



Congratulations and welcome to MTA's 2023-24 Outreach Group! You are now a part of MTA's only elite group of performers. Your selection was based on your performance level, your genuine commitment to MTA, and your outstanding behavior. The Outreach Director, Jackie Hammond, and Assistant Director, Jessica Kishbaugh will do their best to create wonderful learning and performing opportunities for your children, while allowing them to give back to the community, and of course receive the satisfaction of giving in return. Below are a few guidelines and commitments that every MTA Outreach performer must agree to in order to participate in the group. While unexpected life situations always occur, it is our hope that you take these tasks to heart to ensure the success of this privileged group of performers:

- ✓ **Understand the mission of the group you are now involved with.** The MTA Outreach Group is about using your incredible talents to service our community. This kind of community service is not only personally rewarding, but also looks great on college and job applications. If this does not sound rewarding, please advise MTA immediately so we can discuss options or find a replacement for your spot.
- ✓ **Be a leader.** Having a positive attitude is a must. Many young performers would love to be a part of this group so we ask that you be a good steward of MTA and use this opportunity to help propel our younger performers, enhance their skills and make them better. With that mindset, you will grow as well. Never use this opportunity to put others down, or act better than the hundreds of other talented performers at MTA and our community. We expect our best to bring out the best in others.
- ✓ **48 hours notification policy.** As a courtesy to your fellow performers, you must reply to all communications or schedule any conflicts within 48 hours of receiving the email about scheduled gigs. **Adding additional conflicts once Outreach Dates have been communicated is not allowed and unfair to the rest of the group.**
- ✓ **Be flexible.** Planning for multiple schedules and conflicts is a tough business, especially when some of the gig opportunities come up with short notice. So please be flexible and understanding of the challenges scheduling can present to all of us, and thank you in advance for your flexible spirit throughout the year.
- ✓ **Respect creative decisions.** We will always do our best to cast the right people with the right parts meaning everyone will get their moment throughout the year, but know that some people may receive more solos or a featured part may sway more times to a friend than you. Please do not take these decisions personally and instead, encourage the performers around you to excel and remember that everyone has these moments.
- ✓ **Volunteering is crucial to success.** To ensure the success of the MTA Outreach Group, it is an expectation that you and your families can volunteer their time at events when needed, and attend our Benefit and other key MTA events.
- ✓ **Be open to learning.** It is the director's job to help you grow, stretch your talents to new heights and become stronger performers. Even the most talented performers in the world still have things to learn. Come prepared with this mindset and great things will happen!
- ✓ **Transportation is the responsibility of participants.** MTA does **not** arrange carpooling or transportation. But MTA encourages you to connect with others in the group to lessen the driving loads on families.
- ✓ **You are representing MTA on stage and off.** If you have been selected for this group, then you already have a great sense of what it takes to be on stage. But the firm expectation is that you will carry the MTA brand when off stage as well, which is kind, courteous and passionate. This is especially important when we are mingling with residents at places like the Veterans Home or Nursing Homes. Bring the best "you" to these gigs and you will feel the rewards back by inspiring others.
- ✓ **Be smart with social media.** Again, you now represent the MTA brand. **We build each other up, not tear each other down.** If you have challenges or frustrations, talk to your leadership to find a solution rather than posting something online. 9 out of 10 times you will regret it and it doesn't help our cause. Think before you post...be smart! Once something is in writing or spoken, it is there forever and remembered.
- ✓ **Give a little time to concerns.** Drama doesn't just stay on the stage. We all know that. But we also know that being in the arts, there are times when situations can feel more heightened than they really are in the moment. That is why we ask that if you or your child have a concern, please wait 24 hours to confront or respond after a performance, rehearsal, etc., so that everyone can evaluate the situation without emotions running high. If that time passes and you feel you have a concern, **go directly to Jackie Hammond, as opposed to venting your frustrations to other parents, performers, etc.** That never helps anyone and doesn't fit our mission. We are all here to enjoy what can be given back to the community through the arts and there's no time for this type of behavior. Let's connect directly, solve an issue and move forward!
- ✓ **Honoring Commitment** We are able to work around the MTA Calendar, and school conflicts such as choir, dance, and band concerts. In addition, we will work with your private vocal or instrument lessons and studio dance schedules. Unfortunately, we are unable to work with schedules from other performance troupes as the schedules tend to overlap and it is a conflict of interest. For example, a person would not be on two competitive club soccer teams simultaneously. Thank you for your understanding and realizing the importance of honoring your commitments.

