



**2026-2027 Competition
Season**

***Company Team Audition
Information Packet***

What Is The Dance Lab Competitive Company, “The Lab Rats”?

The Lab Rats are South Denver’s top dancers and performers ages 3 to 18. This high level competitive program is for dancers looking to excel in their dance training and become part of an exceptionally strong community. The Lab Rats train several hours weekly in Contemporary, Jazz, Hip-Hop, Tap, Ballet, Flexibility, Acro, and more.

Lab Rat auditions are open to all- whether you have an extensive competitive background or are new to competition but excited to take your training to the next level, we’d love to see you there! As a Lab Rat, you will be expected to show commitment, dedication, passion, motivation, a positive and respectful attitude, talent, and the desire to perform. Please ensure you and your dancer understand the commitment required to be on a competitive team. Joining a high-performing competitive team is not something to be taken lightly, and it’s important that both dancers and their families understand what they are signing up for. We are looking for dancers who are not only talented but focused, driven, and excited to be a part of our award-winning team.

Why Choose The Dance Lab?

The Dance Lab prides itself on exceptional training in all styles, with a dedicated “Lab Professor” leading each department and curating results-driven curriculum. As a Lab Rat, you will have the opportunity to grow in all styles while improving your technique and becoming a part of an incredibly close-knit community. You will gain confidence and hone the skills to be a high performing, technically-trained, and confident dancer. Outside of competitions and conventions, The Lab Rats also participate in community events throughout Douglas County, as well as recital and showcase opportunities.

If you're interested, please read this information packet thoroughly to make the best, knowledgeable decision for your family. Being a member of The Lab Rats is both a considerable time commitment AND a monetary one, so please ensure you fully understand everything involved before deciding to attend the audition.

LAB RAT COMPANY OPTIONS/AUDITION PROCESS

For ALL Company options, attendance in class and rehearsals is vital to learning the routines, and group instruction is essential for teamwork. In addition to regular attendance, dancers are expected to behave professionally and support their fellow Dance Lab dancers.

PINKIE COMPANY: PINKIE Company is for dancers ages 3 to 7, depending on their level. They are considered beginner dancers and will have less commitment than the Full Company members but will still be required to attend competitions and one convention. Conventions have a separate room for the younger dancers, and it’s a great experience for them to grow.

POMS COMPANY: Poms Company is ONLY for high school students active in a Poms/Dance team. The Poms Company members must participate in two group dances (Production or Large Groups/Lines ONLY) and are permitted to audition for solos/duos/trios. The Poms Company members are expected to

participate in all Full Company events (including all Competitions, Conventions, and Boot Camps) that do not directly conflict with Mandatory Poms events. We understand there may be conflicts between The Dance Lab schedule and the school Poms schedule, and dancers will not be penalized for missing Dance Lab events due to these conflicts.

FULL COMPANY: Full Company is the core of The Lab Rats, and is split up into Levels 1-5. Dancers take a full classload in all styles, as well as compete and attend conventions, competitions, and workshops throughout the season.

AUDITION DETAILS:

PLEASE BRING A 5X7 HEADSHOT PHOTO WITH YOU!

AUDITION TIMES:

Auditions for The Lab Rats are on Friday, May 29, 2026:

Ages 3-7 Combo+Technique Audition, 4:15-4:45pm

Ages 8-10 Combo+Technique Audition, 4:45pm-5:45pm

Ages 11 and Under Tap audition, 5:45-6:25pm

Ages 11-13 Combo + Technique Audition, 6:30-7:30pm

Ages 12+ Tap audition, 7:30-8:10pm

Ages 14+ Combo + Technique Audition, 8:15-9:30pm

Audition Cost- Ages 7 and under: \$35, Ages 8 and over: \$40, Tap audition: \$5

Please come to the appropriate age block based on your dancer's age as of January 1, 2027. For example, if your child turns eight on December 20, 2026, they would go to the 8 to 10 yrs audition since they will be eight as of January 1, 2027. Please reach out if you have any questions. We request you arrive 15 minutes before your audition time to warm yourself up, pay for your audition, and register if needed.

