

Spring Musical Tech Crew FAQs

Seussical the Musical | Spring 2027

We are so excited to begin preparing for another spring musical! While our actors bring the story to life onstage, our tech crew makes the magic happen behind the scenes!

From moving scenery and managing props to running lights, sound, costumes, and everything in between, our tech crew is an essential part of bringing *Seussical* to life.

Being part of tech crew is an exciting opportunity to learn new skills, make friends, take on leadership responsibilities, and experience the magic of theatre from a completely different perspective.

However, it is also a significant responsibility. **Our tech crew members are held to high standards of professionalism, dependability, teamwork, and commitment.**

Please read through the following information carefully before applying.

Tech Crew: 6th–12th Grade
Performances: April 10 & 11, 2027
Mandatory Production Dates: April 2–3 and April 5–11, 2027 (except House Crew)

Before You Apply: Three Important Things to Know

We want tech crew to be a wonderful experience for everyone involved! Before applying, please make sure you understand these three important expectations:

1. **Be honest about your availability.** We make crew assignments based in part on student availability. All potential conflicts must be disclosed before assignments are made, and students must be available for their required rehearsals, training, and performances.
2. **Be prepared to work!** Tech crew is not a place to hang out with friends or watch the show. Every crew member has a specific job, and the success and safety of our production depend on everyone taking those responsibilities seriously.
3. **Be willing to accept your assigned position.** Students may indicate their preferences, but crew assignments are made based on experience, availability, and the needs of the production. By applying, you are committing to accept the position you are assigned.

We love working with students who are enthusiastic, dependable, willing to learn, and excited to be part of something bigger than themselves!

APPLICATIONS & SELECTION

Who can apply for tech crew?

Students in **6th-12th grade** are eligible to apply for tech crew.

You do not need to have previous technical theatre experience to participate!

We welcome students with a variety of interests and abilities. Whether you're interested in technology, organization, leadership, fashion, problem-solving, or simply love theatre, there may be a place for you behind the scenes!

How do I apply for tech crew?

Students interested in participating must complete the **Tech Crew Application** by the posted deadline.

Please carefully review the application and provide complete, accurate information about your interests, experience, and availability.

Does everyone who applies get a position on tech crew?

No. Tech crew positions are limited, and not every applicant will be selected.

Our spring musical is a large production that requires a focused, dependable, and dedicated team.

We carefully consider each applicant's experience, availability, attitude, willingness to learn, and ability to handle the responsibilities of the position.

We are looking for students who are ready to take their responsibilities seriously and contribute to a professional, successful production.

Being selected for tech crew is an opportunity and a responsibility, and we have high expectations for every student who joins our team.

Do I need previous technical theatre experience?

Not at all! Beginners are welcome!

While experience can be helpful for certain positions, we also love giving students opportunities to learn something new.

Students will receive training for their assigned responsibilities, so you do not need to know how to operate a soundboard, run lighting cues, or manage backstage transitions before applying.

What matters most is your willingness to listen, learn, follow directions, and work hard.

Can I choose which crew position I want?

Students will have the opportunity to **rank their preferred crew positions** on the application.

We do our best to consider your interests, but assignments are ultimately based on student experience, availability, and the needs of the production.

By applying for tech crew, you are agreeing to accept and fulfill the responsibilities of the position you are assigned.

TECH CREW POSITIONS

What positions are available?

There are several different ways to be involved in the technical side of *Seussical*. Each position plays an important role in making the show a success!

Stage Manager / Assistant Stage Manager

Stage managers are the director's right-hand helpers and play a critical leadership role throughout the rehearsal and performance process.

Responsibilities may include:

- Assisting the director during rehearsals
- Managing and organizing the backstage run crew
- Communicating with the director and other crew members through the communication system

- Calling backstage cues
- Assisting with scene changes and special effects
- Helping solve problems quickly and efficiently

This position is a great fit for students with strong leadership, organization, communication, and problem-solving skills.

Stage management requires a greater time commitment than most other crew positions because stage managers are involved throughout the rehearsal process.

Run Crew

Run crew members are the people who make the onstage magic happen!

