



Costume Committee Instructions

Thank you for joining the Costume committee! We're incredibly grateful for your help, and we're excited to work with you. You can expect to spend more than 25 hours on this committee.

GENERAL COMMITTEE JOB DESCRIPTION

Costuming work occurs before, during, and after the show. In addition to volunteering during the rehearsal process, you'll likely be asked to work 2-3 evenings of tech and 2-4 performances, depending on our needs. We'll require at least 1 sewer to be at each performance in case of costume emergencies.

PRE-PRODUCTION WORK

During the rehearsal process, there are various projects that need to be completed. Sometimes it's as simple as fixing a seam or hemming a skirt, other times it's building a costume piece from start to finish. Feel free to work on projects that match your comfort level. Projects may be worked on at home or at PYT. If you'd like to take a project home, make sure to check in with the Costumer for due dates or deadlines as sometimes certain pieces are needed for promotional photos or rehearsal. There will typically be a "Needs Work" section in the costume shop – if you arrive and there's no one there, feel free to peruse those items and work on tasks you feel you can accomplish. If you're interested in broadening your sewing skills, we offer a weekly sewing group, Serial Stitchers, on Tuesdays from 10am to 3pm, on a drop-in basis, where you can learn from some of our more experienced costuming volunteers. If you're interested or want more information, please contact the costumer.

PRODUCTION WORK

Once the costumes have been built, our work isn't done! As the performers load into the theater, so do we. At the theater, costume committee members are responsible for the load-in of sewing equipment and tools and maintaining the costumes throughout the run of the show. Accidents happen, and so it's important to have costumers on hand to repair costumes as needed. You'll likely be asked to work 2-3 evenings of tech week, and 2-4 performances. We understand that you want to enjoy your children's performances, but it's crucial to have costume people backstage so that if something happens, they can fix it quickly and help the performance run smoothly.

POST-PRODUCTION WORK

After the show closes, we "strike" the theater. What we brought in; we must take out. Your help may be needed to transport costumes and sewing equipment back to PYT.

Perhaps the most exciting part of costumes is... laundry! After the show closes, each costume piece needs to be laundered or dry cleaned so that they're ready to be used for a future show. Sewers and non-sewers alike are encouraged to assist with this part of the costuming process. Just as the cast members have a cast party, the costume committee often has a Laundromat party!

NON-SEWING WORK

Sewing skills, while appreciated, are not required to be part of the costuming committee. We often need people to help coordinate projects, create labels for costumes, take down measurements, etc. On the administrative side, we need people who can assist the costumer with managing and merging various databases, scheduling events, and communicating with parents. At the theater, non-sewers can help by keeping track of costume pieces and alerting other volunteers if alterations or repairs need to be made. Help is also required during the check-in/check-out process for costumes – this entails checking out costume pieces to parents before we move into the theater and checking the costumes back in once the show is over.

THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING!!