

SVRDC Nutcracker 2025

Information and Audition Form

ALL PARENTS AND DANCERS MUST read this prior to auditioning!

(Including those who have participated previously)

Please **carefully** read the below for a detailed description of the rehearsal and performance schedule for SVRDC's *The Nutcracker 2025*, absence policy, fees, mandatory family meeting, etc. Below is important information on auditions and time and financial commitments involved in taking part in SVRDC's *The Nutcracker*.

Nutcracker Performance Dates (at Phoenixville Middle School):

This year we will have Three (3) Performances:

Saturday, Dec 13th @ 1pm and 5pm

Sunday, Dec 14th, 1pm

Costume Fitting Day: Sunday, Sept 14th. Please leave the timeframe 1pm-6pm open. All dancers are needed on this day. We will send specific timeframe for your dancer once the cast list is sent out.

Mandatory Dress Rehearsals:

Sunday, Nov 30th @ 4pm – (this is the Sunday after Thanksgiving. Please prepare your holiday schedule accordingly) – Dress Rehearsal CAST A @ KDA

Saturday, Dec 6th @ 1:30pm – Dress Rehearsal CAST B @ KDA

Monday, Dec 8th – Load in at PAMS theater (volunteer parents only to help set up the stage – no dancers this day)

Tuesday, Dec 9th – arrival 4:00pm – Dress Rehearsal CAST A - Phoenixville Middle School

Friday, Dec 12th – arrival 3:30pm – Dress Rehearsal CAST B - Phoenixville Middle School

Audition Date: Sunday, Aug 24th (12:00-12:30 Ages 6-7, 12:30-1:15pm Ages 8-11, 1:15-2:30 Ages 12+, 2:30-3:00 Dancers on pointe)

Audition Registration

Registration must be completed online 24 hours prior to the audition. Dancers should arrive and check in 30 mins before their rehearsal time and will be given an audition number and measured for their costumes. Participation fee payment must be provided at check-in.

Each group audition is a short, age-appropriate ballet class. In order for the artistic staff to fairly evaluate all children, it is important that your child stay for the duration of the audition class.

Casting is at the sole discretion of the casting committee and is based on dancer ability, costume quantities, and overall suitability to the production. As rehearsals progress, cast members may be required to perform additional roles or to change roles altogether.

IMPORTANT: You are auditioning to participate in *The Nutcracker*, not for a specific role. Please **DO NOT** audition if you are unwilling to accept the role(s) you are given AND to attend all rehearsals. Anyone cast as an understudy should expect to attend all rehearsals for that role.

Audition Attire

Girls: A black leotard, pink tights, pink ballet shoes, pointe shoes (if applicable), and hair in a bun.

Boys: White Shirt, black pants or tights, black ballet shoes.

Audition Results

NEW for 2025! - Audition results will be announced at the Sept 6th Family Meeting. The goal of this new format is to allow for camaraderie amongst cast members. Please remember, members of the casting committee spend a great deal of time trying to coordinate all the cast details. Every auditionee will receive at least one role in the production.

Fees for Nutcracker Participation (please make all checks payable to SVRDC)

To be in our Nutcracker production, there is a non-refundable cast fee of \$350 per dancer. For families with multiple cast members, the second dancer is \$250.00 and the third is \$150.00. This fee must be paid by cash or check (made out to SVRDC) at the time of audition. The fee covers:

- Cast T-shirt
- Choreographer fees
- Facility, lighting, and custodian fees of the theater
- Costumes (purchasing, renting, cleaning, fittings)
- Backdrop rentals
- Guest Artist fees
- Props (building, renting, fixing, transportation)
- Miscellaneous backstage items needed

You are responsible for your child's tights, shoes, make-up, hair products & other personal items.

Terms and Conditions, Letter of Agreement

A signed Letter of Agreement, including Terms and Conditions, is required for all cast members and must be turned in at the Audition. A parent or guardian must sign for each cast member younger than 18 years of age.

1. Rehearsals

***Absentee Policy (PLEASE READ CAREFULLY)** – each performer may have 2 excused absences. This means any 2 days in which the dancer is not in attendance for full rehearsal time. It does NOT mean 2 absences for each role. Every absence must be provided in writing to info@svrdc.org and must be submitted at least 24 hours PRIOR to rehearsal along with the reason for absence (sudden sickness excluded). If a third rehearsal is missed, he or she will be replaced with an understudy and in turn your child becomes the understudy for that role. Understudies should be at every rehearsal. Unfortunately, we have enforced this policy in the past and it is something we want to avoid doing again. Memorial services and related travel are NOT considered absences, please email us in advance as above.