They are responsible for the movement of scenery, props, and other technical elements throughout the performance.

Responsibilities may include:

- Moving scenic units and set pieces
- Setting and striking props
- Assisting with scene transitions
- Helping execute backstage special effects
- Keeping backstage areas organized and ready for the next scene

This position is a great fit for students who enjoy hands-on work, problem-solving, teamwork, and staying active.

Sound Crew

Sound crew helps make sure every word, song, and sound effect can be heard by the audience.

Responsibilities may include:

- Preparing and testing microphones
- Assisting with microphone placement and changes
- Running sound effects and music cues
- Working with the director to test and adjust sound
- Monitoring sound throughout rehearsals and performances

This position is a great fit for students with a good ear for music, strong concentration skills, attention to detail, and an interest in sound technology.

Lighting Crew

Lighting crew helps create the mood, atmosphere, and visual storytelling of the production.

Responsibilities may include:

- Operating the lighting board
- Running lighting cues throughout the show
- Operating spotlights
- Working with the director to create and execute lighting effects
- Maintaining focus and timing throughout performances

This position is a great fit for students who have strong concentration skills, excellent attention to detail, and an interest in learning about theatrical lighting.

House Crew

House crew is responsible for making sure our audience has a wonderful experience from the moment they enter the theatre.

Responsibilities may include:

- Decorating the lobby.
- Selling merchandise and tickets.
- Cleaning and resetting the house between performances
- Preparing and distributing programs
- Helping audience members find seats
- Working with the director to ensure the house opens on time

This position is a great fit for students who are organized, friendly, responsible, and enjoy helping others.

House crew has a different schedule from the rest of the technical team. Please see the scheduling section below for details.

Style Crew

The Style Crew is responsible for the production's hair, makeup, and costume needs.

Responsibilities may include:

- Assisting performers with hair and makeup

- Preparing costumes before performances
- Helping with costume changes
- Assisting with top-of-show dressing
- Performing costume checks following dress rehearsals and performances
- Helping maintain an organized costume and dressing area

This position is a great fit for students who are creative, detail-oriented, organized, and interested in hair, makeup, fashion, or costume design.

SCHEDULING & ATTENDANCE

When does tech crew begin working?

Unlike actors, most tech crew members are not needed during the early stages of the rehearsal process.

The time commitment depends on the position you are assigned.

Stage Managers: Stage managers are needed throughout the rehearsal process, beginning in January. They are expected to have stage management coverage at every rehearsal and will typically coordinate their schedules among themselves to accomplish this.

Run Crew, Sound Crew, Lighting Crew, and Style Crew: These crew members generally begin working closer to the performances when we start incorporating technical elements into rehearsals.

House Crew: House crew is not required until opening day, April 10, although members are welcome to attend earlier production dates to help.

Will I have to attend every rehearsal?

No! Tech crew members are only expected to attend rehearsals when they are specifically called.

The number of rehearsals you attend will depend on your assigned position and the needs of the production.

However, all crew members must attend their required rehearsals, training sessions, and mandatory production dates.

What dates are mandatory for tech crew?

The following dates are **MANDATORY for all crew members EXCEPT House Crew**.

All Run Crew, Sound Crew, Lighting Crew, Style Crew, and Stage Management members must be available for the entirety of their required commitments on these dates.House Crew Exception: House crew is only required to attend on **Saturday, April 10, and Sunday, April 11**, for the performances. House crew members are welcome to attend any of the other dates to help, but are not required to do so.

Please review these dates carefully before applying.

Friday, April 2nd - MANDATORY
Saturday, April 3rd - MANDATORY
Monday, April 5th - MANDATORY
Tuesday, April 6th - MANDATORY
Wednesday, April 7th - MANDATORY
Thursday, April 8th - MANDATORY
Friday, April 9th - MANDATORY
Saturday, April 10th - MANDATORY
Sunday, April 11th - MANDATORY

Why is attendance during tech week so important?

Tech week is when all the pieces of our production come together!

