



## JTF GUIDEBOOK 2026

Pack your bags because we're heading to the Junior Theatre Festival – the largest celebration of children's theatre in the world. We're so excited to be bringing a group to this incredible conference. It will be an experience unlike any other where memories will be made that will last a lifetime.

### Resource Page:

<https://www.memphisfirefly.org/jtf26>



### Group Communication:

Join GroupMe: [https://groupme.com/join\\_group/110700767/XW2wE49o](https://groupme.com/join_group/110700767/XW2wE49o)



**\*\*Get the Junior Theater Festival App\*\***

## **Festival Participants:**

### **Students:**

1. Bennett Arant
2. Greyson Beyl
3. Emma Conway
4. Hannah Conway
5. Daniel Horlings
6. Lucy Horlings
7. William Horlings
8. Emmy Kate Lundgren
9. Ricki Lundgren
10. Ryleigh Lundgren
11. Aveline Rahaim
12. Ezra Rahaim
13. Wesley Stancil
14. Keller Stockdale
15. Walker Stockdale
16. Elyse Thornbury
17. Abbey Wells
18. Bella Wells

### **Chaperones:**

1. Allen or Lindsay Arant
2. Jenny Beyl
3. Karen Conway
4. Lauren Culpepper
5. Kristin Horlings
6. Brandon Kelly
7. Lindsay Kelly
8. Willow Kelly
9. Christen Lundgren
10. Rachel Moore
11. Linda Rahaim
12. Jessica Quinn
13. Jessica Stancil
14. Kathryn Stockdale
15. Kati Thornbury
16. Kristina Warren
17. Sara Wells
18. Mikki Weddle

**Rehearsals: \*Attendance is mandatory for all rehearsals\***

**Friday, December 12: 9 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

*(memorization required; any dance videos will be provided in advance and those should be memorized as well)*

**Friday, January 9: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

**Tuesday, January 13: 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

**Wednesday, January 14: 2:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.,** followed by a Friends and Family Preview Performance at 5:00 p.m.

### **Conference Dates:**

Friday, January 16th - **MUST be at hotel by 2 p.m.** (note: there is a time change!)

Saturday January 17th - All-day conference

Sunday, January 18th - All-day conference; conference ends that evening

Monday, January 19th - Everyone leaves and checks out by 11 a.m.

# JUNIOR THEATER FESTIVAL ATLANTA SCHEDULE 2026

Schedule subject to change.

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 15

5:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Festival Sign-In	Waverly/Cobb Campus
5:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Group Rehearsals	Waverly/Cobb Campus
5:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Group Photos	Waverly/Cobb Campus

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 16

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Festival Sign-In	Split Campus - Waverly/Cobb and Marriott Northwest
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Group Rehearsals	Split Campus - Waverly/Cobb and Marriott Northwest
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Group Photos	Split Campus - Waverly/Cobb and Marriott Northwest
4:00 PM - 4:45 PM	PD Sign-In	Waverly - Highlands Ballroom
5:00 PM - 5:30 PM	<i>Festival Kick-Off!</i>	The Broadway Junior Theatre
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM	Dinner/Transportation Break	On Your Own
7:30 PM - 9:30 PM	Adjudication Rotations	Split Campus - Waverly/Cobb and Marriott Northwest
7:30 PM - 9:30 PM	<i>Oh, The Places You'll Go!</i> Panels	Split Campus - Cobb and Marriott Playhouses

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 17

8:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Adjudication Rotations	Split Campus - Waverly/Cobb and Marriott Northwest
8:00 AM - 12:15 PM	<i>Oh, The Places You'll Go!</i> Panels	Split Campus - Cobb and Marriott Playhouses
12:30 PM - 2:00 PM	Lunch	On Your Own
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Student and Teacher Workshops	Split Campus - Waverly/Cobb and Marriott Northwest
2:00 PM - 2:45 PM	Music Master Class	The Cobb Playhouse
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	iTheatrics Video Auditions	Split Campus - Waverly/Cobb and Marriott Northwest
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM	<i>Why We Tell The Story</i>	The Cobb Playhouse
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Transportation Break	On Your Own
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	<i>Direct From Broadway</i>	The Broadway Junior Theatre
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Dinner	On Your Own
8:00 PM - 9:30 PM	<i>New Works Showcase</i>	The Broadway Junior Theatre

