

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 8th through 12th graders to be involved with the Vail Dance Festival and develop their leadership skills and act as representatives of the Festival and community.

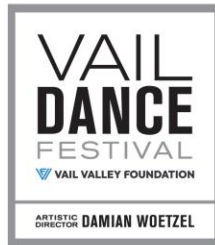
Program Overview

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 28, 2027. Time TBD.
 - Ambassadors must be onsite in Vail and available for the full duration of the 2027 Festival (July 28-August 9, 2027).
- 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: All Festival Ambassadors are required to develop and execute a service project of their choosing in their local community. The goal of this service project is to combine the talents and interests of the individual with their local community needs. Service projects should be completed prior to the Vail Dance Festival and cannot be completed onsite at the Festival. There is not a required number of service hours, but we hope that our Ambassadors choose projects that are particularly meaningful to them.
- Education and Enrichment: Activities will include attendance at pre-Festival meetings throughout the summer prior to the Festival as well as meetings with Festival artists and staff during the 2027 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 Director of Operations and/or Volunteer Manager
- Ambassador team selections will be announced in April 2027

Questions? Please contact Director of Operations, Harper Addison, at haddison@vvf.org.