

A FREE GUIDE FROM FAIRYTALE DANCES



THE COMPLETE

Quinceañera Planning Guide



*A month-by-month guide to the waltz, the surprise dance,
the court and everything around them*



FAIRYTALE DANCES

Quinceañera & Sweet 16 Choreographers · Chambelanes & Damas for Hire
Santa Fe Springs, CA · Serving all of the USA

Tu fiesta, tu baile, tu momento

WELCOME

A Letter to Our Families



Dear quinceañera, and dear parents,

Congratulations! You're planning one of the most beautiful celebrations a family can share. We know it can feel like a lot: the dress, the venue, the guest list, the court and a hundred little decisions in between.

Since July 2008, we've helped families like yours plan the part of the night everyone remembers: the dance. We've seen what makes it go smoothly, and we've seen what makes it stressful. Almost always, the difference is *timing*.

That's why we wrote this guide. Inside you'll find a month-by-month timeline, honest advice about choosing your court, tips for picking music, rehearsal habits that really work, and 10 printable pages to keep you organized. It's free, it's yours, and we hope you'll use it whether or not you dance with us.

When you're ready to talk about your dance, we're one text away. Se habla español.

With love,

The Fairytale Dances team

Santa Fe Springs, California



Prices go up January 1, 2027. Pay your retainer before then to lock in current pricing, even if your event is later. Online booking at fairytaledances.com/book-online is for events 6+ months away and families within 20 miles of our Santa Fe Springs studio; everyone else, text **323-715-4555**.

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Why the Dance Is the Heart of the Night

The moment everyone remembers

There's a moment at every quinceañera when the room goes quiet. The lights dim, the music starts and every phone in the room goes up. Tías lean forward. Abuela reaches for a tissue. The chambelanes straighten their jackets. And the girl you've watched grow up for fifteen years steps onto the floor.

That's the dance. For most families, it's the moment guests remember most. It's also the part of quince planning that's easiest to leave too late, because it seems so far away when you're still choosing a venue and a dress.

This guide is here to change that. We've written it for parents and for quinceañeras, whether you're just starting to plan or you're already deep into it, so you can plan the whole celebration around the moment the music starts.

Who we are

Fairytale Dances opened in **July 2008**. For more than 18 years we've helped quinceañeras, Sweet 16s and their families make their big dance unforgettable. Whether you dream of a traditional waltz or a modern merengue or hip-hop number, we can make it happen.

We're based in **Santa Fe Springs, California**, and we serve all of the USA. We've danced in **19 states plus DC** so far. Here's what we do:

- **Custom quinceañera and Sweet 16 choreography**, built around her personality and style
- **Chambelanes and damas for hire**: young dancers ages 14 to 19 who train with us every week
- **Full presentation support**, from picking your music to coordinating everything

A community of over a million

As of October 2026, about **1.19 million people** follow our dances: 491K on TikTok, 350K on Facebook, 172K on Instagram and 180K YouTube subscribers, with more than 127 million YouTube views. YouTube recognized us with the **Silver Creator Award** for passing 100,000 subscribers.

We don't share those numbers to brag. We share them because every one of those videos started the same way yours will: a family, a date, a few songs and a little bit of nerves.



SCAN ME

Watch our dances on YouTube

youtube.com/@fairytaledances

What "dance-centered" planning means

Our dances are the highlight of the evening, and the whole night is planned around them. When you know when the entrance happens, when the waltz begins and when the surprise dance brings everyone to their feet, a lot of other decisions get easier: the DJ's cues, the photographer's shot list, the timing of dinner and the toast, even the dress.

In the chapters ahead, you'll find:

- A big-picture planning timeline for the whole celebration (Chapter 2)
- How to budget without surprises (Chapter 3)
- How to choose your court and what to ask a choreographer (Chapters 4 and 5)
- **A month-by-month dance timeline** (Chapter 6, the heart of this guide)
- Music, the waltz and the surprise dance (Chapters 7 to 9)
- Rehearsals, event week and the big day (Chapters 10 and 11)
- Planning a quince outside Los Angeles (Chapter 12)
- A bilingual glossary and **10 printable planning pages** at the back

How to use this guide. Read it straight through once, then come back to the chapter that matches where you are. The printables at the back are designed to be printed on regular letter-size paper and kept in a binder or on the fridge.

The Big-Picture Quince Timeline

Where the dance fits in the whole celebration

Every family plans a little differently, and that's how it should be. Some celebrations start with a Mass and end with a full reception. Others are an intimate dinner and a dance. Whatever yours looks like, it helps to see the whole road before you start walking it.

Below is a general planning order that works for many families. Treat the timing as a starting point, not a rule. Your venue, your church (if you're having a Mass) and your vendors may have their own timelines, so always check with them.

The general order of planning

- 1. Pick the date.** Think about school calendars, family travel and whether the date falls near holidays. Check with your church first if you're planning a Mass.
- 2. Set your budget.** Decide on a total before you fall in love with anything (Chapter 3).
- 3. Book the venue.** Ask early whether they allow a rehearsal in the space before the event. It matters for the dance (Chapter 11).
- 4. Book the choreographer.** Once you have a date and a venue, this is next. We recommend booking 8 to 12 months ahead (Chapter 6).
- 5. Decide on the court.** Family, friends, professionals or a mix (Chapter 4).
- 6. Book the other key vendors.** DJ, photographer and videographer, hair and makeup, catering, cake, décor.
- 7. Choose the dress.** Leave time for fittings, and plan to practice some steps in it at home before the big day.
- 8. Pick the music.** The waltz, surprise dance and entrance songs, before rehearsals start (Chapter 7).
- 9. Send invitations.** Your venue and guest count will shape the timing.
- 10. Rehearse, finalize and celebrate.** Weekly rehearsals, the event program and the big day (Chapters 10 and 11).