***Weekly Rehearsals** will be held on Friday evenings between 7:15 and 9:15pm for intermediate and advanced students (junior company dancers will not be scheduled before 7:45pm) and Saturdays from 1:15pm to 4:15pm for all roles. Some lead roles may have rehearsals on Sundays. Please note that each week your child will most likely not have rehearsals the entire time as we break up roles into different rehearsal time slots. However, please do not schedule or plan anything during these times provided to ensure that your dancer is available. It is the Artistic Director's discretion if additional rehearsals are needed outside of these time frames.

***Schedule** - Schedules will be emailed as well as a hard copy will be posted at Kimberton Dance Academy. Your dancer is responsible for knowing when and where they have rehearsal and to be there. Please check regularly in case we have any rehearsal changes.

***Atmosphere & Attitude** - Dancers and their families must approach their preparation and execution of rehearsals and performances with an attitude that reflects the qualities of hard work, dedication, punctuality, and respect for the artistic directors, the choreographers, and the other dancers. Every dancer and family member must SUPPORT the other dancers in the production. Negativity will not be tolerated. The Artistic Director has the right to remove any dancer from the production whose family or themselves does not follow this policy. Participation in future productions will be at the Board's discretion.

***Preparation and Attire** – all dancers should be in correct dance attire and hair for every rehearsal. Dancers should arrive at least 5 minutes before rehearsal starts. Colored leotards are allowed. Pink tights, and proper dance shoes required and hair in a bun for all ladies.

2. Regular Class Attendance

Dancers must be enrolled in *and regularly attending* a minimum of at least one ballet class per week. Those students attending classes outside of KDA will need to provide proof of enrollment and attendance at their studio.

3. Family meetings

A mandatory family meeting will be held on Saturday, Sept 6 @ 1:30pm. All dancers must have a parent present and every dancer is also required to be present. This is a very important meeting for all families to receive the cast list AND to understand fundraising, volunteer requirements, etc. All information about what is required of each dancer and family will be discussed and disseminated at this meeting so we cannot emphasize enough that this meeting is a requirement for each dancer's family! *****

4. Volunteer hours

Due to the enormous task of producing The Nutcracker Ballet, parents/guardians are expected to volunteer a minimum of 3 hours of their time. There are a variety of jobs available and information about those responsibilities will be available at the September family meeting. Volunteer hours will need to be recorded by each volunteer and tallies will be held by the Volunteer Committee head. We also strongly encourage dancers to volunteer their time as well. Teens are required to volunteer 30 mins each season to cleaning after rehearsals.

5. Fundraisers

Further details about fundraising will follow. All dancers are expected to participate. Fundraiser goals will be provided with additional information at the parent meeting. A buyout option will be available if desired.

6. Social Media

Any negative posts on social media about the Nutcracker, choreographers, KDA, or other dancers will not be tolerated. Consequences for such will be dismissal from the production without exception. Participation in future productions will be at the Board's discretion.

7. Photography & Video Permission

Parents/Guardians agree to grant the company, as well as Kimberton Dance Academy, permission to use photos and/or videos of their child for advertising, educational, fundraising or other purposes.

8. Communication

Effective, efficient communication is our goal. No one wants to be constantly inundated with information, so please know that whenever we send our families an email, it is important. Please read over all information that we provide carefully – it should answer almost all questions you could have. Please ensure that you have provided a valid email address that you check regularly for information about the production as well as any necessary forms.

9. Dress Rehearsals & Performances

*All hair and makeup should be completed **BEFORE** arriving for your call time

*You will need to check in upon arriving at the front desk.

*Call times – 30 minutes prior to dress rehearsals, 1 hour prior to performances (a warmup will be provided before the performances, time to be provided at dress rehearsal)

*NO FOOD OR DRINK is allowed in the dressing rooms or auditorium. Food/drink must be consumed in designated areas.

*Only Backstage Volunteers are permitted in the dressing rooms once dancers are ready. No exceptions!

*Please understand that you will be responsible for the cost of replacing any props and/or costumes destroyed or lost by the performer.