



TNT Youth Conference Guidelines

The TNT Youth Conference

The Annual Theatre Network of Texas, Inc. (TNT) Youth Conference is a summer camp-style experience for young theatre students, their directors and chaperones. There are two basic components of the TNT Youth Conference - Performances and Workshops. Registration fees cover admission to the **performances** and the **workshops**. Registration is open to individuals and theatres not associated with a performing company. Ticket sales for the performances are open to the public, available online or at the door. **Lodging** for the conference is not part of the registration fee, but TNT contracts with hotels for special rates for conferees.

THE PERFORMANCES:

Youth companies from across the state have the opportunity to showcase their talents in performances at the Youth Conference. Shows can range from one acts, musicals, cuttings of full length shows and original works. Subject matter can range from traditional fairytales to Broadway musicals, light-hearted comedies to teen-oriented dramas. There is no limit to the size of a company. The following requirements:

- Companies apply to perform at the Youth Conference. The presenting theatre/organization must be a current SPONSOR organizational member (\$100) of TNT.
- The cast and crew associated with the performing production **MUST** be current YOUTH Individual Members of TNT (\$10.)
- A Performance Fee must be paid to hold a performance slot at the time of application (\$125.)
- All company directors, cast, crew and chaperones must be registered for the full conference (TNT individual members receive a discount on conference registration.)
- Shows should be suitable for audiences ages 6 and up, or if only suitable for older youth audiences due to dramatic content - indicated in the performance application to ensure that care can be taken to inform the other participating companies and the public. No foul language allowed.
- Performances can not exceed 60 minutes - "bare stage to bare stage".
- Company directors must secure all rights pertaining to the presented performances, including permission to cut the piece if necessary.
- Sets should be able to fit in a 10 feet by 10 feet square space.
- Each company gets a 60 minute load in and rehearsal slot onstage prior to their performance. The rehearsal allows the company to load in their set, check out entrances and exits and work with the venue tech crew for their performance. Assignment of rehearsal and performance slots are made by the TNT staff.
- Each production will have a specified curtain time.
- Performance Eligibility – any student attending with a performance company can perform – up to and including a student who graduated in the immediate past school year. Exceptions must be approved by TNT staff.

THE WORKSHOPS:

Workshops are presented throughout the conference in a rotation process that allows all registered participants an opportunity to experience a variety. Workshops may include Improvisation, Acting, Audition Techniques, Stage Make-up, Stage Combat, Puppetry, Musical Theatre, Voice and Diction, Theatre Games, Shakespeare and Design.

- Students are assigned to a rotation group based on their age range. The rotation groups are deliberately composed of a mix of students from different companies to encourage networking. Students must adhere to their assigned group and rotation schedule but every effort is made to assign students to a group that includes at least one other from their company. TNT encourages company directors and chaperones to prepare their students for the possibility they will not be with their friends during the workshop rotations and to use the opportunity to make new friends.
- Each rotation group attends different workshops. The rotations occur simultaneously. The workshop locations allow for students to attend workshops in the same area to avoid student disbursement on a large campus.
- Workshops presenters are recruited from the participating company leaders, graduates and local theatre professionals. The mix of disciplines offered is determined by available resources, with every effort being made to make sure each major rotation group has variety.
- Adult registrants may attend the youth workshop rotations or take advantage of special workshops for company directors.

Extras of the Conference

The Meal Package

Pre-purchased meal packages include meals throughout the conference. Meals are typically ordered from local catering companies or restaurants. Special dietary needs are taken into account and accommodated. Every care will be taken to provide options for attendees with strict dietary needs - it is recommended that strict dietary restrictions be noted CLEARLY in the Meal Package registration.

Conference Items for Purchase

There are a number of commemorative items available. Certain items must be ordered in advance while others will be available onsite. Directors will be advised of advanced order placement deadlines. Cash, checks and credit cards are accepted

Young Leaders Council

The Young Leaders Council was created to allow young leaders an opportunity to take a more active role in the work of TNT.

