

## Vail Dance Festival Ambassador Program

The Vail Dance Festival Ambassadors act as stewards for the Festival, working in a variety of roles to assist Vail Dance Festival staff, interns, artists, and patrons. Ambassadors play a critical role in supporting the daily operational needs of the Festival and work closely with Festival Staff and Interns. The Ambassador Program provides a unique, hands-on opportunity for rising 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders to be involved with the Vail Dance Festival and develop their leadership skills and act as representatives of the Festival and community.

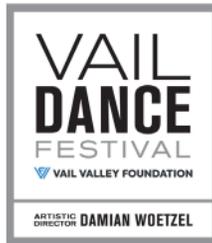
### Program Overview

Ambassadors work closely with VDF staff and are an integral part of the overall success of the Festival. Ambassadors will report to the Senior Festival Manager as well as the Festival Administrative Coordinator. The goal of the Ambassador Program is to help Ambassadors gain crucial work experience for their future endeavors and begin developing a variety of skills that will serve them throughout their lives. The Ambassador Program also offers a unique opportunity for middle and high school students to see behind-the-scenes at a world-class dance festival and contribute to the success of the Festival. All participants will receive a VDF t-shirt, a commemorative VDF poster, listing in the VDF program book, a Student Performance Plus Pass valid for all performances at the Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater, and access to exclusive Ambassador events. Ambassadors also have the opportunity to attend Festival events, open rehearsals, and exclusive lunch-hour talks with artists. Applicants are eligible to participate in the Ambassador program for up to two years. Should applicants desire to participate in the program for a third year, they are eligible for and encouraged to apply for a Senior Ambassador role. Senior Ambassadors take on additional responsibilities over the summer and during the Festival period to assist the Volunteer Manager in the coordination of and communication with Festival Ambassadors. Senior Ambassadors provide peer leadership for the Ambassador team and help develop and implement program activities.

### Program Requirements & Responsibilities

Ambassadors must meet a variety of requirements to be eligible for and successfully complete the program:

- Ambassadors are required to attend the following:
  - Mandatory 3-hour orientation on Wednesday, July 29, 2026. Time TBD.
  - Ambassadors must be onsite in Vail and available for the full duration of the 2026 Festival (July 29-August 10, 2026).
- Eligibility: Applicants are eligible to participate in the Ambassador program for 2 years. If an applicant has completed two years as an Ambassador, they are eligible to apply for a Senior Ambassador position.



- Community Service Project: Ambassadors will conceive, organize and execute a service project of their choosing. All Ambassadors must complete their service project *prior* to the start of the 2026 Festival. Service projects may not be completed onsite at the Festival.
- Education and Enrichment: Activities will include attendance at online pre-Festival meetings throughout the summer prior to the Festival as well as meetings with Festival artists and staff during the 2026 Festival. Meeting topics are subject to change but may include Philanthropy and Identifying Your Community Service Project, Resume and Cover Letter Writing Workshop, Etiquette 101, and Vail Dance Festival Overview and Orientation.
- Program Responsibilities:
  - Selling merchandise and assisting with Photo Wall during performances
  - Assisting various teams in writing thank you notes to donors and dancers
  - Master Class and Conversations on Dance check-in
  - Ushering and Program Distribution during performances
  - Assisting the Development team with donor gift distribution
  - Tiny Dancer Tea Party support
  - Dancing in the Streets and additional Festival Event support
- Hours: Ambassadors should complete a total of 40 hours of participation in the Program through their service project, pre-Festival meetings, and scheduled Festival shifts.

### **Lodging and Transportation**

Ambassadors are responsible for securing their own lodging and transportation during their time in Vail.

### **Application Process**

- Online Application (<https://vaildance.org/about/work/>)
- Applicants may be invited to interview with the Senior Festival Manager and/or Volunteer Manager
- Ambassador team selections will be announced in April 2026

Questions? Please contact Senior Festival Manager, Harper Addison, at [haddison@vvf.org](mailto:haddison@vvf.org).