



What is the Junior Ambassador Program?

High school juniors and seniors can dive into the theater world through BPA's Junior Ambassadors program. This unique opportunity provides an excellent educational and hands-on volunteer experience, beyond-the-stage, in the performing arts. During an entire school year, Junior Ambassadors serve as volunteer theater ushers in Blumenthal theaters and attend a series of seminars, through which they learn about different career opportunities in the performing arts. Students also enhance their interpersonal skills, build self-confidence, and develop new networks of peers and professionals through the program.

What are the Requirements to Apply?

Students must be juniors and seniors in high school, maintain a minimum 3.0 grade point average, and have stellar character references.



Here's what our Junior Ambassadors have to say about the program!

"Now, not only do I appreciate the presented art, but also the passionate work put into making each show wonderful for the theatre-goers."

"My ability to connect with others over our similar appreciation of the arts has helped me to work past my tendency to blend into the background."

"As a person who loves performing, the Blumenthal Performing Arts Junior Ambassador Program has been one of the main highlights of my Junior and Senior year. I have been so used to being on stage and being an usher has taught me the importance and value of serving others. I am grateful for the experiences from this program that have shown me how I can serve my own community."

TOP 5 REASONS TO JOIN BLUMENTHAL'S JUNIOR AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

- ❖ Have an Enjoyable Volunteer Opportunity!
- ❖ See World-Class Theater!
- ❖ Learn about Career Opportunities in the Arts!
- ❖ Meet New Friends!
- ❖ Scholarships!



Components of the Program

Orientation and Training Before serving your first shift as a volunteer usher, you will receive professional training from our seasoned usher staff, as well as an opportunity to receive additional training in customer service.

Volunteer Usher Requirements You are required to serve as volunteer usher two times per month from October to April. You can choose your own schedule of shows, including major Broadway tours, resident company performances, exclusive concerts, or even community talent events! Generally, each usher shift is approximately 4 hours, and usually nights or weekends – perfect for a student schedule!

Monthly Seminars For the first year, you are required to attend 4 of the 7 seminars held at the beginning of each month. For the second year, you are required to attend 2 of the 7 seminars held each month. Seminars are held the first weekend of each month, and generally last between 90 minutes to 2 hours. Topics include *Mentorship, Networking, and Making Your Own Path, Resumes and Interview Tips and Tricks*, and even a *Behind the Scenes Tour!*

Social Blumenthal's Education Department hosts a party for our Junior Ambassadors to socialize, have fun, and get to know each other! Typically in January, our last few socials have included board games and competitions.

Annual Banquet Each year, our students are treated to a banquet where they are honored for their year of service as a Junior Ambassador. Each student receives a commemorative gift for the year, and you and your family are invited to enjoy a delicious dinner!

Scholarship Awards At our Annual Banquet, 4 students receive modest scholarship awards to be used towards their college education. These scholarships are exclusive to the Junior Ambassador program!

Important Dates

Date	Description
June 15	Year 2 (Returning Student) Participation Renewal Forms are Due
September 4	Year 1 (New Student) Application Deadline
September 26	Orientation and Training (Mandatory for New Students)
October - April	Monthly Requirement of 2 Shows, Seminars at the beginning of each month
January 23	Social
April 26	Awards Banquet



Seminar Opportunities

How may I help you? Customer Service and Blumenthal Performing Arts

What does it take to be an usher in one of Blumenthal's 6 theaters? In this seminar, you will be introduced to basic concepts of customer service you can use as one of our valued ushers. Experience with customer service is a highly translatable skill and can help boost a student's confidence. Working on your customer service skills helps develop your lifelong sense of work ethic, plus helps in overcoming shyness in conversations with the public!

Mentorship, Networking, and Making Your Own Path with Tommy Prudenti

Blumenthal's education department introduced a new initiative designed to help students who may need a little help in making their path. By attending this seminar, students will learn ways to discover and strengthen their best selves, whether they intend to pursue a career in the arts or just be a lifelong ambassador. Led by Tommy Prudenti, education special programs manager, students will participate in engaging conversation and activities in an effort to help them find their own way.

From Broadway to Charlotte: Contract to Stage (and everything in between)

Did you know that Blumenthal Performing Arts is a world-renowned performing arts center with a stellar reputation as a touring market? In this seminar, we will discuss what happens before a show load in – from contracting a tour stop with the company to marketing the show to Charlotte audiences to selling tickets to our patrons. Come hear from BPA's senior staff, and perhaps, even a visit from CEO and President, Tom Gabbard!

Behind the Scenes Tour with VP of Operations Bill Dantos

From load in to load out, technical theater operations are an integral part of any theater. Behind the curtains of any performance exists a team of experts who handle lighting, sound, carpentry, costumes, wigs, and stage management. In this seminar, you will be treated to an extensive behind-the-scenes tour of some of Blumenthal's beautiful theaters with our own VP of Operations!

Resumes and Interview Tips and Tricks

Learn how to be your best agent for any path! No matter a student's college or career plans, learning how to write a professional resume and learning best practices for job interviews are skills that every person should have. Learn from a regional career consultant as they teach students the in's and out's of resume writing and selling yourself in an interview. Discover ways to make your own path and goals!

Passion and Professionalism: What Career Paths are available in the Arts?

Interested in learning about various opportunities for careers in the arts? In this seminar, a panel of Blumenthal professionals will describe various career paths in the arts and share their personal stories and the unique paths they took to their current job. Learn about how you can combine your passion for the performing arts with enjoyable and stable career choices! Arts administration is an exciting career field that includes everything from graphic design to fundraising to planning festivals to theater education!



Making a Difference In Your Community: The Importance of Community Service

Community service and volunteerism are vital components to many of Charlotte's nonprofit organizations. In this seminar, local nonprofit leaders will discuss the importance of volunteers in their organizations, and perhaps offer ways students can help! Hear first-hand stories from community volunteer leaders about the impact of their work in our own community. After a great conversation, you will get a chance to volunteer in a different way to Blumenthal and prepare materials for some of our great summer programs.

**Please note that the specific schedule of seminars is contingent upon availability of instructors and Blumenthal staff. Seminars will usually be held the first weekend of every month, and students will be given ample notice of content and guest instructors.*



Health and safety are a top priority for Blumenthal Performing Arts. We follow applicable government guidelines in operating our venues. Participants in the Junior Ambassador program will receive detailed information on our health and safety measures prior to the first meeting.