Throughout the rehearsal process, actors learn music, choreography, and blocking. During tech week, we bring together the performers, scenery, lighting, microphones, costumes, props, and backstage crew to create the finished show.

This is an especially important time for our technical team because it is when crew members get to practice and perfect the jobs they will be doing during performances.

There are two major reasons attendance is so important:

1. SAFETY

A theatrical production involves moving scenery, changing lighting, backstage traffic, costume changes, cables, equipment, and many people working together in a relatively small space.

Tech week is when we practice all of these moving parts together so everyone knows exactly where they need to be, what they need to do, and how to do it safely.

If a crew member is absent, we cannot properly rehearse the transitions and movements involving that person. This can create confusion and potentially unsafe situations for everyone involved.

2. EVERYONE DEPENDS ON EVERYONE ELSE

Theatre is an incredibly collaborative art form. Every crew member has a specific job, and those jobs are connected. When even one person is missing, it can prevent others from doing their jobs effectively.

For example:

- **Sound Crew:** If a sound crew member is absent, microphones may not be properly tested, sound levels cannot be accurately adjusted, and the team misses valuable opportunities to practice microphone changes and sound cues.
- **Lighting Crew:** If a lighting crew member is absent, lighting cues may not be executed at the correct times, making it difficult for the director and other crew members to evaluate and perfect the lighting for each scene.
- **Run Crew:** If a run crew member is absent, scenery and props may not be moved or placed correctly. Other crew members cannot safely practice their assigned transitions without everyone involved being present.
- **Style Crew:** If a style crew member is absent, costume changes, hair, and makeup may not be completed on schedule. Quick changes are especially important to practice because every second counts during a live performance!
- **Stage Managers:** If a stage manager is absent, the team loses a key person responsible for coordinating backstage activity, communicating cues, and keeping the production running smoothly. Other crew members cannot properly practice responding to cues without that leadership and communication.

Every crew member is part of a larger team, and your absence doesn't just affect your job—it affects everyone who depends on you.

During tech week, we aren't simply practicing individual responsibilities. We are learning how to work together as one coordinated team. Every cue, transition, and technical element must happen at exactly the right moment.

This is why being present for every mandatory rehearsal is so important. We cannot properly rehearse a show when pieces of our team are missing!

What if I have scheduling conflicts?

We understand that our students participate in many different activities, and we love having well-rounded students involved in our Fine Arts program!

However, it is **extremely important that ALL potential conflicts are disclosed on your application BEFORE crew assignments are made.**

Please do not withhold conflicts because you are worried they might affect your chances of receiving a particular position.

We would much rather know about your commitments ahead of time so we can make appropriate assignments and plan accordingly.

Intentionally withholding conflicts is unprofessional and may affect future opportunities to participate in our productions.

While we try to be flexible with scheduling when possible, mandatory rehearsals, required training, and performances are non-negotiable.

What if I get sick during tech week?

We understand that illness happens, and sickness is considered an excused absence.

However, **a doctor's note is required for illness-related absences during mandatory rehearsals.**

Please communicate with Mrs. Shockley as soon as possible if you are ill.

EXPECTATIONS & PROFESSIONALISM

What makes a great tech crew member?

Technical theatre requires much more than simply knowing how to operate equipment or move scenery.

Some of the most important qualities we look for are:

- **Dependability:** We need to know that you will show up when you're supposed to and follow through on your responsibilities.
- **Responsibility:** You understand that your job matters and take ownership of doing it well.
- **Willingness to Learn:** You listen to instructions, accept feedback, and are open to learning new skills.
- **Teamwork:** You can collaborate with others, communicate respectfully, and help create a positive working environment.
- **Ability to Work Under Pressure:** Live theatre doesn't always go exactly as planned! We need students who can stay calm, focused, and ready to solve problems.

- **Professionalism:** You understand when it's time to have fun and when it's time to focus on the job at hand.

You don't have to know everything when you join tech crew, but you do have to be willing to work hard, learn, and take your responsibilities seriously.

Is tech crew a good option if I just want to hang out with my friends?

No. Tech crew is a working environment, not a social club.

We absolutely want students to have fun, make friends, and enjoy the experience! Some of the best friendships are formed while working together on a production.

