

# Talent Shows for Fun & Fundraising



## Inside this eBook:

Ideas for how to organize a school or camp talent show

Suggestions for acts, behind the scenes support, and planning

Tips for how to get everyone involved!

A FREE VolunteerSpot eBook

Please feel free to post this eBook on your blog or email it to whomever you believe would benefit from reading it.

**THANK YOU!**

**~ Team VolunteerSpot**

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## VolunteerSpot Philosophy

At VolunteerSpot, we believe that volunteers should be rewarded for stepping forward and sharing their time and talents with those in need. All too often, volunteering means putting up with a certain amount of hassle or frustration – whether that is late night emails, reply-all messages, reminder phone calls, or searching for a parking space. Our sponsors enable us to provide FREE tools that simplify volunteering, powering your good work in schools and clubs, in your congregation and neighborhoods. We can't find you a parking space, but with VolunteerSpot, DOING GOOD just got easier!



# Talent Shows are FUN!

Many schools, camps, and organizations hold talent shows every year because they are fun, involve the community, and give students a chance to show off their special skills. We've collected information to help you plan your talent show and we hope you will find some ideas to make your next event a success!



“The Talent Show keeps our kids buzzing all year - thinking up of new acts and practicing together on the playground.”

~ Ms. M.  
Principal, Austin, TX

# How to Plan a Talent Show

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# Why a Talent Show?

## **For the school community:**

There is nothing more fun or memorable to students than to see their friends celebrated front-and-center!

## **For the participants:**

Participating in a talent show gives all students recognition for non-academic talents. It also provides character-building lessons during try-outs, practice and performance. In middle and high school, student production teams get to showcase their staging, sound and lighting skills. It's a wonderful teambuilding experience for all ages.

## **For the parents/parent association:**

Talent shows are a fun opportunity for parents to partner with performing arts teachers, administrators, and other parents. Many schools use talent shows to raise money by selling tickets, t-shirts and concessions.



# Getting Started

A talent show is a great way to celebrate the performing talents of students. Here are some tips that will help you organize a talent show.

**Organize a committee** of students, parents, local business owners and teachers. The committee is responsible for overseeing the planning, promotion and implementation of the talent show.

**Choose the date.** Be careful not to pick dates around exams or school-wide testing! Reserve a space to hold the show, notify the administrators, and get yourself on the calendar.

**Recruit willing performers.**



# Getting Started (cont'd)























**Recruit non-performers to help.** Keep a list of people who want to participate but not perform, along with their particular skills and interests.

**Publicize your event.** Ask students to make posters and hang them around the school, and around town.

**Schedule auditions.** Auditions encourage students to prepare their routine, and allow the organizer to screen for potential problems or inappropriate acts. Limit acts to 2 or 3 minutes. Use a bell or gong to indicate when time is up.

# Save time, Plan your Talent Show Online with VolunteerSpot

VolunteerSpot Sign Up for Wednesday 07/29/2009 Save & Close ✕

	<b>Snack parents</b> Drop off snacks for the kids backstage - each person brings 2 dozen snacks		 2 Open  0 Filled	<a href="#">Sign Up Here!</a> 2 Items Available
	<b>Setup Team</b> Decorate the gym and put out chairs	1:00 pm	 10 Open  0 Filled	<a href="#">Sign Up Here!</a> 10 Spots Available
	<b>Stage Team</b> Prepare props, test sound and lighting	1:30 pm	 6 Open  2 Filled	<b>Signed Up</b> 2 spots   ✕
	<b>Concessions Team</b> Supervise the kids who are selling stuff	1:45 pm	 3 Open  0 Filled	<a href="#">Sign Up Here!</a> 3 Spots Available
	<b>Stage Parent</b> Keep kids calm and organized back stage	1:45 pm	 4 Open  0 Filled	<a href="#">Sign Up Here!</a> 4 Spots Available
	<b>Cleanup Team</b> Leave no evidence behind	3:15 pm	 10 Open  0 Filled	<a href="#">Sign Up Here!</a> 10 Spots Available

Save & Close

VolunteerSpot's simple online scheduler makes it easy to get the help you need. One-click sign-ups and automated confirmations and reminders help everyone keep their commitments.





Ask teachers and staff to support the talent show by allowing students to practice during lunch or after school.

# It's all in the Details

- **Backstage** – where will acts wait until it's their turn?
- **Production Planning**
  - Staging – What equipment is needed for each act, how will it get to where it needs to be?
  - Sound – Who will start/stop recorded music? Will live music be picked up by the audio system? Who's responsible for sound checks?
  - Lights – What are lighting needs? Who's responsible for lighting checks?
  - Timing -- Decide who will keep track of time. Have a plan for what to do if an act goes over.
- **Food** – How long is rehearsal? Will students and teachers need refreshments? Are concessions going to be sold during the show?
- **Supervision** – Who will be in charge of making sure everyone is ready when it's their turn?
- **Stage Fright** – Do you have a plan if some of the kids get scared? (for younger kids, keeping a bag of 'courage pellets' (candy) handy can help.
- **Tickets** – Will patrons need tickets? Will they be sold ahead of time, or at the door, or both?
- **Grand Finale:** Will all performers be invited back up on stage?
- **Judging & prizes:** Decide if there will be a competition. If so, what is the process for quickly scoring results and announcing winners?
- **Appreciation:** Decide how the staff, parents and students that helped with the show will be recognized.
- **Set up/Clean up:** Recruit volunteers to both set up and clean up the stage and auditorium.