Twelve months at a glance

When	Celebration planning (general)	Dance planning
12+ months	Date, budget, guest list draft, church (if applicable)	Start watching dance videos for ideas
8–12 months	Venue, key vendors	Book your choreographer
6–10 months	Dress shopping, padrinos, theme	Decide on your court
3–4 months	Invitations, décor details	Pick the music
2–3 months	Fittings, final vendor details	Weekly rehearsals begin
Event week	Confirm everything, final program	Venue rehearsal (if available)
Event day	Celebrate!	Enjoy the moment

Keep the family on the same page. A shared calendar (paper or phone) with every rehearsal, fitting and payment date saves a lot of "wait, when is that?" Pick one point person for each vendor so messages don't get crossed.

The **Master Quince Checklist** printable at the back of this book turns this chapter into a page you can check off.

Building Your Budget (Without Surprises)

Planning the money so you can enjoy the party

Money is the part of quince planning nobody likes to talk about, but a clear budget is one of the kindest things you can do for your family. It lets you say yes to what matters most without stress later.

Start with the total

Decide on a total number you're comfortable with *before* you start booking. Then work backward. It's much easier to divide a budget than to stretch one.

- 1. Set the total.** Include contributions from padrinos and family if they're part of your plans.
- 2. List your priorities.** Ask the quinceañera what matters most to her. For many girls it's the dress, the dance or the photos. Put the most money where her heart is.
- 3. Keep a cushion.** Set some money aside for the things nobody plans for: an extra fitting, last-minute décor or more guests than expected.
- 4. Track estimates against actual costs.** Write down the quote, then the final price, then what's been paid and what's still due.

Categories to plan for

Every celebration is different, but most families budget for some version of these:

- Venue and rentals
- Food, drinks and cake
- The dress, shoes, tiara and accessories
- Hair and makeup
- Photography and videography
- DJ or live music

- Décor and flowers
- Invitations and favors
- Court attire (suits, dresses and surprise dance outfits)
- **Choreography and chambelanes**
- Church fees (if you're having a Mass)
- Transportation

How paying for the dance works with us

We keep payments simple so you aren't paying everything at once:

- A **non-refundable retainer** reserves your event date *and* your rehearsal dates. The retainer is part of your total, not an extra fee, and it's the same whether you book choreography or chambelanes.
- **The rest is split into 2 scheduled payments.**

What's included (so you can compare)

When you compare dance options, look at what's included, not just the price. Here's what you'll find in our packages:

- **Music editing in every package.** We cut and mix your songs for you.
- **Choreography packages (A, B, C and D)** range from 5 to 11 rehearsals of 2 hours each, depending on the package.
- **Event attendance:** with Packages A, B and C, a choreographer or representative attends your event for up to 2 hours.
- **Timeline (program) help** if you need it.
- **Chambelán and dama packages** include black suits (other colors available), dresses for damas in team packages, and surprise dance outfits.
- **Custom packages:** if none of ours fits your family, we'll customize one.

Current packages & pricing: visit fairytaledances.com or text **323-715-4555**. We'll put together a custom quote for your family.

✦ **Prices go up January 1, 2027.** Pay your retainer before then to lock in current pricing, even if your event is later. Online booking at fairytaledances.com/book-online is for events 6+ months away and families within 20 miles of our Santa Fe Springs studio; everyone else, text 323-715-4555.

Use the **Quince Budget Worksheet** printable at the back of this book to track every category, and the payment schedule box to keep your retainer and scheduled payments in one place.

Choosing Your Court

Family, friends or professionals?

The court of honor (*la corte de honor*) is the group that dances with the quinceañera. Traditionally that means **damas** (young women) and **chambelanes** (young men), often with a **chambelán de honor** who escorts the quinceañera. Courts come in every size, and there's no single right number.

Choosing the court is often the most emotional decision on the dance side of planning, because it involves the people your daughter loves most.

Real talk about commitment

Some families have a full court of cousins and friends who are ready and excited. That's wonderful. Other families find out that getting six or eight teenagers to commit to weeks of rehearsals is harder than it sounds. Schedules change, friendships shift and someone's soccer season suddenly gets longer.

Every missed rehearsal slows down the whole group, so commitment matters more than dance experience. Before you ask anyone to join the court, have an honest conversation with them *and their parents* about:

- Every weekly rehearsal date
- Event week, including the venue rehearsal (if available)
- The event day itself, including arrival time
- Who covers attire, and when fittings happen

It's much easier to have that conversation now than a month before the party.

Three good options

1. A family-and-friends court. It's meaningful and personal, and it's a memory they'll share forever. It works best when everyone can commit to the schedule.

2. Professional chambelanes and damas for hire. All of our professional chambelanes and damas are **between 14 and 19 years old**. They're courteous, polished and well-mannered young dancers who **train with us every week**, so you never have to worry about anyone in your daughter's court not showing up. They're there to give a great performance and to make rehearsals and the event fun, too.

3. A mixed court. Your daughter's friends and family dance alongside our professionals. With our chambelán packages, you have the option to include your own damas.

What our chambelán packages include

- **3 or 5 chambelanes**, or a full team of chambelanes *and* damas
- **Black suits included**, with other suit colors available to choose from
- **Surprise dance outfits** (and dresses for the damas in our team packages)
- A **custom waltz** and **custom surprise dance** (up to 3 songs), with music editing
- **Timeline (program) help** if you need it
- **Local packages: 8 one-hour practices at our studio**
- Optional: our dancers can arrive early for photos and the party bus



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Chambelanes & damas for hire

fairytaledances.com/chambelanes-damas-for-hire

"My sister Lidia's Quinceañera was truly magical! ... The chambelanes were kind, helpful, and made everything run perfectly."