WHAT TO WEAR:

Dancers should wear form-fitting black dancewear to the audition (leotard, unitard, shorts, leggings, sports bra/crop top, etc) with hair pulled back out of their face.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

Auditions are private, and the Company Directors will email the results directly to each family on June 1st. Due to the open nature of our temporary space, please plan to drop off your dancer prior to their audition time, and pick them up once their audition slot has completed- there will be no parents allowed in the lobby during auditions, but will be allowed to wait outside if necessary. If you are

accepted to be a part of The Lab Rats, a meeting with our Company Directors will be mandatory for both the dancer and parent/guardian. You will receive a link to a sign-up genius to schedule a convenient and available time beginning the week of June 15th.

During that meeting, you will review and sign your Lab Rat Company contract, receive your choreography assignments, and set goals for the upcoming season. The Company Directors will also review details for the upcoming season, register your dancer for their relevant classes, confirm summer enrollment, and answer any questions.

HOW TO PREPARE:

Technique + Combo Audition

Dancers will be tested on a variety of skills center floor (such as splits, legholds, and standing jumps), perform age-based technique combinations across the floor, demonstrate any acro knowledge, demonstrate contemporary improv, and learn a combination to perform in groups.

Tap Audition

Dancers will participate in a basic tap warm up to assess skill level, perform age-based skills across the floor, and learn a short combination to perform in groups.

CAN'T ATTEND THE AUDITION?

Please submit a make up audition video including:

-Splits (right, left, center)

-Basic turns (include any known of the following- pirouettes, chaîné turns, piqué turns, a la seconde turns, fouetté turns, any additional specialty turns- turn combination, floats, skater turns, etc.)

-Jumps (include any known of the following- split leaps right and left, jump in second/center leap, firebird, chaîné jete/calypso, any additional specialty jumps- switch arabesqué, tilt jumps, etc)

-Legholds (include any known of the following- front, side, tilt, scale, scorpion)

-2-4 counts of eight of improv in dancers choice of style

-A video executing choreography- could be an old competition video, recital dance, combo from class, etc.

-If looking to be considered for any tap choreography, please also submit a video of the above two bullet points for tap

YOU'VE MADE THE TEAM! NOW WHAT?

SUMMER 2026

All Company members are required to attend a minimum of three weeks of Summer classes at The Dance Lab. Summer session at The Dance Lab runs the week of June 8th through the week of July 20th, with a one week break the week of 4th of July (June 29th-July 5th). Classes can be taken in a 3 week "session" (June 8-June 25th or July 6-July 24) or may be sporadic throughout the Summer to best fit any conflicts/vacation schedules, as long as the preferred weeks are communicated ahead of time for enrollment. Continuing to train in all styles over the Summer is vital to keeping up crucial muscle development and maintaining technique growth. Classes are available Mon-Thurs each week of Summer session in a condensed schedule. Dancers who choose to register for the full 6 week session will have their registration fee for the '26-'27 season waived. Tuition for the full 6 week session will be billed in a one time charge at 1.5x the regular monthly tuition rate.

There will also be a variety of "Lab Spotlight" specialty classes, offered in a masterclass format on select Friday evenings for a separate drop in rate- all Lab Rats levels 1-5 are required to take one Lab Spotlight class of their choosing, but are encouraged to take as many as possible. Lab Spotlight classes are open to the public. Full schedule for Spotlight Classes and Summer classes will be available by May 1st.

Additionally, all dancers are required to attend the Choreography Bootcamp from August 3rd through August 11th, at which they will learn all in-house choreography. Dancers can expect between 4-8 hours of choreography time within that date window for each in-house group they are cast in. Fees will depend on the number of dances performed and will be charged to studio accounts the first date of choreography for each respective piece.

