

Volunteering 101

Volunteers are the lifeblood of any non-profit organization. The dictionary definition is "...a person who undertakes some task or service of his own free will." When we recently asked some of our parents why they volunteer, one of the answers that came back to us was meeting new people and making new friends. We have one volunteer who loves to be backstage. She has become the "backstage mom" to the point that the cast worries if she isn't there! She has told us that this is where she loves to be - helping the cast and being an encourager, and this is where she loves to spend her time.

Here are some reasons why people volunteer:

- Help the community and others
- Increase self-esteem - giving a few hours to an organization creates good feelings.
- Make new friends - volunteering is a social activity.
- Try out a job - volunteering is a good way to get a peek at what happens on the inside.
- Polish their resumes - adding volunteer experience to a resume shows a commitment to helping others.
- Developing new skills - a volunteer job often gives people an opportunity to learn how to do something they didn't know how to do.

There are multiple ways for you to volunteer. However, you should first ascertain your interests and your time limitations. Perhaps you like to sew, but have small children at home. Helping build costumes could be the perfect fit for you. Are you crafty - do you like creating, or are you one of those people who love to scour the antique stores and thrift shops? Props could use you. Do you enjoy building and painting? Then set work could be the job for you. These are just a few things that need to be done during the course of the production.

Here is a list of volunteer activities and their descriptions. We have also included the time frames to help you with your decisions.

Set Builders/ Painters/Transporters: Good with tools, painters, artists, etc. Work under the supervision of the set designer. This involves weekends. This is a big commitment because it involves showing up where the set is being built and putting in some hours.

Props: Great for crafty folks, and those of you who like to hunt things down! This is more manageable if you have time issues, because it can be done over a long period of time. The Head of the committee splits up the props, and each committee member takes part of the list.

Costumes: Collect, organize, sew, etc. Work under the supervision of the costume designer. Many times, we have gathered together with our sewing machines, met at someone's home, and had a great time sewing and talking. You don't have to know how to use a sewing machine - if you can hand sew we can use you. This group also needs Goodwill hunters and gatherers.

Promotions: Organize and distribute flyers, posters. This involves having flyers put up in businesses, etc. We ask everyone in the cast to help promote the show, but we also have specific places to put up flyers.

Cast Party: Coordinate food, drinks, facility, etc. This involves finding a place to do the cast party, setting a budget, and informing the cast and crew of where it will be. Typically 2 -3 people can handle this job.

Box Office and Concessions: Taking tickets, and selling refreshments at the shows. This is coordinated through the Box Office manager. It involves arriving an hour before the show starts and getting instruction on the procedures.

Most importantly, we want this to be an enjoyable experience for you. If you have questions or concerns, please ask the Artistic Directors or any board member. We strive to make this a warm and welcoming environment for you as well as your child. Welcome aboard!