LUIS SANCHEZ, GOOGLE REVIEW

Use the **Court Roster & Contact Sheet** printable to keep names, parent contacts and attire sizes in one place.

Hiring a Choreographer

What to ask and what to expect

A good choreographer does much more than teach steps. They help you pick and edit the music, shape the routine around your court, keep a group of teenagers focused and make sure the dances land at the right moments of the night.

When to book

We ask families to book **8 to 12 months in advance**. The earlier you book, the more availability we have for rehearsal days, and rehearsal days are what everyone in the court has to work around.

Questions to ask any choreographer

Whoever you hire, these questions will help you compare options fairly. You'll find them as a fill-in comparison sheet in the printables.

1. How many rehearsals are included, and how long is each one?
2. When do rehearsals start, and how often are they?
3. Which dances are included: entrance, waltz, surprise dance, father-daughter?
4. How many songs can we use in the surprise dance?
5. Who picks the music, and who edits it?
6. Is there a rehearsal at the venue (if the venue allows one)?
7. Does the choreographer or a representative attend the event? For how long?
8. Do you help with the event timeline (program)?
9. Can you provide chambelanes or damas if we need them?
10. What does it take to hold our date, and how are payments scheduled?
11. Can you work with beginners, and can the choreography be adjusted to our court?
12. Do you travel, and what's included if you do?

How it works with Fairytale Dances

From your first text to the big day, here's how professional choreography with us works:

- 1 Inquire by text.** Text us at 323-715-4555 with your event date, your city and what you need: professional choreography, chambelanes, or chambelanes & damas.
- 2 Pick a package and pay the retainer.** Choose Package A, B, C or D. The retainer (part of your total) reserves your dates, and the rest is split into 2 payments. The retainer is the same for packages with chambelanes.
- 3 Music and song selection.** Pick your waltz, surprise dance (we mix up to 4 songs, or up to 3 with chambelán packages) and entrance songs. Music editing is included in every package.
- 4 Weekly rehearsals.** Rehearsals start 2 to 3 months before your event, once a week.
- 5 Venue rehearsal (if available).** If your venue allows one, we rehearse there on the Friday of your event week. Venue rehearsals are for choreography packages only; chambelán packages (local or travel) don't include a venue practice. Other days depend on choreographer availability.
- 6 The big day.** Your court is ready to shine. A choreographer or representative attends your event with select packages.

Every routine is different, because each one is built around the music the quinceañera chooses. Need something different from our packages? Just ask. We'll customize a package for you.



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Book online

fairytaledances.com/book-online



Prices go up January 1, 2027. Pay your retainer before then to lock in current pricing, even if your event is later. Online booking at fairytaledances.com/book-online is for events 6+ months away and families within 20 miles of our Santa Fe Springs studio; everyone else, text 323-715-4555.

The Month-by-Month Dance Timeline

From the day you pick a date to the moment she takes the floor

There's a moment at every quinceañera when the whole room changes. The lights dim, the first notes of the waltz start, and every phone in the room goes up. Abuela is already wiping her eyes. The chambelanes stand a little taller. And your daughter, who maybe a year ago wasn't sure she could dance in front of anyone, takes her first step.

That moment doesn't happen by magic. It happens because of a plan, and the plan is simpler than most families expect. You don't need to know anything about dance. You just need to know what to do and when to do it.

Here's the month-by-month timeline we share with every family at Fairytale Dances. Read it once now, then come back as each stage arrives. The **Dance Timeline Countdown** printable at the back of the book lets you fill in your real dates.

8 to 12 Months Out: Book Your Choreographer

Once you have a date and a venue, book your choreographer. We ask families to book **8 to 12 months in advance**.

We know that sounds early. Here's why it matters: **the earlier you book, the more choice you have for rehearsal days**. Rehearsal days are the thing everyone in the court has to work around. Think school, sports, part-time jobs, family schedules and church. The families who book early get to choose the days that work for them, instead of taking whatever is left.

Booking early also takes one big worry off your plate. Once the dance is handled, you can put your energy into the dress, the venue, the food and the hundred other details waiting for you.

How booking works with us:

1. Text us at 323-715-4555 with your event date, your city and what you need: professional choreography, chambelanes, or chambelanes and damas.

2. Choose your package.
3. Pay a non-refundable **retainer**, which is part of your total. It holds your event date *and* your rehearsal dates. The rest is split into two scheduled payments, so you aren't paying it all at once.

Current packages & pricing: visit fairytaledances.com or text **323-715-4555**. We'll put together a custom quote for your family.

YOUR TO-DO LIST THIS STAGE

- ☐ Lock in your date and venue
- ☐ Book your choreographer and pay the retainer
- ☐ Put the rehearsal dates on the family calendar right away

6 to 10 Months Out: Decide on Your Court

Next, figure out who will dance with your quinceañera. Some families have a full court of cousins and friends who are ready and excited. Other families find out that getting six or eight teenagers to commit to weeks of rehearsals is harder than it sounds. Before you ask anyone to join the court, have an honest conversation with them and their parents about the commitment: every rehearsal, the event week and the big day.

You have three good options:

- **A family-and-friends court.** It's meaningful and personal, and it's a memory they'll share forever.
- **Professional chambelanes and damas for hire.** Our chambelanes and damas are between **14 and 19 years old**. They're courteous, polished young dancers who **train with us every week**, so you never have to stress about someone dropping out. Chambelán packages include black suits (with other colors available to choose from) and surprise dance outfits.
- **A mixed court.** Your daughter's friends and family dance alongside our professionals. With our chambelán packages, you can include your own damas.

There's no wrong answer. The right court is the one that lets your daughter feel confident and lets you sleep at night.