# Turning your Talent Show into a Fundraiser



**Sell T-shirts, food, glow bracelets, etc.**

**Sell advertising for the printed program and Sponsor Banners to be prominently posted near the stage**

**Sell tickets – either at the door, or ahead of time**

**Sell flowers, ribbons, or other favors for the audience to give the performers**

**Record the performance and sell DVDs - either a high school student, parent , or professional can record and edit the DVD**

**Create a photo-book and sell copies**

# Spreading the Word



**Fliers.** Hand out information about your talent Show to everyone you know. Be sure to include the date, time, location and what kinds of performances you will have.

**Print and web.** Ask your local newspaper, church, school newsletter and websites to run a free announcement about your Talent Show. Be sure to include the day, time, and address.

**Posters.** Have kids help make colorful signs with the date, time, location. The more posters you put up on telephone poles, at school, and at nearby businesses, the better. If you have corporate sponsors, be sure to list them.

**Word of mouth.** Tell all your friends and their parents.

# Creative Bonus Acts

- If students are looking for ideas for their performance, suggest these **non-traditional talents**:
  - Double-dutch jump-roping
  - Extreme hula-hooping
  - Gymnastics or yoga
  - Basketball tricks
  - Original monologues or poetry
  - Pet tricks
  - Hand claps
- **Ethnic showcase** – Some students may want to share music, dance and traditions related to their native heritage
- **Teacher talent** – Adding one or two teachers to the show can be very well received. One elementary school teacher dressed as a popular teen Pop Star and had three other teachers perform as her backup dancers. Students waved signs in preparation for the Star's big number and the crowd went wild!





# Program Tips

Keep attention levels high -- stagger your acts so all the singers, dancers and musicians are distributed throughout the show.

Recruit one or more students to pepper jokes in-between acts to keep the audience engaged and give stage hands time to setup.

Find an outgoing student who is willing to announce the acts and thank them for their performance. This person can experiment with different costumes or hats.

**Think about creating a 'half-time' number. This act is choreographed to include a large number of students and typically involves a dance and/or song related to the show's theme.**

# Before the Show - Preparations

**Prepare for the show. Many of the acts will require music. Create a digital master mix or CD with all of the songs in order, according to how they'll appear on the stage. Then create several more copies, in case you misplace the master.**

**Decorate the stage, set up the lights, check the sound system.**

**Run at least one dress rehearsal, and tech rehearsal. Everyone should go through their acts quickly and in the correct order, so that the stage hands know when they need to move a mike, plug in a spot or cue a CD. The bigger the show, the more important the technical aspect becomes.**

**Enjoy the show!**

“Our school holds a Talent Show every year. The kids, teachers and parents, look forward to it - it's a fun way for kids to showcase their gifts!”

~ Ms. S.

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher,  
Lansing, MI



Talent shows are great for kids because it gives all kids a chance to participate either on stage or behind the scenes.

With a few simple clicks, VolunteerSpot can help you organize your next talent Show – and it's free!

Just log on to [www.Volunteerspot.com](http://www.Volunteerspot.com) to get started!



# Concession Ideas

- Popcorn
- Snow-cones
- Hot dogs/burgers
- Cotton candy
- Drinks
- Peanuts
- Cookies
- Candy
- Pretzels
- Trail mix
- Fruit
- Doughnuts
- Caramel apples



# Kids' Guide

- **Think of something you do well that would fit into a talent show.** Some examples: singing, dancing, magic, comedy routine, dramatic monologue, juggling, yo-yo tricks, mime, gymnastics, reciting poetry or playing an instrument. Make sure your act is compliant with your school's code.
- **Practice as much as you can prior to the audition and the show.** If you have trouble during practice, modify your act so that you are more comfortable.
- **Sign up and go to the audition with a positive attitude.** If you make it in, congratulate yourself! If you didn't, ask the judges for feedback so you know what to look out for next time!
- **Don't want to be on stage? Sign up to help backstage,** make the set, sell tickets, make posters and flyers, or serve refreshments.

**If you plan to wear a costume, wear it for the audition. Don't leave details to the judges' imagination.**





Use music without lyrics (karaoke version) so the judges can hear your voice.



# Tips for Performers

**PRACTICE!** Prior to the show, practice in front of family and friends. The more you practice, the better prepared you will be. Ask your audience for feedback, and adjust your performance accordingly.

**PREPARE!** Select your clothes and make-up, then practice a few times in full costume.

**PARTICIPATE** in all rehearsals.

Be **PROFESSIONAL!** If you make a mistake during your performance, just keep going. Your audience is less likely to notice a mistake if you act like nothing happened.

**PACE YOURSELF!** Make sure you move around the stage a bit, especially if you're singing, and try to make eye contact with people in the audience.

# Thank You!

Thank you for viewing this **FREE**  
eBook from **VolunteerSpot**.

We take the hassle out of  
volunteering and make it point-  
and-click simple to schedule all  
your volunteer activities with our  
**FREE** powerful real time calendar  
sign up tool.

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have to say! If you:**

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Want to be more involved  
with your kids' school

Want your kids to be  
involved with sharing, caring,  
and benefiting others

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