Expectations

- Attend 80% of Outreach gigs (not including ones that fall during the school day).
- \$300 annual participation fee due when the contract is turned in and signed. This breaks down to \$25/month. Please let us know if you need a payment plan.
- **Perform** in a minimum of 3 MTA Productions per season (which can include one of the summer shows of the 2023-24 Season) and perform in the Holiday Show (\$150 tuition fee 1-2 performances at MTA on one day, touring opportunities) – Dec 13 (Tech/Dress), Dec 14 (Performance). Please note that Tech, Apprenticeships, or Stage Managing does not count toward one of the shows. The Outreach Group is a performance-related troupe, so participating in the shows will help your growth as a performer. If your schedule does not allow for you to participate in 3 shows, the Board has approved a buyout in place of ONE of the shows. This buyout option is available for \$375.
- Participate in SPAI 2023 (August 3-6) – SPAI will be presented convention-style with multiple elective options and a performance component of snippets of our season. It is important for your growth as a performer, as well as establishing our group.
- Participate in two Fundraisers – Bowl-a-thon (7/22) and another TBD Fundraiser (TBD)
- Attend and perform at the Benefit Performance/Season Announcement (Planned for March 2, but date will be solidified by August) with at least one parent. It will also be the parent’s responsibility to help with some sort of aspect or committee regarding the event and will be responsible for donating items up to \$75 for the annual Benefit.
- Attend other MTA shows to support fellow cast members not in your age group. Many of the kids already do this.
- Volunteering at events and shows
- Parent volunteers in a larger role such as Show Coordinator, House Manager, Box Office, Usher, etc.
- Social Media – RSVP to Facebook Events, **respond and like posts (daily, or every other), comment on IG, like/comment on TikToks**, tweet/retweet on Twitter, and be willing to participate in our social media videos like TikTok videos or IG takeovers. Responses and likes to MTA’s social media posts help to increase visibility and spread those posts to others.
- Stepping Down from Outreach - If an Outreach member is getting poor grades at school and can't participate in all shows required, then that member will need to step down from Outreach. If a family vacation occurs during any show, you need to plan around these events to meet the participation requirements or step down from Outreach.

Fundraisers

- **Bowl-a-thon 7/22** – each participant needs to register (\$30 which includes the lane fee and shoes) and raise \$250 in sponsors. There will be fabulous prizes! *** "Buy-out" option available **if you are out of town ONLY** for \$300 as this is an event where you are encouraged to fundraise and participate for the team building, fun and camaraderie.
- TBD Fundraiser where each member will be required to raise around \$250.
- Try to get donations from local businesses for us to use for Baskets, etc.

Exciting Events!

- **First Rehearsal/Lock-in** – Planned for 7/22-7/23
- **Optional Potential Trip** – MTCA, Disney, NYC?
- See “Potential Outreach Gig Dates Doc” for other performance-related events

Timeline

- **4/12 - Auditions**
- **5/1 - Audition Results**
- **5/15 - Outreach Meeting with Families and Invoices Sent**
- **6/1 – Contract and Payment Due**
- **7/22 - First Rehearsal, Bowl-a-thon, Lock-in, and Ambassadors Announced**
- **7/23 - Lock-in Pick-up**

I accept the rules of this contract and understand that if I do not follow through on my commitments that I may be dismissed from MTA’s 2023-24 Outreach Group.

X _____
Performer Signature

X _____
Parent Signature

Date