YOUR TO-DO LIST THIS STAGE

- ☐ Make a list of who your daughter wants in her court
- ☐ Talk to each family about the rehearsal commitment
- ☐ Decide whether to add professional chambelanes or damas
- ☐ Fill out the **Court Roster & Contact Sheet** printable

3 to 4 Months Out: Pick the Music

Music shapes everything: the mood, the steps, even the outfits. That's why it's worth getting right before rehearsals begin.

We strongly recommend that **the quinceañera picks her own music**. It's her night, and the songs should reflect her vision and her theme. Parents, you're welcome to share your favorites, but let her have the final say. It's also why no two of our routines are ever the same.

- **The waltz.** Traditionally one song. Look for something elegant that means something to her: a classic waltz, a ballad or a family favorite.
- **The surprise dance.** Bring us **at least 3 to 5 songs** to choose from. Our choreography packages mix up to 4 songs into one surprise dance; chambelán packages mix up to 3.
- **The entrance.** Many families also want a choreographed grand entrance to set the tone for the night.
- **The father-daughter dance.** If it's part of your plans, add it to the list now. It's an option in some of our packages.

You don't have to worry about cutting songs or building the mix yourself. **Music editing is included in every one of our packages.** (Chapter 7 goes deeper on music.)

YOUR TO-DO LIST THIS STAGE

- ☐ Choose the waltz song
- ☐ Choose 3 to 5 surprise dance song options
- ☐ Choose an entrance song (and a father-daughter song, if you're doing one)
- ☐ Fill out the **Song List & Music Planner** printable

2 to 3 Months Out: Rehearsals Begin

This is where it all comes to life. Rehearsals usually start **2 to 3 months before the event**, once a week.

How many rehearsals you'll have depends on your package. With our choreography packages, each rehearsal runs 2 hours, and you'll have anywhere from 5 to 11 practices. Our local chambelán packages include 8 one-hour practices at our studio.

If your daughter or her court has never danced before, please don't worry. The steps are taught at **beginner, intermediate and advanced levels** depending on the group's experience, and we shape the choreography around what your court does best.

- **Treat rehearsal dates like appointments that can't move.** Every missed practice slows down the whole group.
- **Dress for movement.** Wear comfortable clothes and practice shoes.
- **Try the dress at home.** Once the dress is ready, have her practice some steps in it.
- **Practice between rehearsals.** Even walking through the waltz in the living room makes a difference.

YOUR TO-DO LIST THIS STAGE

- ☐ Attend every rehearsal (track it on the **Rehearsal Attendance Tracker**)
- ☐ Practice at home between sessions
- ☐ Schedule dress fittings so she can practice in it before the big day

Event Week: Venue Rehearsal (If Available)

The week of the party is here. If your venue allows it, we hold a **venue rehearsal on the Friday of your event week**. Any other day depends on the venue's and our choreographer's availability. Venue rehearsals are part of our choreography packages only; chambelán packages (local or travel) don't include a venue practice.

Practicing in the real space makes a big difference. The court learns where the entrance is, how much room they really have and where the guests will be. Ask your venue early (ideally when you book it) whether they allow a rehearsal.

This is also the week to finalize your **event timeline**, or program, so the dances land at the right moments of the night. Our packages include timeline help if you need it.

YOUR TO-DO LIST THIS STAGE

- ☐ Confirm the venue rehearsal (if available)
- ☐ Finalize the event program and share it with your vendors
- ☐ Pack a small dance kit: safety pins, spare shoes, water and a backup of the music

The Big Day

With select packages, a choreographer or representative attends your event for up to two hours to make sure the court is ready and everything runs smoothly.

By now your daughter has practiced for weeks. She knows her steps. Her court knows theirs. All that's left is to breathe, smile and enjoy it. And parents: put the phone down for at least one song. Someone else is filming. Watch her with your own eyes.

Planning outside Los Angeles? We've danced at events in 19 states plus Washington, DC, and travel shifts this timeline a little. Our traveling chambelanes start learning your dances **8 weeks before the event**, so if you're bringing them, book before that mark. Chapter 12 explains how travel works.

YOUR QUICK DANCE TIMELINE CHECKLIST

- ☐ **8 to 12 months out:** Book your choreographer and hold your date with the retainer
- ☐ **6 to 10 months out:** Decide on your court and consider chambelanes for hire
- ☐ **3 to 4 months out:** Pick the waltz song and 3 to 5 surprise dance songs
- ☐ **2 to 3 months out:** Start weekly rehearsals
- ☐ **Event week:** Venue rehearsal (if available) and final program
- ☐ **Event day:** Enjoy the moment

Picking Your Music

The waltz, the surprise dance, the entrance and more

Music shapes everything about the dance: the mood, the steps, the outfits and the memories. Our professional choreography is built around the music the quinceañera chooses, which is why every routine we create is different.

Let her choose

We strongly recommend that **the music for each dance be selected by the quinceañera herself**, so it reflects her own vision and theme. Parents and padrinos can suggest songs (and a family favorite can make a beautiful waltz), but when she chooses, she dances it like it's hers. Because it is.

The four musical moments

- 1. The waltz (el vals).** The waltz is the heart of the night. Traditionally it's one song. Pick something elegant that feels meaningful to her. More on the waltz in Chapter 8.
- 2. The surprise dance (el baile sorpresa).** Time to show some personality! Bring at least 3 to 5 song options. We mix up to 4 songs into one surprise dance with our choreography packages (up to 3 with chambelán packages). Upbeat, trending or a genre switch in the middle: we edit them into one smooth mix. More in Chapter 9.
- 3. The entrance (la entrada).** Your grand entrance sets the tone. Choose a song with a strong intro and a big build so your court can make a memorable entrance. Select packages include an entrance practiced at the venue (if the venue allows a rehearsal).
- 4. The father-daughter dance.** If this is part of your plans, add it to the list early. It's an option in some of our packages, from a traditional father-daughter waltz (short and simple) to a father-daughter surprise dance.

