

Junior Theater Festival Information

What: The Junior Theater Festival (JTF) is the world's biggest and best celebration of young people performing musical theater. JTF brings together student musical theater troupes from all over the world for a weekend of musical theater education, fun, and celebration! Each troupe performs fifteen minutes from a Broadway Junior® show for adjudication by a panel of musical theater experts. The weekend also features professional development for teachers, workshops for students and parents, a New Works Showcase featuring new musical adaptations soon to be released and concludes with a grand finale concert headlined by Broadway's best!

<https://juniortheaterfestival.com/>

When: January 11-15, 2024

Where: Cobb Galleria Center in Atlanta, Georgia

Who: Open to rising 3rd-12th graders who audition and are selected to the competition teams (must be 8 years old and under 18 years old in January of 2024). We will have two groups, a younger one and an older one.

Auditions and Casting:

- Participants must be enrolled in the Showtime Academy Fundamentals or TNT programs and actively training.
- Participants must audition during our May auditions which will be held in conjunction with auditions for the 10th season.
 - May 10 – A Sign Up Genius will be posted
 - Prepare 16-32 bars of a song that showcases your vocal ability and be prepared to learn and perform a short choreography routine. If you are auditioning for the other mainstage productions too you only need to prepare one song.
- Participants will be selected and notified after auditions. If callbacks are necessary, we will notify those who need to attend.

Requirements and details:

- A required parent meeting of all team member parents will be held in August/September to go over all details and answer any outstanding questions.
- Parents and performers will sign a participation contract.
- All JTF performers are required to take an additional dance technique class that is age/level appropriate through Showtime Academy.
- Participants cannot miss more than 3 rehearsals and 3 classes, as this negatively affects the other participants and the rehearsal process. Participants who miss more than the approved amount of rehearsals and/or classes, may be removed from the team.
- Please note: There is typically one class per week for team rehearsal and one additional class per week for dance technique, until the 3 weeks leading up to the event, where we could move to 2 rehearsal classes per week. There could also be additional rehearsals added as needed.

Weekend Event Details:

- All participants must have a parent plan to travel to Atlanta, and stay in the hotel for the festival weekend, unless otherwise arranged with another parent.
- If the parent will not be entering the festival, it will be their responsibility to find a chaperone to take their child back and forth to festival events, and to be responsible for them at the event, etc.
- Those who do not purchase a festival wristband cannot attend **ANY** portion of the event.

- Participants will be required to miss school/work, Friday, January 12th. **This year there will be some adjudications and festival activities, including kickoff on FRIDAY so you will need to plan to arrive Thursday the 11th.** We will return from the festival on Monday, January 15th.
- All travel is arranged independently. Most families carpool.

JTF Cost Considerations:

(These costs are approximate based on the past few years of participation and are subject to change.)

- JTF Festival Wristband fees of \$335 per person attending the festival. *****This is a \$35pp increase in last year's.**
 - This is for student and/or parent if they want to come into the festival for all activities.
 - **This is DUE NO LATER than July 15th for anyone wanting to attend the events. Our seating assignments are given based on when we submit our payments. The earlier we get them in, the better the seats!**
 - We ask that if you are interested you go ahead and set aside the festival fee funds so that you are prepared to make payment by July 15th.
 - You can pay earlier or in two installments if you choose to. We will have a paypal link on the website to accept those fee payments and I will keep track of them. Reminders will be sent 2 weeks prior to the deadline to anyone who has not paid.
- Hotel Expenses of around \$500 plus taxes for the **4 nights** at the Courtyard North I-75.
 - This is the hotel we stayed at last year, we have all 2 queen rooms as options.
 - We negotiate a group rate of about \$124 a night plus taxes.
 - The rate includes a daily breakfast and wifi.
 - You can choose to room with someone and split the costs.
 - Participants can start booking rooms as soon as the cast is set and the hotel link is shared.
 - No deposit is due to book the room, you pay in full at the hotel upon check in.
 - You must cancel within 72 hours to avoid penalties.
- Meals
 - Optional Meal Plan for \$60 per person (for adults and kids)
 - Covers 2 lunches at the festival (usually Chick-Fil-A and a sandwich place like Panera) and 3 dinners – 1 catered meal at the hotel, pizza at the hotel, and 1 dinner at the festival or hotel (usually Moe's)
 - Due by December 4, 2023
 - If you choose not to purchase the meal plan you will need to be prepared to purchase your own meals throughout the weekend.
- Dance Class and Rehearsal
 - These will equal a minimum of 2 classes per week.
 - *Note: Rehearsals and required dance class will fall into the Showtime Academy Tuition structure.*
- Attire
 - T-shirts, hair accessories and Showtime swag are provided to all team members and chaperones attending the festival.
 - Pants, shoes, undergarments etc. will be out of pocket items.
- CDYC
 - Competitive Dreams of Youth in the Carolinas is a local organization that allows you to work events such as Panther football games and concerts to earn money that can be used to pay for arts related activities such as JTF expenses. You can read more about the organization and how to get involved here: <https://cdycfundraising.org/>

****If you have specific questions about the requirements or costs associated with JTF please email Vivian at reynm7v0@comporium.net.