Choreography fees are a one-time fee, billed as follows:

	Production	Large Group	Small Group	Trio	Duet	Solo
Price per Dance per Dancer <i>(in-house only)</i>	\$75	\$90	\$150	\$255	\$320	\$405

COMPETITION COSTUME DEPOSIT

In an effort to purchase costumes as quickly and cost effectively as possible, a costume deposit/pre-payment of \$40 will be added to accounts per dancer per dance as soon as choreography assignments are accepted and the contract is signed. This \$40 charge will be applied towards the full costume cost, and is not an additional charge.

2026-2027 SEASON (AUGUST TO MAY)

REHEARSALS:

Each group dance has a 30-minute rehearsal held weekly on Wednesdays, and attendance is critical. Dancers are also expected to be responsible for their corrections and practicing material at home to come prepared for rehearsal.

In November, December, and January, we will hold competition preparation “bootcamp” rehearsals one weekend per month. Specific bootcamp dates will be provided in the full season schedule that is sent out after auditions.

WEEKLY CLASSES:

All Company members are expected to attend a required set of weekly classes. These classes can vary per level but include training in Contemporary/Lyrical, Ballet, Jazz, Hip Hop, Tap, Acro, Strength/Conditioning, Stretch/Flexibility, and Technique. Required classes will fall Mon/Tues/Thurs, with Wednesday reserved for Company class and rehearsals.

Tuition prices are based on enrolled hours per week, including all classes and weekly rehearsals. Once a dancer is enrolled in 8 hours of class/rehearsals per week or more, they will automatically be eligible for the Unlimited Tuition rate of \$365/month. The family discount of 15% for any additional members of the immediate family, if relevant, is applicable for company tuition. Any additional styles not listed below in the minimum requirements are welcome to be added to the dancer’s schedule, if desired.

Minimum weekly requirements per level:

Pinkies: Pinkie Technique, Acro, Ballet, Company Class

Level 1: Technique, 2 Ballet classes, Jazz, Tap, Acro, Company Class

Levels 2-5: Technique, 2 Ballet classes (+ Pointe if relevant), Jazz, Contemporary/Lyrical, Tap, Hip Hop, Conditioning, Stretch/Flexibility, Acro (optional), Company Class

A NOTE ABOUT FALL CLASS SCHEDULE

The Dance Lab is currently in a temporary studio space and hoping to transition into a permanent home by the Fall '26-'27 season. As lease negotiations and construction timelines are impossible to exactly predict, we are unsure when this transition will officially happen, and want to be transparent about the in-flux nature of the transition between Summer and Fall. In the event that the permanent space is not available for the start of Fall classes the week of August 17, 2026 and we are still in our temporary space with only one studio room, we will hold an “extended Summer” schedule with modified/combined classes through August/September as relevant. Our aim is to begin a regular class schedule with all requirements listed above by October 1, 2026 at the latest.

MASTERCLASSES & OUTSIDE CHOREOGRAPHY:

At The Dance Lab, we hold an average of two masterclasses per season with highly renowned guest artists, typically priced between \$60 and \$100 per dancer for each masterclass, but may vary depending on the final Company size for the season. ALL Company members are required to attend masterclasses, except for Pinkie Company.

If you cannot attend, you will still be charged for the masterclass as fees paid to Guest Choreographers are calculated based on all Company members. Exceptions can be made for Poms Company members if masterclasses conflict with mandatory school Poms events.

Dancers may choose to participate in additional dances choreographed by masterclass instructors, which are a unique opportunity to have larger industry experience and improve movement quality in different styles. These pieces are a privilege, and are considered an honor for more advanced dancers. Guest choreography pieces can incur additional choreography fees ranging from \$95 to \$400 per dancer, depending on the dance type and choreographer-set rates. Guest choreographers for the '26-'27 season may include notable choreographers such as Logan Hathoway, Phil Wright, Helen Estrella, Mallauri Esquibel, and Annie Blankenship, to name a few.

RECITALS:

All Lab Rat members will be required to participate in studio-wide Recitals to perform their competitive routines and select other class routines with recreational students. More information about these showcases will be released to all Dance Lab dancers when theater dates are finalized for the '26-'27 season.

