



Canberra Gang Show 2024 Edition



A guide for participants and parents

Outline

1. What is Gang Show?
2. What can you do in Gang Show?
3. Application process
4. Cast and Band interviews
5. Commitment
6. General information and locations for cast, technical, band and other teams
7. In theatre

What is Gang Show?

Canberra Gang Show is an annual theatre production and is part of the Scouts ACT and Girl Guides ACT program. It provides an opportunity for learning, developing and sharing theatrical skills, both on stage and behind the scenes.

Aim of Canberra Gang Show

The aim of Canberra Gang Show is, through the Scouting Program, to:

- Encourage the physical, emotional, intellectual, social and spiritual development of young people
- Learn and improve on theatrical skills such as singing, dancing, acting, production. Skills of teamwork, leadership, responsibility, self-confidence, self-discipline and self-esteem.
- Attain the highest degree of excellence possible in the production and presentation of the Show
- Promote Scouting and Guiding in Canberra and the Surrounding regions

Make friends and have fun!

This guide seeks to explain a range of terms, general behaviours and expectations of all gang members.

What can you do in Gang Show?

There are lots of things you can do in Gang Show, from selling programs to sewing costumes, making props, building sets, hanging lights, playing in the band or acting in Cast. Gang Show is a training activity and can teach you the skills you need to fulfil your role. See the application page for a complete list of positions available. All members of Gang Show will participate in activities before and during theatre.

What you do in Gang Show can also contribute to badge work – ask your leader

Who can take part in Gang Show?

Anyone is welcome! Some roles require you to be a registered and financial member of the Scout or Guide Association. You will be asked to nominate for roles as part of the application form. See Roles section below for more information.

Show Roles

Cast (age 11-30)

Members who appear on stage are all part of the cast. Cast members spend many hours learning and rehearsing lines, songs and dance routines (see rehearsal schedule for details). Scripts and roles will be issued at your first rehearsal. In theatre you will be supplied with costumes, make-up and asked to entertain the paying audience.

Technical (age 14+)

Including set construction, props, back-stage, audio and lighting – dressed typically in black, these are the Gang members who make the show work and the cast look and sound great. Beginning with building sets to appear on stage this team will build up the technical requirements for the show. Once in theatre this team will then operate sound and lighting boards, allocate microphones, move sets on and off stage and provide the calls to coordinate the show.

Please remember that all parts of the Technical Team will likely be working in/moving through construction zones. As such you will be required to wear appropriate clothing for the job - it is likely to get dirty and Curtin Scout hall (where our technical work happens) can be cold. Closed toe shoes, are required.

Band (14 years +)

Band members provide music to support the entire show. Unlike other parts of the Gang, there are some minimal requirements for band members.

Perspective band members may be required to attend an interview which includes playing several pieces on your instrument. If you have played in the Gang Show band previously you may not need to attend an interview.

Props

This team needs to design, source and construct handheld props that cast will use on stage. During the show props need to be provided to and collected from the cast, retrieved and repaired as necessary.

Wardrobe

This team needs to design, source, cut, sew, amend and adjust hundreds of costumes for the show. The production of costumes typically takes months, beginning around the time of the cast

rehearsals, in order to get them all ready for opening night. In theatre the focus is on making repairs, emergency cleaning, finding lost hats and woggles and generally supporting the cast get on stage in character every night.

Make-up and hair

The make-up team support the show by helping the cast look the part of their character. You will be required to apply make-up to all cast members for each show as well as doing cast members hair as required.

Welfare and Security Team

Welfare Team will be at every Gang event to ensure the health, safety and happiness of the entire Gang is being looked after. This includes controlling access to the theatre and making sure only Gang members are allowed backstage.

Gang Support

Gangshow requires lots of support behind the scenes, other part of the show you can apply to help with include:

- General administration (including things like ticket sales, promotions, logistics)
- Front of House
- Catering (Gang dinner)

If you (or your Parent/Carer) have any questions please send an email to gangshow@scoutsact.com.au - we're only too happy to assist!

