

# Newsrecord article Nationals June 09

Dance squad ready for road trip (see photo in gallery)

Lindsey Carter practices a dance routine with 62 other dancers from the Live 2 Dance studio who will perform at a national competition next month in Anaheim, Calif. - News-Record photo by Nathan Payne

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Sixty-three dancers ranging in age from 6 to 18 are armed with rubber balls and a single purpose. To win it all at Disneyland.

The Live 2 Dance squad's July 4-9 trip will take them to Anaheim, Calif., for Spotlight Nationals. It's one they've all been waiting and preparing for to show all they've got.

Each dancer prefers a certain dance, but for this one production together, "The Ballroom," it requires a bit of expertise from them all.

In unison, they hold, toss and bounce a ball filled with liquid and sparkles. Several jump, buffalo, lift and pose while another group holds the giant rubber globe in the middle, forming the centerpiece.

"For a while, we had balls rolling and bouncing all over," said Angela Hartley, head instructor.

They are now quite synchronized. It's clear they've become a strong team.

In addition to that dance, they'll perform 50 others including solos, pairs and in small groups.

Jennifer Wood, 18, is the elder of the group and has competed in four or five nationals.

"I'm really excited about nationals," Wood said. "I expect we'll do really good."

Another 10-year veteran, Shaylie Brown, 16, said the past month has been a lot of work for everyone but they've formed special bonds working together, she said.

They've worked on various techniques for the event including lyrical, jazz, tap and ballet. But when working in a group, mastering moves isn't always the biggest issue.

"It's not just about technique. You have to make friendships," Brown said.

Lindsey Durham, 12 and Alyssa King, 7, agree. That's a large part of why they enjoy dancing.

Both are looking forward to nationals but they're also excited about going to Disneyland for the first time.

The group of about 80 instructors, dancers and parents, who also will dance during a daddy-daughter/mommy-daughter routine, will arrive in Disneyland on July 3 to enjoy the attractions and prepare for the dance routines.

Trevor Woodward, 9, is the team's lone boy, but he also feels a close connection.

"You get used to it," he said.

Whether he dances with the girls or with the boys, it's all about having fun through dance.