COMMUNICATION:

Email is always the preferred method of communication. The main email account info@thedancelabcolorado.com is your go-to for all company related questions/issues, as well as general studio and class information.

We also have a Company Google calendar to keep everyone on the same page, as well as a BAND group to communicate and access practice videos. When you come to sign your contract, we will make sure you can access the calendar and BAND group.

LAB MOMS:

Each level (Pinkies, Level 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5) will have a designated team mom "Lab Mom" to help with additional questions and organization at competitions and conventions. While the Company Directors can still answer all questions, Lab Moms are a helpful resource, especially for families new to Company. These lab moms will be chosen by the directors and introduced at the beginning of the season.

COMPETITIVE DANCES AND CONVENTIONS:

GROUPS:

Each company member must compete in a minimum number of large group and production dances depending on their specific company. There is no maximum number of group dances you may join, but please remember that we will produce quality over quantity, and each group dance increases your individual fee total per competition.

- Pinkie Company: Minimum of one large group or line and one production.
- Poms Company: Minimum of two groups (large group or line).
- Full Company (Levels 1 to 5): Minimum of two large group or line dances and one production.

Regardless of Company level, participation in small group dances, solos, duets, and trios is considered an extra privilege and is determined based on various factors such as attendance, attitude, age, skill level, and height.

SOLOS:

Solos are selected carefully by the Lab Rat Company Directors, and if chosen you will be responsible for making sure your solo is rehearsed adequately to shine on stage. You will work out private lesson times with your choreographer/instructor to make sure the piece receives the needed rehearsal time. All private lessons are paid through the studio and will appear on your monthly statements. You may suggest your style and choreographer, including outside choreographers, but our Company Directors will make the final decisions. *No outside choreography will be allowed without prior consent from Dance Lab Staff.*

DUETS/TRIOS: *HIGHLY ENCOURAGED!*

At The Dance Lab, we **HIGHLY SUGGEST** that each dancer be a part of at least one duet or trio. It benefits our dancers' growth to have more specialized attention and allows them more chances to perform. You can suggest your duet/trio partner; however, our Company Directors will pick the duet/trio partners that perform best as a unit. Once partners are picked, you will coordinate private lesson times with all parties. All private lessons are paid through the studio and will appear on your monthly statements. You may suggest your style and choreographer, including outside choreographers, but our Company Directors will make the final decisions.

CONVENTION ATTENDANCE:

Full Company members must attend two full conventions throughout the season, while Pinkie Company members must attend one convention (typically, the youngest age group will have a weekend half day or one day schedule). Poms Company members are expected to participate in convention unless there is a specific mandatory school poms event conflict. Please note full convention registration is required in order to be eligible to compete at a convention competition event.

COMPETITION SCHEDULE:

All Company members will attend five competitions throughout the main competition season, on average one per month January-May. Every other season, the Lab Rats will participate in a required Nationals out of state. As the 2026-2027 season will be the first full competition season under The Dance Lab, please be sure to weigh in on your audition form if you would like this season to be an "on" year or "off" year for Nationals, and decisions will be made based on majority vote.

Outside of required competitions and conventions, we do not limit our dancers and even encourage them to compete in/attend any optional competitions and conventions that do not conflict with our Company events.

PLEASE NOTE: Directors and instructors are NOT required to attend optional competitions. The Dance Lab will register you for all optional competitions, but you are responsible for yourself if you choose to attend.

NOTE ON TIME COMMITMENTS:

If you prefer to keep your time and financial commitments to a minimum, please be sure to indicate on your audition form that you would like your dancer to participate in the minimum requirements so we can keep this in mind when casting pieces. Dancers will only be selected for a small group once all large groups and production castings are accepted.