Production team

Team leader and production team roles are filled through an Expression of Interest process prior to the show's development (usually around October/November each year).

Application process

Applications open at the start of Term 1. There are 2 steps to the application process:

1. Base application form which will ask for basic personal information and what part of the Gang you would like to join.
2. Once your application is received you/your parent will receive an Operoo consent form and payment requirements.

In 2024 cast and band applications will close on **Friday, 1 March**.

All other applications due on **Friday, 5 April**.

An application is not complete until the Operoo consent form is submitted along with the first payment. If you are having trouble with either of these, please contact gangshow@scoutsact.com.au.

Late applications

We may continue to accept applications for technical and support areas as required by the show. The deadline for cast is definite as we need to cast the show, allocate roles and plan costumes.

Working with Vulnerable People (WWVP) cards

All members over 16 years old will need to have a current WWVP card before joining the Gang.

Any gang member who turns 16 during the show will need to apply for a WWVP card.

Cast and Band Interviews

Cast Interviews

We run an interview weekend after applications close and rehearsals begin. This weekend is used to get an insight into a Gang member's skills and experience across acting, singing and dancing as well as take some measurements for costumes.

This is not an audition, if the member has selected cast then that is what they will be in, regardless of natural talents. We will use this process to allocate specific roles for individuals, depending on the requirements of the show.

We also ask first time parents of those under 18 to attend the interview talk through details of the time commitments and answer any questions you might have.

In 2024 these will be over 16-18 March with Northside and Southside venues.

Band Interviews

During band interviews you will:

- Perform something you are comfortable with - please bring at least one piece you enjoy playing
- Have a chance to play 1-2 pieces from this year's show. Music will be available for your preferred item to see how you go
- A chance to chat with the music director/s about the commitment and rehearsals - if you're under 18 a parent or carer will need to be present and part of the conversation so everyone is aware of the expectations.

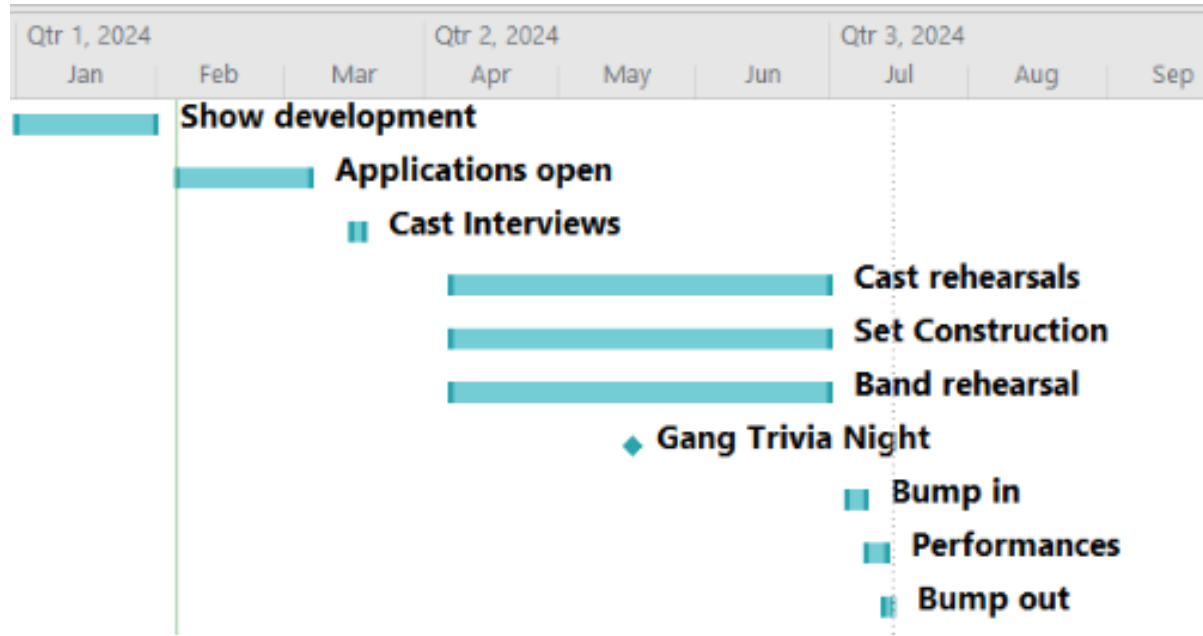
Those applying for the band will be contacted by the Musical Directors.

