



How does SF Youth Theater's Sliding Scale Tuition program work?

SFYT is proud of its commitment to be accessible to all interested children, regardless of financial situation or past arts experience. All of our classes are on a sliding scale and no one is turned away for lack of funds.

We are able to accomplish this goal through the generosity of private and public funders and individuals. About 35% of our budget comes from tuition payments. Those tuition payments are essential to SFYT's viability as well as its ability to provide financial assistance to those who need it. The sliding scale tuition program works only if each family pays to the maximum its ability. We recognize that the economy puts stress on families of all income levels; therefore we set SFYT's classes tuition at reasonable prices so that they are affordable to those who are not eligible for financial aid.

If you are interested in the sliding scale tuition program, here's what you need to do:

- When you register online, select the "financial aid deposit" of \$60 at the checkout. **DEPOSITS APPLY TOWARD TUITION.**
- Fill out the financial form at the end of this letter, or at our website: <http://sfyouththeatre.org/FinancialAid.html>. **You must answer all questions and attach the first page of our most recent income tax return, or if you do not have one, proof of income, unemployment or disability.** Make sure to include any special circumstances that may contribute to your need to apply for financial aid.
- On the line, "How much of the _____ tuition do you feel you can afford to pay?" fill in the blank with the class tuition you are selecting. Then follow the guidelines below for the percentage of the full tuition you should contribute. If you need to make more than one payment, indicate it in that space as well. Please try to make the maximum payment possible, even if it exceeds the guidelines. Although we cannot guarantee to honor your exact request, we try to come within the range of your estimation.
- Everyone who receives financial aid must volunteer a prescribed number of hours. Fill out your volunteer preferences on the volunteer sheet. This is a way for us to keep our running costs down so that we can provide even more aid to students. The jobs we need performed are quite varied, and include weekend and evening work for working parents. The amount of volunteer time required is based on the duration of a particular class. Volunteering is a very enjoyable way to become part of our process and helps our staff enormously.

Here is a general guideline for determining sliding scale tuition rates:

- \$60 minimum payment for everyone and all classes.
- 90% assistance for gross family incomes under \$25,000
- 80% assistance for gross family incomes under \$30,000.
- 70% assistance for gross family incomes under \$35,000.
- 60% assistance for gross family incomes under \$40,000.
- 50% assistance for gross family incomes under \$45,000.
- 40% assistance for gross family incomes under \$55,000.
- 30% assistance for gross family incomes under \$65,000
- If gross family income is above \$65,000 please explain your need circumstances if requesting financial aid.
- **All payments can be made in installments**

Again, these are guidelines only. Bear in mind that we have many requests for financial aid, and we like to spread our scholarship funds out to as many children as possible, so please stretch a bit when you calculate your needs. On the other hand, we keep in mind the number of people in your family and any special circumstances you have.

Sometimes the minimum payment will exceed the 80 or 90% level. In that instance, a \$60 minimum is required until the percentage exceeds \$60. For example, if you are enrolling in a dance class that costs \$185, you are required to pay a minimum payment of \$60 if you have a gross family income under \$25,000. At 35,000 (70% assistance) you would be asked to pay 30% of the class tuition: \$55.

Otherwise, roughly follow the chart according to your income level.

Thank you for your interest in the SF Youth Theater. We welcome your children and plan to accommodate your financial needs. After we receive your financial aid form, we will get back to you with your financial aid reward and volunteer assignments. Feel free to e-mail info@sfyouththeatre.org with any questions.

Thank you, Emily Klion, SFYT Executive Director