Waltz ideas from our playlist

Need inspiration? Press play on our **Fairytale Dances | Waltz Songs** playlist on Spotify, our go-to list for waltz music. A few favorites from it:

- "a thousand years" (Christina Perri)
- "Can I Have This Dance" (High School Musical Cast)
- "La Valse de L'Amour" (Patrick Doyle)
- "The Princess Diaries Waltz" (John Debney)
- "A Dream Is a Wish Your Heart Makes" (Lily James)
- "Beauty and the Beast" (Ariana Grande, John Legend)
- "Enchanted" (Taylor Swift)
- "Love Story" (Taylor Swift)
- "Dreaming Of You" (Selena)
- "Young And Beautiful" (Lana Del Rey)
- "I'm Not a Girl, Not Yet a Woman" (Britney Spears)
- "The Second Waltz" (André Rieu)
- "Halo" (Beyoncé)
- "Rewrite The Stars" (Zac Efron, Zendaya)
- "This Is Me" (Keala Settle)



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Quinceañera Song Ideas

fairytaledances.com/quinceanera-song-ideas · includes our Spotify waltz playlist

We handle the editing

Every package includes music editing. You don't need to cut songs, fade between them or build the surprise dance mix yourself. Send us your picks and we'll make them flow.

Tips for choosing songs

- Listen to the full song, not just the chorus. Make sure every lyric is one you're happy for abuela to hear.
- For the surprise dance, think about energy changes: a slow start that explodes, or a genre switch that surprises the room.
- Keep a running list on your phone. Inspiration hits at random times.
- Write your final picks on the **Song List & Music Planner** printable and share it with your DJ.

The Waltz

Tradition, elegance and practicing at home

For many families, the waltz is the most emotional moment of the quinceañera. It's elegant, it's traditional, and it's often the moment parents and grandparents remember most clearly years later.

Choosing the style

There's no single "right" waltz. Some quinceañeras want a classic, sweeping waltz straight out of a fairytale. Others choose a modern ballad or a family favorite with a waltz feel. Whatever the song, the choreography is shaped around it and around your court. Every routine we create is different for that reason.

Traditionally the waltz is **one song**. Pick something elegant that means something to her. Our Spotify waltz playlist (Chapter 7) is a great place to start.

Variations families love

- **The court waltz.** The quinceañera and her full court, with formations, turns and big, graceful moments.
- **The father-daughter waltz.** A traditional, short and simple waltz between father and daughter, or a father-daughter surprise dance. It's an option in some of our packages.
- **Sibling and family waltzes.** Some families include a brother, sister or grandparent. Talk to your choreographer about what's possible.

Practicing at home

Rehearsals are where the steps are taught, but the waltz really settles in at home.

- **Walk it through in the living room.** Even without music, walking through the order of steps helps.

- **Practice in the dress.** Once the dress is ready, try some steps in it at home. A full skirt moves differently, and it's better to discover that in the living room than on the dance floor.
- **Practice in the shoes.** Break in the event shoes before the big day.
- **Film a rehearsal (if your choreographer allows it)** so she can review it at home.

New to dancing? That's okay. Our steps are taught at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels, depending on the experience of the quinceañera and her court. Dancing in front of a big crowd can be nerve-wracking. That's why we teach proper technique and give friendly feedback, so everyone feels ready when the music starts.



SCAN ME

See our waltz and surprise dance videos

fairytaledances.com/videos

"Thank you Fairytale Dances for creating the night's IT moment! I recommend 100%!"

GOOGLE REVIEW

The Surprise Dance

Making it hers

If the waltz is the heart of the night, the surprise dance is the party. It's the moment the court shows some personality, the music switches gears and the whole salón gets to its feet.

Picking the energy

Start with a feeling, not a song. Does she want the room screaming? Laughing? Singing along? Then build the song list from there. Families choose everything from reggaetón, cumbia, pop and hip-hop to huapango, or a little of everything.

Bring us **at least 3 to 5 song options**. Our choreography packages mix up to 4 songs into one surprise dance, and chambelán packages mix up to 3. Upbeat songs, trending songs, a genre switch in the middle: we edit them into one smooth mix.

Building moments into the mix

A great surprise dance has peaks. Talk with your choreographer about:

- **The opening.** How does the court get onto the floor? A pose, a reveal or a sudden switch from the waltz music?
- **The switch.** A change in genre or tempo is a classic crowd-pleaser.
- **The big moments.** Lifts, spins and formations that guests will be talking about long after the last song. These are choreographed around what your court does best, so everyone looks great.
- **The ending.** A strong final pose gives the photographer and every phone in the room the perfect shot.

Outfits

Many courts change outfits for the surprise dance: matching looks, theme colors or something completely different from the formal attire. Plan time for the change in your event program, and

make sure everyone practices in shoes they can actually dance in.

If you book our chambelanes, **surprise dance outfits are included**, in different colors and variations, and damas in our team packages have their surprise dance outfits included too.

Finding inspiration

Our TikTok and YouTube are full of surprise dances, huapangos and trending songs. Watch a few with your daughter. It's one of the easiest ways to find out what she loves (and what she doesn't).



SCAN ME

Surprise dance ideas on TikTok

tiktok.com/@fairytaledances

Keep it a surprise (or don't). Some families keep the surprise dance secret from everyone but the court. Others share rehearsal sneak peeks to build excitement. Either way, decide early and tell the court, so nobody posts something you wanted to save.

Rehearsals That Actually Work

Tips for parents, quinceañeras and courts

Rehearsals are where the magic gets built: one count, one turn and one laugh at a time. Here's how to make every session count.