Time Commitment:

Gang Show requires a substantial time commitment, this guide is designed to help youth members and parents decide which part of the show is right for you, and what to expect along the way.

Below is a basic timeline of the show. More information is available for the show run and cast rehearsals on the website.

Basic Timeline



What's involved?

It is expected that you commit to the time needed for your role. Unexpected circumstances and illness aside, by applying you accept the following time commitments:

Cast members - It is expected that all cast members can attend interviews, all rehearsals, the dress rehearsal and shows. There is around 3 months of solid rehearsing before we move into theatre. Rehearsals are typically 9am-5pm Sundays in Charnwood, with a few Saturdays as well. We have sought to schedule around school holidays and major Scouting activities but we will rehearse across a number of long weekends to keep the rehearsal period shorter.

Those with other weekend activities need to discuss at their interview what other commitments they have and what balance can be achieved. Those that cannot commit to the rehearsal schedule may need to consider another role in the show.

Band members - It is expected that all Band members can attend an interview set with the Musical Directors, rehearsals, the dress rehearsal and shows. There is around 3 months of solid rehearsing before we move into theatre.

Technical - It is expected that all Technical members can commit the time needed for their role, including the dress rehearsal and shows. The schedule for set construction is also around 3 months, however there is more flexibility in timing. Once moving into theatre, the technical team will be required for additional time to cast and band.

Support roles - It is expected that all Support people can commit to the times needed for their role. Front of House are needed for the Dress Rehearsal and Shows.

For all roles

If you cannot attend a rehearsal or performance through illness or other circumstances, we need to know in advance. We will provide contact details as the show commences.

A note to parents

The biggest commitment from parents is transport, in return for many hours without children. The second biggest commitment is coming to see the show at least once. And bringing your family, and your neighbours.

