

### **What will I need to bring?**

Please find the attached "Check list" for packing. We will provide 3 meals a day but many students bring snacks to supplement their meals. Please be aware that you may be in a dorm room with a dancer who has a peanut allergy. Water will be provided at every dance session in abundance. It's very important to bring your own water bottle for the week. The bunks are twin sized, so a twin fitted sheet and top sheet is sufficient. No blankets are usually necessary. Don't forget a pillow, bath towel and pool towel. A small fan is recommended for dorm rooms. There will be insects at Prindle Pond, so bug spray is recommended.

### **What if I don't know anyone? What if I don't know my roommates?**

All dancers will get to know each other very quickly after arriving to camp. We practice many team-building activities and counselors encourage communication between all dancers. Summer Dance Sessions is a safe environment that fosters communication between all personality types. If dancers do come with friends, we urge them to speak to new people and open themselves up to new relationships. No studio affiliations will come into play during this event. Rooming with new people is a great way to break boundaries and embrace the environment.

### **Can I request roommates?**

We allow only 1 roommate request. If your roommate request doesn't request you, you will not be placed together. If multiple roommate requests are listed, only the first name will be honored. Remember, SDS doesn't focus on studio affiliations, we focus on new experiences with new friends. You can change your roommate request at any time by logging into your Active account and clicking Edit on your registration form.

### **What size bag can I bring?**

You must be able to handle all of your luggage by yourself. We recommend bringing one regular sized suitcase on wheels and one backpack.

### **What if I can't find a flight within the arrival/departure window?**

Hartford International (BDL) is our host airport, but you are welcome to fly into Boston. Boston is only a few minutes farther than BDL from Prindle Pond, and it usually has more flights to/from the west coast. If you fly in and out of Boston, you are responsible for your own ground transportation to and from Prindle Pond (car service, cab, Uber, etc.)

### **What if I am traveling as an unaccompanied minor?**

First, make sure that the dancer's parent has been in contact with Brooke Batinic, Camp Coordinator: [brooke@thedancesessions.com](mailto:brooke@thedancesessions.com). The airline will need contact information for the counselor meeting the dancer. Some airlines require that people under the age of 16 fly with unaccompanied minor status, which costs extra on both legs of the flight. In this case, an adult must meet the dancer at the gate and walk them personally back to the gate on departure day. Summer Dance Sessions does not require that dancers fly with this status, since we will be there to meet you right outside of security. If you do fly on an airline with this requirement, please keep a very open line of communication with the Camp Coordinator about all travel details, especially flight delays and changes

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**How many dancers will be there? How old are the other dancers? Are dancers split up for some sessions?**

You will be one of about 140 dancers. The youngest dancers are 13, and there is no maximum age for dancers. The average age is usually 16. Dorms are arranged by age and gender. Sessions are separated in various groupings according to, but not limited to, age, genre, gender, experience, etc.

**How much money should I bring?**

Travel days can be quite long, and dancers will have time to buy snacks/meals at the airport. Please make sure to have enough money for comfortable travel on both travel days. No money is needed when at camp.

**Do I need to buy a bus ticket?**

If you are flying through BDL on arrival or departure day, you have the option to take the shuttle bus, which is provided free of charge. There is no need to purchase bus tickets for SDS2018.

**What time do the buses run?**

Shuttle times will vary based on arrival times and/or transportation delays. On July 23<sup>rd</sup>, there will be a late morning bus, an early afternoon bus, and an early evening bus. On July 29<sup>th</sup>, all buses will leave for BDL at the same time (approximately 8:30 am). You may also take an Uber, cab, or car service on either day at your own expense.

**What if I can't find a plane ticket within the arrival/departure windows?**

If you arrive after 4:30pm on July 23<sup>rd</sup> or depart before 11:00am on July 29, you will be responsible for your own transportation. If you are flying into or out of Boston, you are responsible for your own transportation.

**When do we receive our merchandise?**

If you have pre-ordered merchandise, you will receive it on the first day of the event. No merchandise will be sold during the event.

**How many hours per day are we dancing?**

Dancers should expect to dance between 6-8 hours per day. We expect all dancers to participate in all sessions unless they are injured/otherwise unable to. Not every session will be dancing - other sessions include non-dancing activities like swimming, hiking, anatomy, meditation, body maintenance, etc. We encourage all dancers to make it to every meal as it will provide necessary nutrition to fuel you through the day.

**What if I'm not as "good" as everyone else?**

This is a rigorous dance intensive, with multiple sessions per day. People will find it challenging. We want to create an environment where dancers don't have to compare themselves to others. We don't have mirrors and do not encourage competition among participants - dancers from a wide variety of backgrounds will be participating and everyone will have the opportunity to shine.

We encourage dancers to support each other and be attentive to anyone who feels left out. Our counselors are always present and are trained to help resolve conflict.

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**Will it be fun?**

We find that the Dance Sessions is full of laughter, developing new relationships, and being moved by fellow dancers. We recognize that the dance experience can be intense, and we want to make sure there are opportunities to recognize how lucky we are to be doing what we love. We have a lot of fun at SDS.

**How does arrival day work?**

If you are travelling by plane to BDL, you will be greeted at security by Summer Dance Sessions Counselors. The arrival window at BDL is 8am – 5pm. Counselors will be easy to spot, right outside of security. They will accompany you to baggage claim, then everyone will wait together if riding the bus to Prindle Pond. The buses are first come first serve, so check in right away with a counselor upon arrival. Counselors will hand out bus tickets in order of arrival. If you choose, you may take an Uber, cab, or car service from the airport to Prindle Pond at your own expense. The drive is about 1 hour and 15 minutes.

For those arriving by car, the drop off window is 2-6pm on July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Prindle Pond Conference Center

19 Harrington Road

Charlton, Mass.01507

“Hilltop” location

**How does departure day work?**

We will have one last breakfast together before the buses leave for the airport. A lot of photos will be happening, exchanging contact information, some tears and some relief. It can feel like leaving paradise, but we know we will see each other soon. Our Counselors will accompany dancers to the airport. If leaving by car, the pick-up window is 8-10am at the same location as drop-off (see above). Dancers are free to take an Uber, taxi or car service at their own expense.

**What if I'm having trouble accessing my Active Registration account?**

Find the original confirmation email sent after registration. Click the link for full access. You may also visit [www.summerdancesessions.net](http://www.summerdancesessions.net) and click the link to open your account. For further assistance contact our camp coordinator at *brooke@thedancesessions.com*

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