When and how often

Rehearsals usually start **2 to 3 months before your event, once a week.**

- **Choreography packages:** each rehearsal runs **2 hours**, and you'll have **5 to 11 practices**, depending on the package you choose.
- **Local chambelán packages:** **8 practices at our studio, 1 hour each.**
- **Travel packages:** rehearsals work differently. See Chapter 12.

First-timers are welcome

Don't worry if your daughter or her court has never danced before. The steps are easy to learn and are taught at **beginner, intermediate and advanced levels** depending on the group's experience. We shape the choreography around what your court does best and give friendly feedback along the way, so everyone feels confident on the dance floor.

Tips that make rehearsals go smoothly

1. **Treat rehearsal dates like appointments that can't move.** Every missed practice slows down the whole group, not just the person who missed it.
2. **Be on time.** Rehearsal time is precious. Starting late means less time to learn.
3. **Wear comfortable clothes and practice shoes.**
4. **Bring water.** Dancing is a workout.
5. **Practice at home between rehearsals.** Even walking through the waltz in the living room helps.
6. **Practice in the dress and shoes** once they're ready.

7. Keep phones away during teaching time (unless the choreographer asks you to film).

The parent's role

Parents make or break the rehearsal season. A few things that help:

- **Plan rides and pickups ahead**, especially for court members who depend on others to get there.
- **Keep the group chat positive**. Your calm is contagious.
- **Track attendance**. If someone keeps missing, talk to them (and their parents) early.
- **Let the choreographer lead the room**. Share your observations with them privately. A good choreographer will listen and relay them to the group.

"Our teacher was Ms. Kayla. She was punctual, kind, creative and an effective teacher. She responded to my few observations and relayed them to the girls, which in turn rendered beautiful results."

GOOGLE REVIEW

Use the **Rehearsal Attendance Tracker** printable to keep everyone accountable.

Event Week and the Big Day

Bringing it all together

You've booked, chosen, practiced and planned. Now it's time to bring it all together.

The venue rehearsal (if available)

If your venue allows a rehearsal, we hold it on the **Friday of your event week**. Any other day depends on the availability of the venue and our choreographer. Venue rehearsals are part of our choreography packages only; chambelán packages (local or travel) don't include a venue practice.

Why it matters: practicing in the real space makes a big difference. The court learns:

- Where the entrance is and how they'll walk in
- How much room they really have on the dance floor
- Where the guests, the head table and the DJ will be
- Where the photographer and videographer will stand

Ask your venue early. When you book your venue, ask whether they allow a rehearsal in the space before the event, and on which days. Not every venue does, so it's better to know ahead of time.

Build your event program

Your event timeline, or *programa*, is the order of the night: grand entrance, waltz, toast, dinner, surprise dance and open dancing. When it's set, the dances land at the right moments and every vendor knows their cues. **Our packages include timeline help if you need it.**

Once it's final, share it with your DJ, photographer, videographer, venue coordinator and anyone who will be giving a speech. The **Event-Day Dance Program Worksheet** printable is built for this.

Vendors we trust

Over the years we've worked alongside many vendors, and these are the ones we trust most. They're also proud sponsors of our chambelanes team:

- **Drazo Entertainment** (DJ)
- **George Martinez Photography** (photography and video)
- **Fashion Hair & Makeup by GV** (hair and makeup)

The big day

With Packages A, B and C, a **choreographer or representative attends your event for up to 2 hours** to make sure the court is ready and everything runs smoothly. Our travel packages also include a choreographer at your event.

A few day-of tips:

- **Build in buffer time** for photos, hair and makeup and getting everyone to the venue.
- **Have the final music file** saved in more than one place, and confirm the DJ has it.
- **Pack a dance emergency kit** (see the Day-Of Checklist printable).
- **Eat something!** Dancing on an empty stomach is no fun.
- **Breathe and enjoy it.** She's ready.

Share the moment

Did we choreograph your quince? Post your waltz, your surprise dance or your chambelanes and tag **@fairytaledances**. We love seeing our quinceañeras shine. Sharing is at our discretion and only with your permission.

CHAPTER

12

Planning a Quince Outside Los Angeles

We travel to you

Can't find the right quinceañera choreographer near you? You don't have to settle. Our choreographers and chambelanes travel to families across the country, **with all travel expenses included** in our travel packages.

Where we've danced: 19 states plus DC

Arizona · Arkansas · California · Colorado · Delaware · Florida · Illinois · Kansas · Michigan ·
Nebraska · Nevada · New Jersey · New York · North Carolina · Oregon · Tennessee · Texas ·
Virginia · Washington · Washington, DC

How travel works

- 1. Call or text for a quote.** Tell us your event date, your city and what you need.
- 2. Pick your dates.** We set your rehearsal schedule around your event.
- 3. We travel to you for intensive rehearsals.**
- 4. We perform or get your court ready for the big day.** A choreographer is there the day of your event.

Two ways to bring us to your city

Choreography travel

A choreographer comes to you for **5 days of rehearsals, 3 to 4 hours each**, and creates custom choreography with your court.

- Entrance and waltz
- Surprise dance mix (up to 4 songs)
- Music editing for every song
- Venue rehearsal (if available)
- Timeline assistance
- Choreographer at your event

Chambelán travel

Our chambelanes start on your dances **8 weeks before the event**. We send weekly practice videos and check in on Zoom, then the chambelanes join you in person for **full-day rehearsals on the Thursday and Friday of event week**.

- Entrance and waltz
- Surprise dance mix (up to 3 songs)
- Black suits (other colors available) and surprise dance outfits
- Music editing for every song
- Timeline assistance
- Choreographer at your event

Timing for traveling families

Book **as soon as you have a date**. If you're bringing our chambelanes, we start working on your dances 8 weeks before the event, so please **book before that 8-week mark**.

