

- Company members are expected to show courtesy and respect to all instructors and other students. Any student who exhibits repeated negative or disrespectful behavior will be asked to leave the Company.
- Students and parents are representatives of the LEAP Company name, thereby ambassadors. Members are expected to act as leaders both in class and out, including with any presence on **social media**.
- Any behavior that is considered inappropriate in the studio is also inappropriate on social media. This includes, but is not limited to, posting inappropriate or suggestive dance moves, songs with vulgar or offensive language, or inappropriate clothing. If at any point, a student's social media presence reflects poorly on the Company's image, members may be restricted to Apprentice membership, suspended, or dismissed.
- Both students and parents must act as a support to the LEAP family. If at any point behavior in the studio or outside conflicts with our standards of leadership and conduct, members may be restricted to Apprentice membership, suspended or dismissed.

### **Financial Commitment:**

Cost and commitment for Company will be \$75 per month for company members (Juniors, Teen and Pre-Pro) and \$50 per month for apprentice members and mini/petite members for the entire school-year (August to May). This will cover dancers' involvement in all dances of each level (some styles pending choreographer discretion. Any dance routines external to a specific level will have their own separate fee which will be communicated before committing. Additional opportunities such as conventions, workshops, field trips, and competitions that require vendor fees are optional and separate. If you are in need of financial assistance, please contact us as soon as possible! Cost should not get in the way of a dancer's participation in Company, so we are willing to work with you as long as you reach out early.

- Company fees will be charged to JackRabbit accounts alongside normal class contract charges. Payment plans will be available - reach out as soon as possible to coordinate payment.
- Any outside events (such as competition, convention, etc) must be paid off in its entirety by the deadline set by staff - this deadline will be clearly communicated for each event and all families will be given at least two-weeks notice.
- **If for any reason at any point during the year, a student quits Company, there is a \$100 cancellation fee. This fee is non-refundable if you change your mind, as any changes in commitment affect the entire team. This is non-negotiable barring extreme extenuating circumstances.**

### **Adult Company Opportunity:**

This year, we will be offering an adult company for any dancers that are 18 or older. This will be an opportunity for these dancers to take classes, choreograph, and perform at outreach events. Membership will be free, on the condition that participants will provide 10 hours of volunteer service to the studio each semester. This is a new, developing idea, so bear with us as we figure out how to include this into our repertoire of classes!

**Pre-Professional Company:**

This year, we will be creating a Pre-Professional track for dancers who have shown extreme potential and commitment in their technical classes. These dancers will be trained with the hopes of attending ballet competitions and honing technical skills. The details of this part of the company will be shaped this year to fit the needs of those invited.

**Exceptions can be made to this contract if the dancer and family let the Director know with more than enough notice. Please reach out ASAP if there are conflicts or issues within this contract.**

**Finally...**

Don't forget to have fun! You'll gain a lifetime of great memories and friendships during this time together, so enjoy every second! We strive to make this the most positive and rewarding experience for our dancers, and we look forward to having another incredible and exciting dance season!

**Please sign and return this page to LEAP Company Director, Claire Cohen, no later than Saturday, August 26th. Pre-Professional Members should sign and return this contract no later than Wednesday, August 16th. If you choose not to accept your offer to be a part of LEAP Company, please email [leapcompany@thelittleleapers.com](mailto:leapcompany@thelittleleapers.com) no later than Saturday, August 26th to let us know.**

**Acknowledgement Statement:**

Both dancer and parent have fully read and understood all that is expected as a member of The LEAP Performing Arts Company. We understand that these rules are created to ensure the absolute best training and most positive and rewarding experience for all. Both dancer and parent understand that failure to meet the conditions set forth in this contract could result in the dancer's probation, suspension and/or dismissal from LEAP Company.

Dancer's Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Dancer's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Printed Name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Signatures above mean that the dancer/family accept all of their placements. If this is not the case, please list those that you DO NOT accept below.**