For the 2024 Youth Conference, each participating company has the opportunity to select 2 students to be a part of the Young Leaders Council.

- Students should be between 14 and 20 years old, be registered for the Youth Conference and be TNT members at the Youth or Student level.
- There are no term limits for members of the Young Leaders Council
- These students will get the chance to interact with TNT staff and conference attendees, assist with online promotions and learn about how the Youth Conference is organized and produced..
- *Every year a deadline will be set for directors to submit student names. The deadline for young leader submission is **April 30, 2024***

- The Young Leaders Council will meet before the beginning of the conference for orientation.
- A theatre may only have 2 representatives on the Young Leaders Council - with the exception of charter theatre Circle Arts Theatre - New Braunfels

Responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Social Media takeovers. Assist TNT staff with social media
- Help guide workshop attendees to classroom spaces.
- Serve as ushers to take tickets and check name badges for entry into the theatre for shows.
- Assist with meals and social event set up
- Assist with any registration and box office needs

Saturday Showcase!

SATURDAY SHOWCASE is a culminating performance of different elements of the conference.

Social Events

Each year, the social events differ depending on the location and hosts, ranging from ice cream socials, to swim parties to pizza parties. These are provided free of charge to the conference registrants, strictly as gifts from the sponsors. There is no guarantee that a particular social event can or will occur.

Competitions

The TNT Youth Conference offers individual competitions as outlined below. Eligibility and guidelines are posted on our website.

DESIGN COMPETITION - \$5 Entry Fee

MONOLOGUE COMPETITION - \$5 Entry Fee

MUSICAL THEATRE ENSEMBLE COMPETITION - \$10 Entry Fee Per Ensemble

Specific guidelines at this link - <http://texas theatres.org/yc-competitions/>

Master Classes

A variety of Master Classes are offered to all students for a fee. Master Classes are taught by professionals in a field and are more intense than a workshop. Master Classes are generally offered more than once throughout the week allowing students to attend when they are not in rehearsal or during a competition.

Award Ceremonies

At the culmination of the TNT Youth Conference there is an Awards Ceremony recognizing achievements in many areas. The goal of TNT Youth Conference is to celebrate the accomplishments of the students and their directors. **THERE IS NO COMPETITIVE ELEMENT TO THE YOUTH CONFERENCE PERFORMANCES.** The adjudicators provide feedback to each company after each performance. The Awards Ceremony is an opportunity for every company to receive recognition for a job well done.

The awards presented at the Awards Ceremony include:

All Star Cast - The adjudicators select two students from each company for the All Star Cast.

Adjudicator Awards - These are discretionary awards decided by the Adjudicators to honor and highlight excellence for a specific element in a production.

The Backstage Award - The Backstage Award recognizes a company for being the most organized, professional and having the most courteous behavior of all the performing companies during their rehearsal and performance. The Backstage Award is determined by the Technical Staff of the venue.

The following awards are generously sponsored by Brazos Valley TROUPE of Bryan-College Station

The Todd Hart Teacher's Pet Award - Youth Conference workshop leaders submit a list of the students who excelled in their classes through positive participation and supportive involvement.

The Brown & Lechler 'Cap & Gown' Award for Graduating Seniors - These awards are selected from nominations made by the directors of the participating companies. The deadline to submit the nominees is **May 17, 2024**

The Gilmore Spirit Awards - This award honors individuals who exemplify the spirit of friendship, cooperation, support and courtesy throughout the conference.

The Esprit de Corps Award - This honors the company or companies which also exemplify the principles of the TNT Youth Conference, promoting networking, mutual support, cooperation and generosity of spirit.

The Linda Lee Leadership Award - This award recognizes the adults and/or students who show leadership before and during the TNT Youth Conference.

The Roberta Elliott Scholarship - This scholarship honors seniors who have received the Brown & Lechler 'Cap & Gown' Award and submitted an essay relating to TNT Youth Conference and future theatre plans.