However, every crew member has a specific responsibility, and we depend on each person to take that responsibility seriously.

Backstage, it is especially important that students remain focused, follow instructions, and avoid distractions. Someone not paying attention can cause missed cues, disrupted performances, damaged equipment, or even unsafe situations.

We can have fun AND work hard, but when it's time to work, we expect everyone to be focused and professional.

What happens if a tech crew member isn't meeting expectations?

Being selected for tech crew comes with a responsibility to the entire production.

We expect crew members to:

- Attend all required rehearsals, training sessions, and performances
- Arrive on time and prepared to work
- Follow directions from the director and crew leadership
- Complete their assigned responsibilities
- Treat cast members, fellow crew members, and adults with respect
- Work cooperatively with others
- Remain focused and professional during rehearsals and performances

We reserve the right to dismiss students from tech crew if they are unable or unwilling to meet these expectations.

This includes repeated attendance issues, failure to complete assigned responsibilities, disruptive behavior, or an inability to work respectfully and cooperatively with others.

Our goal is not to create an intimidating environment. We want students to learn, grow, and enjoy being part of the production!

However, live theatre requires trust, responsibility, and teamwork. Every person needs to be able to depend on the people around them.

Being part of tech crew is a privilege, and we expect students to treat it that way.

PARTICIPATION COSTS & PRODUCTION EVENTS

Is there a cost to participate in tech crew?

Tech crew members are only responsible for the cost of their **Crew T-shirt**.

Do tech crew members participate in photos and other production activities?

Absolutely! Tech crew is part of our theatre family!

Tech crew members participate in production activities, including:

- Headshots
- Cast and crew photos
- Other applicable production celebrations and events

We want our technical team to feel just as much a part of the production as the performers onstage.

After all, there would be no show without the incredible people working behind the scenes!

Are tech crew members required at all performances?

YES!

All tech crew members must be available for both performance dates:

Saturday, April 10, 2027
Sunday, April 11, 2027

Please do not apply unless you can commit to your required production dates.

What is strike, and am I required to stay?

YES! Strike is mandatory for ALL cast and crew members.

Strike is the process of taking down, cleaning up, and putting away everything used during our production. It takes place **immediately following our final performance on Sunday, April 11.**

Every cast and crew member will receive a checklist of responsibilities that must be completed before leaving. These tasks may include putting away costumes and props, organizing equipment, cleaning backstage areas, and helping return our performance spaces to their original condition.

Here's the most important part: WE WILL ALL LEAVE TOGETHER AS A TEAM!

Finishing your personal checklist does **not** mean you're finished working. If you've completed your assigned tasks, your next job is to find someone who needs help and jump in!

Strike is **not** about finishing your own responsibilities as quickly as possible so you can leave. It's about working together to finish the job as a team.

Please plan for strike to take up to TWO HOURS following Sunday's performance. All cast and crew members are expected to remain until the entire team has finished, and we are dismissed together.

We've worked together for months to create this production, and we're going to work together to wrap it up.

And there's something fun to look forward to! After strike, we typically go out to dinner together as a cast and crew to celebrate everything we've accomplished. It's a fun tradition and a wonderful way to wrap up the show with our theatre family! Dinner is optional.

We start together, we work together, we FINISH STRONG together.

SPOTLIGHT AWARDS



What are the Spotlight Awards, and is tech crew involved?

Each year, we submit our spring musical for adjudication through the **Spotlight Awards**, Nashville's high school musical theatre awards program.

This is an exciting opportunity for our students and our production to be recognized for their hard work, both onstage and behind the scenes!

Spotlight Awards Ceremony
Sunday, May 16, 2027
Tennessee Performing Arts Center (TPAC)

Our production may be invited to perform at the Spotlight Awards as a cast.

Tech crew members are not required to attend the Spotlight Awards, but they are invited and encouraged to participate!

We would love for our crew members to be there to celebrate the production and support their fellow cast and crew members.

Please save May 16, 2027, on your calendar! While attendance is optional for tech crew, we hope you'll be able to join us for this exciting event.