ESTIMATED COSTS:

The Dance Lab will charge each dancer the lowest set price for each convention and competition dance registration fee, estimated to fall somewhere between these ranges per event:

	Solo	Duet or Trio	Group	Half Convention	Full Convention
Competition Estimated Price per Dance per Dancer	\$150 to \$195	\$75 to \$120	\$65 to \$90	\$150 to \$260	\$295 to \$390

An additional flat fee between \$15 - \$20 will be applied per competition (per dancer per dance). This fee will cover Instructor compensation for time facilitating onsite at each competition event and Director Lodging, as well as Competition-Prep Bootcamp rehearsals. The final fee will be determined after the number of Lab Rat dancers for the season has been finalized, no later than the choreography bootcamp. The Dance Lab will provide each family a detailed breakdown of their dancer's costs for all conventions and competitions for the season once their choreography assignments are confirmed, prior to the beginning of the Fall season.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

The Dance Lab will offer a 9 month payment schedule, August to April, to help offset the large lump sum payments for competition fees as much as possible. The first payment will be due on August 15, 2026, and the final payment will be due on April 15, 2027. The Dance Lab will charge all costs through the Parent Portal. If you do not wish to use the payment schedule and prefer to make larger lump sum payments, you may pre-pay competition fees at any time.

LATE PAYMENTS:

ALL DANCE LAB ACCOUNTS must be kept current to maintain good standing on The Lab Rats company team. All accounts with an outstanding tuition balance as of the 11th of each month will be considered late and charged a 10% late fee. Full payment, including any late fees, must be made by the last day of the month for dancers to participate in any competitions/conventions/performances, register for any convention or competitions, order apparel or accessories, and schedule private sessions with any Dance Lab instructors. Any dancer with unpaid competition fees when studio registration is due will NOT be registered for the competition.

Failure to pay the outstanding balance by the 1st of the following month will result in the dancer's suspension from classes and potential removal from dance performances. Suspensions cannot be lifted until the outstanding balance and late fees are paid in full. If a dancer is dismissed due to an outstanding balance, they will be ineligible to compete with The Lab Rats the following season, and may be restricted from returning to The Dance Lab for any classes or private lessons, subject to Owner discretion.

If your family is experiencing financial hardship, please contact the studio for a need-based scholarship, facilitated by our studio's 501c3 non-profit organization beginning in the '26-'27 season.

APPAREL & ACCESSORIES:

Outside of competition and choreography payments, there are a limited number of additional anticipated payments throughout the season.

Item	Estimated Costs
Group Dance Costumes	\$85 to \$220 per dance
Company Jacket	TBD

Company Makeup	\$75
Earrings	\$10
Backpack (optional)	\$50-75
Group Dance Shoes	\$40 to \$80 (most common for hip hop or musical theater styles)

PLEASE NOTE: Company jacket, earrings, and makeup are the same for all members each season- once purchased, you are not required to re-purchase as a returning member but will have the option to re-purchase if desired.

PRIVATE LESSONS:

SOLO		DUET (<i>price per dancer</i>)		TRIO (<i>price per dancer</i>)	
15 Minutes	\$27.50	15 Minutes	\$22.50	15 Minutes	\$17.50
30 Minutes	\$55	30 Minutes	\$45	30 Minutes	\$35
45 Minutes	\$70	45 Minutes	\$55	45 Minutes	\$40
60 Minutes	\$85	60 Minutes	\$65	60 Minutes	\$45

75 Minutes	\$105	75 Minutes	\$80	75 Minutes	\$55
90 Minutes	\$125	90 Minutes	\$95	90 Minutes	\$65

OTHER STUDIO FEES:

LATE TUITION FEE (11th of the month)	DECLINED/RETURNED PAYMENT FEE	REGULAR DROP-IN CLASS RATE
10% of unpaid total	\$25	\$20

READY TO AUDITION?

Thank you for your interest in joining our award-winning Dance Company. Please complete our audition form online by visiting our website audition tab at <https://thedancelabcolorado.com/lab/company/auditions/> or through the QR code below.

Form must be filled out prior to auditions



Please send any questions to The Dance Lab team at info@thedancelabcolorado.com.

We hope to see you there!