

Parent Participation Hours

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: Is there a specific amount of hours I have to complete?

A: Every show takes an enormous effort to produce and would not be possible without the time and energy of the parent volunteers. When you sign up for a team, you are committing yourself and your time to that team, from the night of Orientation, until the end of the production. (In the event of a “Split Show”, this means the end of both productions, even if your cast member is in only one production.) Within the “Introduction” to Cast Member Registration, it reads: *It is expected that each team member will commit to at least 35 or more hours to the production.* This means that 35 hours, per volunteer, per team, is the **minimum** commitment. However, a specific time commitment is very difficult to predict ahead of time since there are so many unpredictable factors (e.g., number of cast members, number of volunteers, etc.) The bottom line is that each team must complete its tasks all the way to the end of the production. Rather than focusing on a specific number of hours, it is preferable that teams focus on working together as fairly as possible to complete the job at hand.

Q: Are both parents required to sign up for a team?

A: No. Only one parent from each family is required to sign up for a team. However, we encourage both parents to sign up whenever possible. Please keep in mind that if both parents sign up for a team, then both parents have agreed to fully commit to BOTH teams. For example, if one parent signs up for “Set Moving” and the other parent signs up for “Lighting”, each parent must fulfill his/her team obligations, completely separate of each other.

Q: I signed up for “Set Design” and my spouse signed up for “Rehearsal/Backstage.” I have already worked 35 hours doing “Set Design” before we moved to the theatre, so does my spouse still have to work “Rehearsal/Backstage”?

A: Yes. When you both volunteered for a team, you BOTH committed your time to those teams. Your Team Leader therefore planned for your help, regardless of whether your spouse has already worked another team or not. We definitely appreciate your time and help. Every show takes an enormous effort to produce and would not be possible without the time and energy of the parent volunteers. And keep in mind that volunteer time technically begins at Orientation and does not end until the end of the show.

Q: How will I know that I have fulfilled my commitment?

A: Your Team Leader will provide you with a list of the necessary requirements in order to complete its job at Orientation. For example, the “Set Construction” Team may have a requirement of a certain amount of days that you must work in order to fulfill your commitment. Your Team Leader will keep you informed if he/she feels you need to commit to additional time for the production. You are responsible for staying in constant contact with your Team Leader as well, if you are concerned about your commitment at any time.

Q: Can my spouse and I work on the same team?

A: Yes. However, you are volunteering as two separate volunteers, each with his/her own commitment to the team.

Q: I understand that when I volunteer, the minimum hour commitment is 35 hours. My spouse would also like to sign up for a team, so does this mean our minimum commitment is now 70 hours?

A: Maybe. Every show takes an enormous effort to produce and would not be possible without the time and energy of the parent volunteers. It is not our intention to scare volunteers off with a specific number of hours, but the reality is that many hours and a lot of people-power is required for every show. We have used the “minimum of 35 hours” as a guideline, but the goal is that rather than focusing on a specific number of hours, volunteers focus on working together to complete the job at hand.

Q: Can I volunteer for more than one team?

A: Yes, but only for certain teams. Check with your Team Leader before you sign up with another team.

Q: Will I stay on the team I signed up for at the time of Registration?

A: In general, yes. However, if some teams are short-staffed, we may need to pull from other teams that have more than enough team members.

Q: If my child ends up in the “Closing Cast”, is it ok to work only the “Closing Cast” shifts?

A: Maybe. Team Leaders will make every effort to schedule volunteers fairly. However, volunteers need to be flexible as well. Since there is no way to predict which cast members will be in which cast, a Team could theoretically end up with all “Closing Cast” parents. Every shift needs to be filled. We realize that every volunteer has other obligations outside of this production, however, we are asking for as much flexibility as possible. **The same scenario could occur in the case of a “split show”. You may have cast members in only one production, but we may need your assistance in BOTH productions. Remember, we cannot do this without you.**

Q: What happens if I do not fulfill obligation to my Team?

A: Your Team Leader will keep you informed verbally and in writing if necessary, if it appears that you are not fulfilling your obligations. It will result in your child not being able to register for future productions.

Q: (In a “Split Show” scenario) My cast member is in the production for the older kids. I do not have any cast members in the younger kids’ production. Do I need to join a team for productions, or only one?

A: The short answer is both productions. Team Leaders will make every effort to schedule volunteers fairly. RCTC produces “Split Shows” for the benefit of cast members to have additional opportunities. However, it requires additional time and dedication from the entire RCTC village, not just artistic staff and Board Members. Every team is needed for BOTH productions. Therefore, when you sign up for a team, please be aware that your time will likely be needed for both the older and younger productions.

Q: Is it possible to split my hours with my spouse/partner or another relative?

A: In general, yes. Double check with your Team Leader. The volunteer must be at least 18 years old.