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

8:00 AM - 9:30 AM	iTheatrics Video Callbacks	Waverly - Ballrooms
8:00 AM - 9:30 AM	Tech Olympics	Split Campus - Waverly/Cobb and Marriott Northwest
9:00 AM - 9:30 AM	Social Media Ambassador Workshop	The Cobb Playhouse
10:00 AM - 10:45 AM	Music Master Class	The Cobb Playhouse
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Student and Teacher Workshops	Split Campus - Waverly/Cobb and Marriott Northwest
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	All-Star Workshops	Split Campus - Waverly/Cobb and Marriott Northwest
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	<i>Why We Tell The Story</i>	The Cobb Playhouse
12:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Lunch/Transportation Break	On Your Own
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM	<i>Growin' Up Broadway!</i>	The Broadway Junior Theatre
3:00 PM - 4:30 PM	<i>Freddie G Awards Ceremony</i>	The Broadway Junior Theatre
4:30 PM - 8:00 PM	Dinner	On Your Own
8:00 PM - 9:00 PM	<i>JTF Concert</i>	The Broadway Junior Theater

## Hotel Information

### Comfort Inn Kennesaw ~

2489 George Busbee Pkwy NW, Kennesaw, GA 30144

12 Double Rooms, non-smoking.

\*Free Breakfast

\*Free Outdoor Parking

#### ROOMING:

##### 1. Arant Family

**Student(s):** Bennett Arant

**Chaperone(s):** Allen or Lindsay Arant

##### 2. Conway Family

**Student(s):** Emma Conway, Hannah

Conway

**Chaperone(s):** Karen Conway

##### 3. Horlings Family

**Student(s):** Daniel Horlings, Lucy Horlings,  
William Horlings

**Chaperone(s):** Kristin Horlings

##### 4. Lundgren Family

**Student(s):** Ryleigh Lundgren, Emmy Kate  
Lundgren, Ricki Lundgren

**Chaperone(s):** Lauren Culpepper, Cece  
Lundgren

##### 5. Rahaim Family

**Student(s):** Aveline Rahaim, Ezra Rahaim

**Chaperone(s):** Linda Rahaim, Jessica Quinn

##### 6. Stockdale Family

**Student(s):** Keller Stockdale, Walker  
Stockdale

**Chaperone(s):** Kathryn Stockdale

##### 7. Thornbury Family

**Student(s):** Elyse Thornbury

**Chaperone(s):** Kati Thornbury

##### 8. Beyl Family

**Student(s):** Greyson Beyl

**Chaperone(s):** Jenny Beyl

##### 9. Weddle and Warren Family

**Student(s):** —

**Chaperone(s):** Kristina Warren, Mikki  
Weddle

##### 10. Wells Family

**Student(s):** Abbey Wells, Bella Wells

**Chaperone(s):** Sara Wells

##### 11. OAKLEY

**Student(s):** —

**Chaperone(s):** Oakley

##### 12. STANCIL

**Student(s):** Wesley Stancil

**Chaperone(s):** Jessica Stancil

## **Food Information**

Everybody paid \$100 for included meals. That will consist of two lunches and two dinners. *Thank you, Cece Lundgren for organizing & overseeing our food!*

**FRIDAY DINNER:** OLIVE GARDEN

**SATURDAY DINNER:** MOE'S TACO BAR

**SATURDAY LUNCH:** COSTCO SANDWICH TRAY, CHIPS, COOKIES

**SUNDAY LUNCH:** COSTCO – TBD

**SUNDAY NIGHT:** ON YOUR OWN!

**Snacks:** We are hopefully to get some snacks donated for the conference, but if you're willing to donate or know someone who would, please do so!

