



Touring Ensemble Audition Information

(Rising 8th-12th Grade)

AUDITION DATE:

June 8th, 5:00pm – 6:30pm

Location:

SPARC – 2106 N Hamilton St

ABOUT THE GROUP:

This dedicated company of performers showcases their talents year-round at a variety of events held in the Richmond Community. Ensemble members participate in weekly rehearsals consisting of training in theatre, music, and dance. Led by Director Allison Beckett and Music Director Ryan Blevins, the SPARC Touring Ensemble gains experience performing in dynamic settings, building the adaptability and composure necessary for live, public performance.

Typical performances include but are not limited to: Pridefest, Midlothian Village Day, Garden Festival of Lights at Lewis Ginter, SPARCFest, Dominion Energy Christmas Parade, SPARC's annual live auction, and Maymont Family Easter.

SIGNING UP

To sign up for an audition, fill out [this booking form](#).

WHAT TO EXPECT AND PREPARE FOR YOUR AUDITION:

- Auditionees will all arrive at the same time to check in and start with a group activity/info session. Then, the directing team will see individual auditions.
- Students will audition by preparing 32 bars (about 1 min) of any style of song that best shows off their vocal range. Songs can be performed acapella, or you can bring in a backing track. Please dress to move.
- Students should slate (say their name and what song they are performing) in the room before they begin.
- When you arrive, check in with the audition team in the lobby.
- Students will have the chance to meet other Touring Ensemble members, chat with the directors, and discuss the upcoming schedule. We will kick off auditions with a group activity.

THERE WILL BE NO CALLBACKS FOR TOURING ENSEMBLE

CASTING NOTIFICATIONS – by Tuesday, June 13th

- Guardians and students (if a student email has been given) will receive a notification via email, whether a student has been cast or not.
- While we work hard to notify all students as quickly as possible, it takes time for our staff to complete all individual communications. ***Please consider all auditioning students and refrain from discussing casting notifications until a cast list is shared publicly with cast members.*** This will help in reducing stress and anxiety while we work through notifications.

Tuition and Scholarships

There is no cost to audition. However, should a student be cast in this program, the cost of tuition for participation is \$720. This tuition covers the year-long training process and more than a dozen performances throughout the year. No additional fees are ever requested. Payment plans are available so this fee can be broken up across the year.

Scholarships are available, too!

At SPARC, we work hard to make sure tuition costs are not a barrier to personal growth, creative expression, and community connections. Each year, as many as 1/3 of program participants can access scholarships, thanks to generous community donations.

Families will have the opportunity to express interest in a scholarship when casting notifications are sent by email. Registration for Touring Ensemble won't start until late summer, and the scholarship application will be sent about a month before that registration window opens.

To find out more about scholarships, see sparcrichmond.org/scholarships.

Are you a teenager who needs to cover tuition costs on your own? If so, please call or email us to discuss how we can help you to address tuition payments. We look forward to talking with you! sparc@sparcrichmond.org; 804-353-3393

Attendance Policy and Conflicts

Being cast in a production or touring group is a big commitment. SPARC asks that guardians and students look at family and school schedules closely before auditioning to ensure that the student can attend rehearsals and performances.

Due to the nature of Touring Ensemble's event-based schedule, not all cast members may be called to every rehearsal. Students/Guardians should communicate with the directing team about availability well in advance of a performance date.

SPARC Touring Ensemble trains students to work together in a collaborative performance troupe, performing year-round at various public and private venues.

Weekly Rehearsals: Tuesdays, 7:00-8:30pm: August 29th, 2023– June 9th, 2024

Location: SPARC (2106 North Hamilton Street, Richmond, VA 23230)

Students may not be called for each rehearsal and/or additional rehearsals may be scheduled in preparation for certain performances. SPARC Touring Ensemble students will perform in approximately 4-6 events per semester.