"We were so excited when we received the choreography, and the videos they provided for practices (since we were out of state) were great. They arrived a few days before the event for in-person practices and worked to perfect the dances."

ELIZABETH LOZANO, GOOGLE REVIEW



SCAN ME

Get a travel quote

fairytaledances.com/we-travel

¡Vamos a donde estés! Tu fiesta, tu baile, tu momento.

BONUS

A-Z

Glossary • Glosario

Quince words in English and Spanish

A few words you'll hear while planning a quince, in English and Spanish. Traditions vary by family, region and country, so treat these as general descriptions and make them your own.

Quinceañera / Quince / XV Años

The celebration of a girl's 15th birthday, marking her passage from childhood to young womanhood. "Quinceañera" also refers to the birthday girl herself.

Sweet 16

A 16th birthday celebration. Many Sweet 16s include a waltz and a surprise dance too.

Corte de honor (Court of honor)

The group of damas and chambelanes who accompany and dance with the quinceañera.

Damas

The young women in the court.

Chambelanes

The young men in the court who escort the damas and the quinceañera.

Chambelán de honor

The quinceañera's main escort and dance partner for much of the night.

Padrinos / Madrinas

Sponsors (often godparents or close family friends) who support the celebration, sometimes by giving a special item or covering part of it.

Misa (Church ceremony)

The church Mass that many families hold before the reception. Check with your parish about its requirements and timeline.

Vals (Waltz)

The traditional, elegant dance of the night, usually to one song. The heart of the celebration.

Baile sorpresa (Surprise dance)

A high-energy routine, often a mix of several songs and genres, that shows off the quinceañera's personality.

Entrada (Grand entrance)

The choreographed entrance of the quinceañera and her court that sets the tone for the night.

Baile padre e hija (Father-daughter dance)

A dance between the quinceañera and her father or a father figure, from a short, simple waltz to a surprise routine.

Huapango

A lively traditional Mexican music and dance style that many courts include in the surprise dance.

Brindis (Toast)

A toast in honor of the quinceañera, often given by a parent or padrino.

Cambio de zapatos (Changing of the shoes)

A tradition in which flat shoes are exchanged for heels, symbolizing the step into young womanhood.

Última muñeca (Last doll)

A tradition in which the quinceañera receives or gives away a final doll, symbolizing the end of childhood.

Corona / Tiara

The crown worn by the quinceañera, sometimes placed on her head during a crowning moment.

Programa (Event program / timeline)

The order of events for the night, so the dances land at the right moments.

Retainer (Anticipo)

The non-refundable payment that reserves your event date and rehearsal dates with us. It's part of your total, not an extra fee.

Venue rehearsal (Ensayo en el salón)

A practice in the actual event space, if available. With us, it's held on the Friday of event week if the venue allows one, and it's part of our choreography packages only.

Music editing (Edición de música)

Cutting and mixing your chosen songs into the final tracks you'll dance to. Included in every Fairytale Dances package.



B O N U S

Printable Planning Pages



Ten pages to keep your quince organized. Print them on regular letter-size paper (choose "Actual size" in your print settings), punch holes and keep them in a binder, or fill them in on a tablet.

1. Master Quince Checklist
2. Dance Timeline Countdown
3. Quince Budget Worksheet
4. Song List & Music Planner
5. Court Roster & Contact Sheet
6. Rehearsal Attendance Tracker
7. Questions to Ask Your Choreographer
8. Event-Day Dance Program
9. Day-Of Checklist & Dance Emergency Kit
10. Vendor Contact Sheet

Master Quince Checklist

From the first date to the last dance. Items marked “dance” are your dance milestones.

Quinceañera: _____

Event date: _____

12+ MONTHS OUT

- ☐ Pick the date (check with your church first, if having a Mass)
- ☐ Set the total budget
- ☐ Draft the guest list
- ☐ Watch dance videos for ideas **DANCE**

6 TO 10 MONTHS OUT

- ☐ Shop for the dress
- ☐ Choose padrinos & theme
- ☐ Decide on the court (family, pros or mixed) **DANCE**
- ☐ Talk to court families about commitment **DANCE**

2 TO 3 MONTHS OUT

- ☐ Dress fittings
- ☐ Mail invitations
- ☐ Confirm vendor details
- ☐ Weekly rehearsals begin **DANCE**
- ☐ Practice at home between rehearsals **DANCE**

EVENT DAY

- ☐ Hair, makeup & photos
- ☐ Pack the day-of kit
- ☐ Music file backed up & with the DJ **DANCE**
- ☐ Enjoy the moment! **DANCE**

8 TO 12 MONTHS OUT

- ☐ Book the venue (ask if a rehearsal is allowed)
- ☐ Book DJ, photo/video, hair & makeup
- ☐ Book your choreographer & pay the retainer **DANCE**
- ☐ Add rehearsal dates to the family calendar **DANCE**

3 TO 4 MONTHS OUT

- ☐ Order invitations
- ☐ Plan décor, cake & favors
- ☐ Choose waltz, entrance & 3–5 surprise songs **DANCE**
- ☐ Plan court attire & surprise dance outfits **DANCE**

EVENT WEEK

- ☐ Confirm every vendor & arrival time
- ☐ Final guest count to venue
- ☐ Venue rehearsal (if available) **DANCE**
- ☐ Finalize the event program & share it **DANCE**



Dance Timeline Countdown

Write your event date, then count backward to fill in your target dates.