**Water:** Everyone will need to bring a reusable water bottle for refills. We will also be bringing cases of water.

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### **Parking at Conference Center:**

Park at Renaissance Waverly Hotel: \$35. Cheaper parking a bit of a walk away. Let's discuss carpooling here.

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### **What to Pack:**

A more specific packing list will be provided to you in early January.

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I am so excited about JTF! It's going to be unforgettable. I can't wait to see these kids shine, learn, and connect with others from all over the world.

### **-Oakley Weddle**

*The following is JTF's Wristband Policy and a letter from iTheatrics's CEO about how to best help your kids and the Firefly Creative Team.*

# WRISTBAND POLICY

Every person who attends JTF is required to wear a wristband at all times. This will allow festival staff to ensure only those who are registered with a group can gain access to festival events, maintaining the safety of all in attendance.

**READ THIS ENTIRE PAGE CAREFULLY, AND MAKE SURE EVERY PARTICIPANT IN YOUR GROUP IS AWARE OF THIS POLICY.**

- At Festival Sign-In, directors will receive the wristbands for your entire group. We recommend teaching chaperones how to apply the wristband and then have them apply the wristbands to all of your students.
- Wristbands **MUST** be worn for entry into all festival events.
- Wristbands will not be available for purchase at the festival. All attendees must be registered with a group and paid in advance in order to receive a wristband.
- Wristbands feature a one-time-use, snap closure designed to last for the entire weekend. This closure will break if tampered with, making the wristband unusable.
- Wristbands **MUST** be worn securely on the wrist and cannot be slipped on and off.
- Wristbands are **NON-TRANSFERABLE** and **NON-REPLACEABLE**.
- If your wristband is faulty or breaks unexpectedly over the weekend, the person to whom that wristband belongs must bring the pieces of that wristband to the Info Booth. Festival staff will place a new wristband on their wrist.
- Wristbands are durable plastic and will not be damaged in the shower.
- In the rare case of medical conditions, such as a plastic allergy, JTF will make alternate arrangements. Please notify festival staff immediately.

**QUICK TIP:** Leave one index finger distance of space between your wrist and the wristband for comfort and security.

**THERE ARE ABSOLUTELY NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS WRISTBAND POLICY.**



**Dear Junior Theater Festival Chaperones,**

JTF® brings together kids from all over the globe to celebrate musical theatre. And we couldn't do it without chaperones like you! Your assistance will truly make a difference for the students in your group. And by the way, you are going to have an incredible experience, too!

We care about student safety. Therefore, your main responsibility is to make sure there are chaperones with your students at all times. There must be one (1) chaperone per every four (4) students at almost all festival events. If you have more chaperones than are necessary, that is wonderful! Consider creating a schedule so each of you can take a break when needed. You do not need to chaperone students who attend the iTheatrics Video Auditions/Callbacks or the All-Star workshops, although you are welcome to walk your students to these events.

When the director or leader of your group comes to Festival Sign-In, they will receive an official group schedule detailing the exact times and locations of each event specific to your group for the entire weekend. This schedule will clarify where you and your group need to be at all times. Also, be sure to download the JTF App. Your group's schedule will be there, too!

Other chaperone responsibilities include making sure your students put their best foot forward all weekend and are respectful throughout the festival as both participants and audience members. Please make sure they are in their hotel rooms and in bed by a reasonable time and honor all hotel rules.

By the way, while awards are a part of the Junior Theater Festival, this is not a competition. Anything you can do to encourage celebration over competition assists in creating a positive atmosphere and a successful JTF.

And lastly, please be supportive of your group's creative team. Many times while you are chaperoning, your creative team will be attending workshops and training. For them to get the most out of these opportunities, it's important they know their kids are representing them and their community well. This training helps them create a stronger musical theatre program in your community. You are all working together to create a positive and incredible experience for your students that will follow you home. Don't forget to thank your creative team and fellow chaperones with a bottle of water, words of encouragement, or a pat on the back.

Thank you for making this commitment and ensuring that JTF 2026 is a smashing success. We look forward to seeing you in January.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy Allen McDonald". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Timothy Allen McDonald  
Junior Theater Festival Founder