General information and locations

Cast

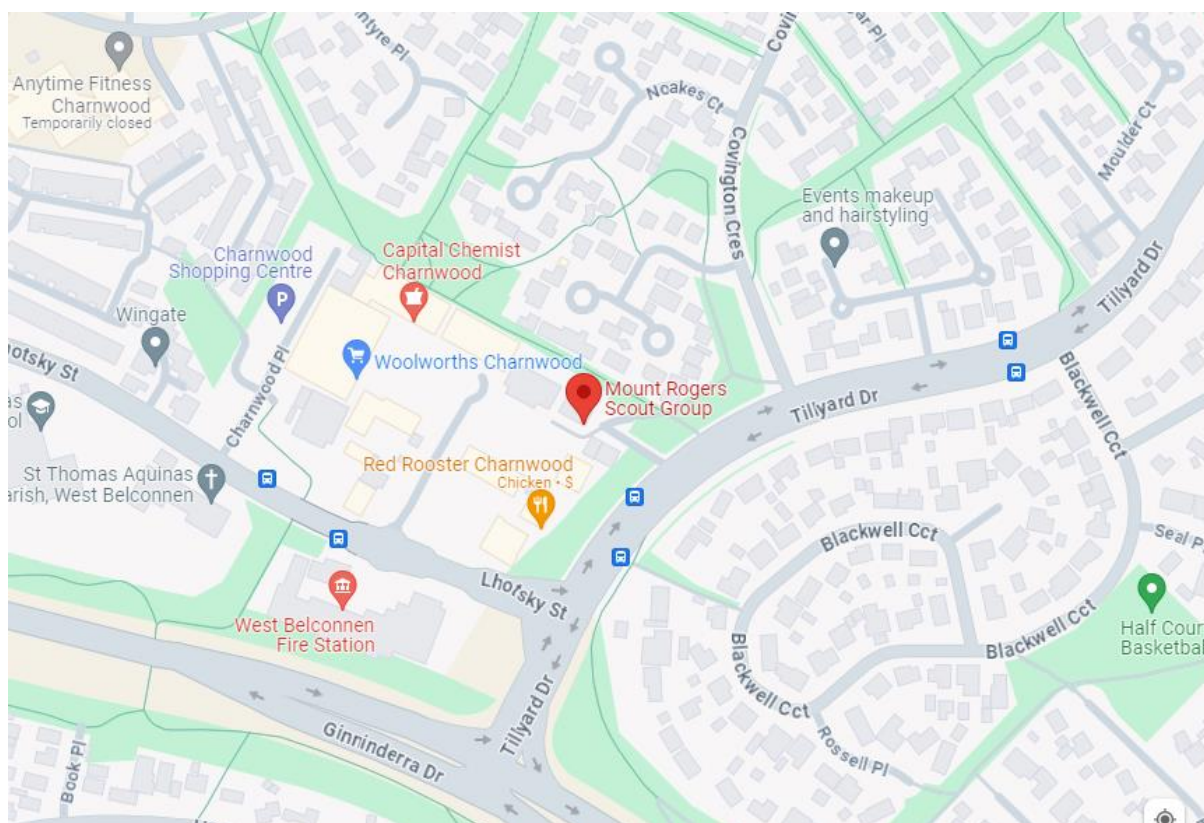
Pre-Rehearsals

We will distribute a selection of songs and scripts ahead of rehearsal to allow cast members to learn some of the basics before we begin rehearsing. This is critical to using our face to face time as effectively as possible and minimising the number and hours of overall rehearsal. Please put them on in the car and sing along!

Rehearsals

Cast will have around 100 hours of rehearsals before moving into theatre, so it is important to manage the process.

In 2024 we are back at Mt Rogers Scouts Hall, Tillyard Drive Charnwood.



Cast members can bring their lunch, or there are shops nearby where they can go using the buddy system. We will also have regular breaks during the day as rehearsals can be quite active.

The hall will be both hot and cold, probably even on the same day, so cast members need appropriate layers of clothing. Make sure it is labelled; jumpers and jackets are often left in the hall.

