



# Senior Troupe Performer

Performance is a powerful way to make an impact on an audience—and a perfect way to put your leadership into action. It's also a fun way to sharpen your communication skills, learn to handle stress with grace, strengthen your teamwork skills, and grow relationships and networks. Get out there and show your stuff!

## Steps

1. Pick your performance style
2. Find and develop material
3. Rehearse!
4. Launch your performance
5. Put on your show

## Purpose

When I've earned this badge, I'll know how to organize a team of people and put together a performance.

### Step 1: Pick your performance style.

Pick a format that excites you. Do you want your team to perform a Broadway musical or a Shakespearean drama? A modern dance routine? A song-and-dance variety show? Choose something that inspires you and your group, and it will inspire your audience.

#### CHOICES – DO ONE:

Get inspired by a live performance. Check out listings for shows in your area and attend one with your team. Afterward, compare notes. What worked fabulously? What didn't? Compile a list of ideas from the performance you'd like to use in your own show.

#### OR

Interview a producer, director, performer, or performing arts teacher. Find out what advice and inspiration they can offer. Take questions and ideas so you can brainstorm with the expert and your team and make the most of your session.

#### OR

Watch three shows and be the critic. Write a short review of each show to discuss with your team. Or watch the shows together, take your own notes, and compile your thoughts into group critiques. This will help you



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figure out what inspires you about a performance—and what doesn't—which is good to know when you're putting together your own!

*Tip:* Check out performance reviews in various media to see how professional critiques are put together.

### **Step 2: Find and develop material.**

What do you need for your show? A script? Dance moves? Songs? By the end of this step, you'll know what you're performing and who's doing what. When casting, be sensitive to your team's needs—you might decide to have more than one performance so everyone can try more than one role. That's the best way to understand how to put on a show!

#### **CHOICES – DO ONE:**

Choose an existing show or combination of poems or songs. Material in the public domain is a great place to start. If you use a script from a well-known play, there may be royalties associated with a performance. Ask for help from a drama teacher or local expert to make sure you follow requirements for any copyrighted material.

#### **OR**

Give old material a new twist! Wish *Romeo and Juliet* had a different ending? Do you think Dorothy would have more fun in Oz if she danced hip-hop down the yellow brick road? Could you make *The Nutcracker* into a poetry jam? Add a new twist to an existing story—but be sure the material is in the public domain.

#### **OR**

Create your own. The easiest way to avoid stepping on any creative or copyrighted toes is to make up your show yourself. That's a challenge—and a super fun one. What talents does your team have that you could use? Could everyone create a piece of the show? Whom could you call on for help?

*Tip:* Before you get to step 3, you'll need to decide who gets which roles. You might draw parts from a hat, vote on a director together and let her assign roles, or find an independent reviewer to audition for (like a drama teacher or Girl Scout volunteer).



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## Step 3: Rehearse!

Your team will need to practice at least once. If you need to do staging, blocking, or memorization, you'll want to rehearse more. Make a schedule that works for your group. Choose one of the following to prepare, get the most out of your time together, and enhance your team's skills.

### CHOICES – DO ONE:

Dig into the nitty-gritty of moving performers around the stage. Bring in (or interview) someone with serious stage experience: a director, actor, or choreographer (any older Girl Scouts you could ask?). You might ask a performer in a different genre than your show: Could a comedian help with comic timing in a dance? Or a dancer help poetry jammers use their bodies effectively?

OR

Get behind the scenes. What happens offstage is just as important as what happens on—sometimes more so! Get advice on who can do what and how from a prop master, stagehand, sound technician, lighting pro, or other person with backstage knowledge.

OR

Get tips on team motivation. If you're set with blocking—planning when, how, and where actors move around the stage—and backstage organization, talk to someone who can share tips on getting the most out of your time together, working as a team, and staying motivated. This might be a producer, athletic coach, business leader, or anyone with experience getting a group into a great groove.

**Tip:** Food unites—bring snacks! When everyone's got energy, everything's likely to go more smoothly. (And, of course, be more delicious.)

## Step 4: Launch your performance.

Every performance needs an audience! While you're rehearsing, you'll also want to get the word out about your show. Try your hand at public relations in one of these ways (and feel free to approach a pro for help!).



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### CHOICES – DO ONE:

Create a poster to promote your performance. Posters are an effective way to market your performance. Here are some tips for creating an impressive poster:

- Keep the design simple and enticing.
- The text is the most important element. Make sure you can read the title from a distance.
- Use a plain, bright background with readable text.
- Make sure all relevant information is included: performance name, location, date, and time.
- Get permission from places you want to post it.

### OR

Create a press kit. Press kits are folders for the media with information to help them promote your show. Yours might include a press release with the when and where of your show, why people should come, and bios and photos of the performers. Request sample press kits from other performance groups or from a public relations pro, and ask for advice on where to send yours (newspapers, bloggers, etc.).

### OR

Make a video trailer or radio commercial. What better way to get people excited about your show than letting them see or hear part of it? Put together a short trailer to share via YouTube, e-mail blasts, or at a special screening—or make a radio commercial for your local station or school station.

**Tip:** Recruit friends and family to help with promotion!

### **Step 5: Put on your show.**

After all your hard work, put on your show—and take a bow! Celebrate and commemorate in one of these ways to make the most of the experience and build on your performance expertise.

### CHOICES – DO ONE:

Host a cast party or an after-party to celebrate. Take a moment to talk about what went great and what you would change next time.

*Tip:* Tape your session so you can watch or listen to it later—you'll likely be too gleeful and tired to take notes!

### OR

Videotape your show and screen it soon after. Show the video to



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your team or members of the audience. Give each other notes, or have the audience give you notes and constructive comments—and congratulations!

OR

Take photos and create a record of what went on. Then you can post the photos online, frame them as special thank-you gifts, or create a fun slide show to share.

**Now that I've earned this badge, I can give service by:**

- Staging a poetry jam at a senior center
- Volunteering at a community theater
- Assisting younger Girl Scouts with their Performance badges

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