Quinceañera: _____ Event date: _____

Our event date: _____

When	Milestone	My target date	Done
8–12 months out	Book choreographer · pay retainer · hold dates		☐
6–10 months out	Decide on the court · consider chambelanes for hire		☐
3–4 months out	Pick waltz song + 3–5 surprise dance songs + entrance		☐
2–3 months out	Weekly rehearsals begin		☐
8 weeks out	Traveling chambelanes start your dances (travel only; book before this)		☐
Event week	Venue rehearsal on Friday (if available) · final program		☐
Event day	Enjoy the moment!		☐

REHEARSAL DATES

#	Date	Time	#	Date	Time
1			7		
2			8		
3			9		
4			10		
5			11		
6			12		



Quince Budget Worksheet

Track estimates against actual costs so there are no surprises.

Quinceañera: _____ Event date: _____

Total budget: _____

Category	Estimate	Actual	Paid	Balance due	Due date
Venue & rentals					
Food, drinks & cake					
Dress, shoes & tiara					
Hair & makeup					
Photography & video					
DJ / music					
Décor & flowers					
Invitations & favors					
Court attire					
Choreography & chambelanes					
Church (if applicable)					
Transportation					
Other					

DANCE PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Payment	Amount	Due date	Paid
Retainer (non-refundable, holds dates)			☐
Scheduled payment 1			☐
Scheduled payment 2			☐

For current packages & pricing, visit fairytaledances.com or text 323-715-4555.



Song List & Music Planner

She picks the music. We handle the editing.

Quinceañera: _____

Event date: _____

WALTZ (1 SONG)

Song	Artist

ENTRANCE

Song	Artist

FATHER-DAUGHTER (OPTIONAL)

Song	Artist

SURPRISE DANCE OPTIONS (3-5)

#	Song / artist	Energy
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

FINAL MIX ORDER

Up to 4 songs (choreography packages) or up to 3 (chambelán packages).

Order	Song
1	
2	
3	
4	

OTHER SPECIAL MOMENTS

DO-NOT-PLAY LIST (FOR THE DJ)



Quinceañera: _____

Questions to Ask Your Choreographer

Compare up to three choreographers side by side.

Quinceañera: _____

Event date: _____

Question	Choreographer 1	Choreographer 2	Choreographer 3
Rehearsals included / length?			
When do rehearsals start? How often?			
Dances included (entrance, waltz, surprise, father-daughter)?			
How many surprise dance songs?			
Who picks & edits the music?			
Venue rehearsal (if available)?			
Attends the event? How long?			
Help with event timeline (program)?			
Can provide chambelanes / damas?			
How to hold the date? Payment schedule?			
Works with beginners?			
Travels? What's included?			
Overall feeling			



Event-Day Dance Program

Plan when each dance happens, and share it with your DJ, photographer and venue.

Quinceañera: _____

Event date: _____

Time	Moment	Song	Who's on the floor	DJ / photo cue
	Grand entrance			
	Waltz			
	Father-daughter dance			
	Toast (brindis)			
	Surprise dance			
	Other: _____			
	Other: _____			

KEY CONTACTS ON THE DAY

Role	Name & phone
Choreographer / rep	
DJ	
Photo / video	
Venue coordinator	
Family point person	

ARRIVAL TIMES

Who	Time
Court	
Quinceañera	
Hair & makeup	
Photographer	
DJ	



PRINTABLE 09 · THE COMPLETE QUINCEAÑERA PLANNING GUIDE

Day-Of Checklist & Dance Emergency Kit

Pack it the night before, then breathe. She's ready.

PRINTABLE 09 · THE COMPLETE QUINCEAÑERA PLANNING GUIDE

Day-Of Checklist & Dance Emergency Kit

Pack it the night before, then breathe. She's ready.

Quinceañera: _____

DANCE EMERGENCY KIT

- ☐ Safety pins & sewing kit
- ☐ Spare practice / flat shoes
- ☐ Blister bandages
- ☐ Water bottles & snacks
- ☐ Bobby pins & hair ties
- ☐ Hairspray & touch-up makeup
- ☐ Deodorant & tissues
- ☐ Phone charger
- ☐ Music file backup (2 places)
- ☐ Printed event program
- ☐ Stain remover pen
- ☐ Pain reliever (adults hold)

LAST-MINUTE NOTES

Event date: _____

DAY-OF DANCE CHECKLIST

- ☐ Final program sent to DJ, photographer, venue
- ☐ Court knows arrival time & location
- ☐ Surprise dance outfits packed & labeled
- ☐ Changing area confirmed at the venue
- ☐ Shoes broken in & packed
- ☐ Choreographer / rep arrival confirmed (select packages)
- ☐ Someone assigned to film each dance
- ☐ Phones down for at least one song!



Vendor Contact Sheet

Every vendor, one page.

Quinceañera: _____

Event date: _____

Vendor	Company	Contact name	Phone / email	Booked	Notes
Choreography				☐	
Chambelanes / damas				☐	
Venue				☐	
Catering				☐	
Cake				☐	
DJ / music				☐	
Photography				☐	
Videography				☐	
Hair & makeup				☐	
Dress				☐	
Décor & flowers				☐	
Transportation				☐	
Church				☐	
Other				☐	



LET'S PLAN YOUR DANCE

Every quinceañera deserves a dance she'll remember for the rest of her life.



The earlier you start, the easier it is. Whether you're in Los Angeles or across the country, we'd love to help.

CALL OR TEXT

323-715-4555

Send your event date, city and what you need: professional choreography, chambelanes, or chambelanes & damas. We usually reply by text.

EMAIL & STUDIO

info@fairytaledances.com

12045 Slauson Ave., Ste. A
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670

By appointment only

Se habla español.

Prices go up January 1, 2027. Pay your retainer before then to lock in current pricing, even if your event is later. Online booking at fairytaledances.com/book-online is for events 6+ months away and families within 20 miles of our Santa Fe Springs studio; everyone else, text **323-715-4555**.



BOOK ONLINE



PACKAGES &
PRICING



REQUEST A
QUOTE



YOUTUBE

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