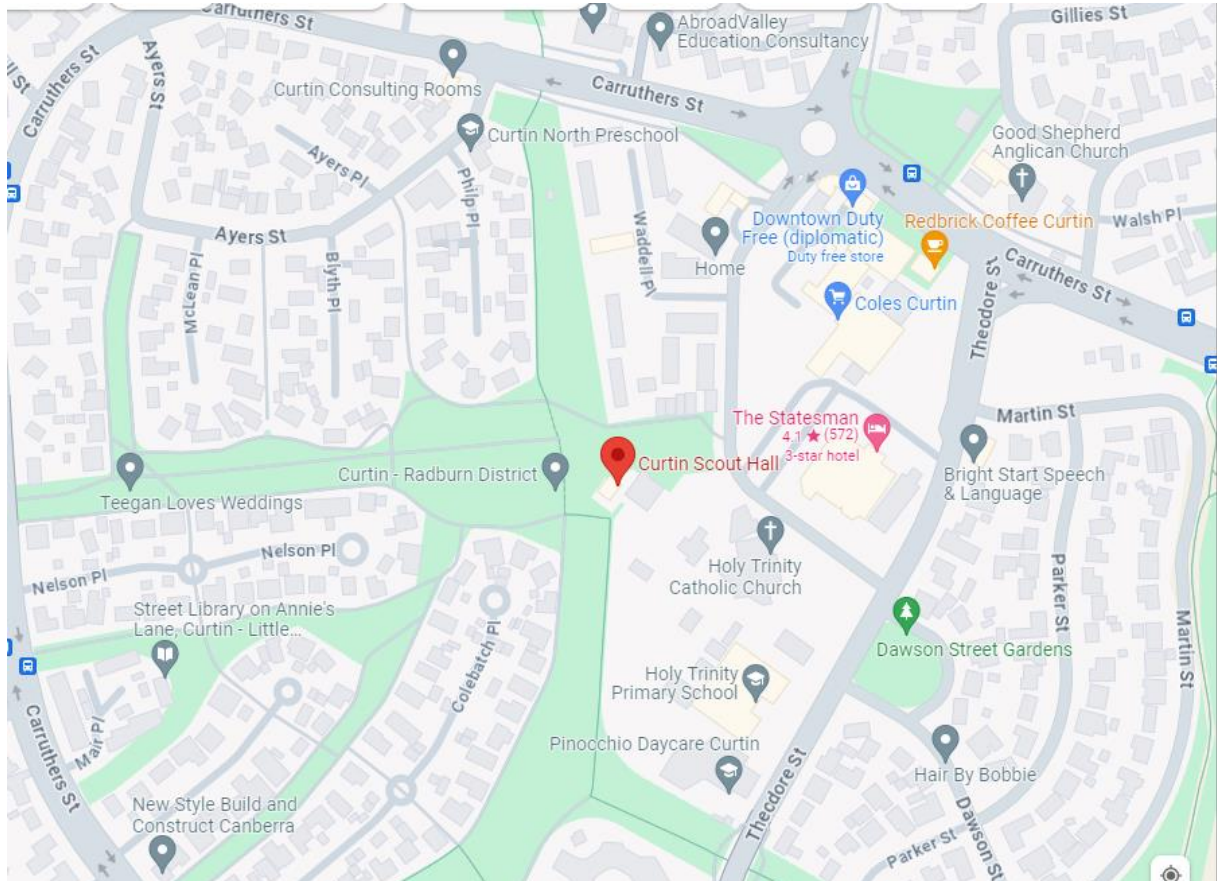
Cast members will be provided with a list of cast supply items they will need for the show. This will include Scout/Guide uniform for the finale, black pants, black polishable shoes and flesh coloured underwear. It is good to start looking for some of these items early in the rehearsal process.

Be prompt arriving at rehearsal and at pick-up. We will endeavour to finish on time or earlier every week. We encourage car-pooling, and while not organising it we can support parents make contact with parents interested in carpooling through the Welfare Team.

Cast patrols will organise atleast one patrol activity outside of the rehearsal schedule to bond. This will be organised by patrol leaders during the rehearsal period.

Technical & Props

All technical team members are expected to help with set construction at Curtin Scout Hall. Timing for construction is more flexible with sessions around 10am - 4pm either Saturday or Sunday, with team members attending when they can. A more detailed schedule will be determined at the first meeting.



No experience is necessary, and members will be provided with direction and instruction on the safe use of tools, etc. Sturdy enclosed shoes are required for both time at Curtin Scout Hall and in theatre.

Technical members can bring their lunch, or there are shops nearby where they can go using the buddy system.

Technical team members will attend the last rehearsal at Mt Rogers Scout Hall before moving into theatre. As well as starting to learn the show, you may move a few sets around to get the cast used to working with them and you.

Wardrobe

The Wardrobe team typically operate at the cast rehearsals to have access to the cast for trying on costumes. The schedule is therefore the same as the cast team, however there is also the opportunity to take measurements and material home and work remotely.

Band

The Band will rehearse from 1:30-5pm, Sundays aligned with the cast schedule. The location is still to be confirmed but will most likely be a northside venue..

Band will attend the last rehearsal at Mt Rogers before moving into theatre. This helps the cast get used to working with live music.

