



## AECT Volunteer Positions

### Little's Wrangler



Some of our shows, generally musicals and summer productions (which are often one and the same), have actors as young as six years old. They may be bumblebees (*Mary Poppins*), rats (*The Pied Piper*), primary school children (*Matilda*), or whatever other role gives the audience a chance to coo and whisper, “They’re so *little!*” These “Little’s” need a bit of extra guidance to get through the dress rehearsals and performances—remember, many children that age aren’t even reading yet. Thus, the Little’s Wrangler. Following is some information to help you decide if being a Little’s Wrangler is a good fit for you. Thank you for volunteering!

### Little's Wrangler Duties

#### Before Run (First and Final Dress Rehearsals Only)

1. Sign up to volunteer for one or more rehearsal/show dates.
2. Arrive at the assigned time (this will be whatever time the Little’s are called that day) and report to the sign-in table.
  - a. Whoever is staffing the table (usually the Assistant Director or Assistant Stage Manager) will be able to tell you where to find your charges.
3. Makeup Room
  - a. Bring the Little’s to the Makeup room. Makeup is likely to be set up in room 144, but someone will let you know if it’s different.
  - b. The Makeup Crew will assist them in getting their makeup on. All the cast members should also have gone through a makeup workshop and learned (in theory) how to apply it. Depending on the show, makeup can be quite simple (e.g., human kid) or more complex (e.g., animals or magical creatures). The Little’s’ call time will take into account the length of their makeup application.
  - c. Once everyone is done with Makeup, herd the Little’s backstage (you may use the crossover behind the stage or the lobby, depending on where there is less congestion) and bring them to their assigned dressing rooms.
4. Dressing Room
  - a. Cast members will have identified whether they want to use the boys, girls, or gender-inclusive dressing room, and the Costumes Crew will know who goes where. The boys and girls dressing rooms are in the back hall backstage, on the

way to the Green Room. The gender-inclusive one is a small room at the entrance to room 144.

- b. The Costumes Crew members will get all the tails on, buttons buttoned, petals attached, fur smoothed, and whatever else needs to happen.
  - c. Once all the Littles are in costume, bring them to the Green Room.
5. Green Room
- a. During the final dress rehearsal and each performance, the cast will be in our Green Room area when they are not on stage. For most performances, the Green Room is the dance studio down the hall from the auditorium.
  - b. During dress rehearsals and shows, make sure the Littles are staying relatively quiet and calm. Keep them together. You might consider bringing coloring books and crayons or simple, quiet games. You may need to help calm nerves, quietly arbitrate squabbles, remind cast members to keep their voices down, and so on. There will be a designated Green Room Supervisor as well, so you can focus on the Littles but feel free to assist as needed with the larger group.
    - i. Cast members are allowed to have a sealed water bottle, but no juice, soda, coffee, etc. Snacks are not allowed unless needed for medical reasons. Performers remain in costume, and these rules help minimize spills and other mishaps.
    - ii. Electronics policies can vary by show and cast behavior. The policies on allowed electronics will have been clearly described in the Tech Week Letter, so cast and crew members should be aware of them.
    - iii. Performers are encouraged to color, read, play quiet games, and generally engage in quiet activities that won't put their costumes, makeup, or selves at risk.
  - c. Keep an eye out for the Assistant Director and remind cast members to pay attention when the Assistant Director calls them for their entrances. Since the cast is not near the stage and there are no monitors to view the show, the Assistant Director is responsible for calling cast for their scenes.
    - i. The Littles tend to be called as a group, and are often on stage for only one or two numbers and the curtain call. When they are called, accompany them backstage and keep an eye on everyone. Once their number is over, walk them back to the Green Room.

### **During Run**

1. Same as above.

## After Run

1. Nothing!

## Supplemental Information

- This is a great volunteer job for people who have experience working with and maintaining order in large groups of children, especially young ones.
- In the event of major behavior issues, please find Nina (making sure another adult always remains in the room).