Other teams

There are no fixed requirements for Front of House, Security, Make-Up and Hair teams during this period. Exact requirements will be provided by team leaders.

All teams will have their photo taken for the Gang Program, which is sold at the show.

Gang Trivia Night

The Gang will organise a trivia night for Saturday 18 May to get to meet all the teams and raise some extra money for the show. Friends and family will be welcome, more information will be released sooner to the event.

In Theatre

Bump In

'Bump in' is a theatre term to describe moving into the theatre and getting it ready for a specific show. This includes moving all our sets and props from Curtin to the theatre as well as setting up dressing rooms and moving in all the costumes. We also need to do lighting plots and make sure we have the right set up for microphones and the orchestra as well as any decorations for the Front of House.

This will require technical teams to put in more hours than expected of cast during this time, whether an additional day, arriving earlier or potentially staying later. Technical teams will have additional time in theatre before and after rehearsals and shows to prepare equipment and sets, practice cueing and stage movements.

In theatre rehearsals

We typically have a limited window for rehearsal in theatre to allow the cast, band and crew to practice the whole show in costume to live music and navigating the theatre environment. There may be more downtime for individuals during this period as there is only one stage and only one thing can be rehearsed at a time.

In 2024 we will be performing at Erindale Theatre. There are a few meals provided as part of the schedule, but during rehearsals the Gang will have breaks to either eat lunch/dinner or go to the local shops using the buddy system.

Performances

Once opening night comes around, all the months of work come together. Gang members need to turn up ready to undertake their role.

Drop off and Pick up

Drop off times are 90 mins before the show. This allows for the delivery of any notes or changes from the previous show, get into costumes and make up. Most importantly it ensures that the whole cast is there for the show and allows time to make plans to accommodate absences.

Any absence needs to be notified to the Welfare Manager ASAP.

Pick up is shortly after the show completes. We will work hard to get the Gang out as quickly after the show as we can, allowing for changing out of costume, removing makeup and any immediate notes.

Parents and carers are not permitted backstage in the theatre, even if invited by your child.

Tickets

Ticket income pays for our show, and we rely on Gang members to sell the bulk of tickets. You need to make sure you come to see the show at least once, to see what all the time, effort and car-shuffling has led to. Bring the wider family, make sure their Scout or Guide group comes. This year we will have a ticket selling competition - the more you/your child sells the chance you have of winning!

Rest & nutrition

Regardless of their role in Gang Show, theatre is a physically and emotionally draining period for youth members. As early as we can get them out of theatre, these are still a succession of late

nights, and high excitement. We operate during school holidays to allow youth members the best chance to recover each night and make it through the full run of shows, while keeping healthy.

Sadly, no show goes without a couple of incidents of cold & flu, lost voices or outright fatigue.

There is no substitute for a decent nights' sleep, even if this means their sleep patterns change significantly for the week. Similarly, the run of performances is too long to run on sugar alone and good balanced diet will help them get through.

We perform in the July school holidays, so ensure Gang members are dressed appropriately coming and leaving the theatre.

Social engagements

There are a couple of events included in the performance run:

Tea & Toast – A civilised way to celebrate opening night, this is a catered event with hot beverages and light snacks. Parents are welcome to attend. This will be held at a Scout or Guide hall nearby the theatre. Further details will be provided closer to Opening Night.

Gang Dinner – A catered meal between our final performances with an opportunity to recognise achievements and begin the celebrations and lead up to final night.

Finale night party – After the final show there will be a 'after party' for all Gang members. This is an opportunity for the Gang to celebrate their hard work and great achievements! More details will be provided closer to final night.

Bump Out

'Bump Out' is the opposite of bump in. We have to remove all trace of ourselves from the theatre, ready for its next hire. This process will begin during the final performance as costumes and sets are no longer required for the rest of the show.

All Gang members aged 14+ will be required to turn up the next day to assist in clean-out the change rooms, auditorium, backstage areas, orchestra pit and front of house.