

Frequently Asked Questions About the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

Logistics

How long is the parade and what is the route?

The parade route is 2.5 miles. It begins at 77th Street and Central Park West. It proceeds to Columbus Circle and turns onto Broadway. The Parade then marches down Broadway and turns west on 34th Street, just past Macy's and Herald Square and finishes at 7th Avenue.

In what part of the parade are they performing?

This year, Camp Broadway will perform along side a celebrity guest star in the closing number, right before Santa Claus pulls his sleigh into Herald Square. As participants, they will become part of a great American tradition - a large, splashy extravaganza, involving people from all walks of life celebrating the start of the holidays and a season of peace and happiness. It is truly an experience they will never forget!

How many people will see them perform?

They will be performing for a live audience of 3 million people here in New York City, a television audience of 50 million and millions more tune in via the internet.

Scheduling/Location

Where/when will I be able to pick up my child after the final performance?

We will be walking all children to The Hotel Pennsylvania to be signed out in a ground-floor ballroom.

Where will my child be during the day?

Rehearsals and workshops are primarily held at the new Chelsea Studios - a premiere location for casting sessions for and ongoing rehearsals of Broadway shows. In addition, all "put together" rehearsals and costume fittings are scheduled in the Hotel Pennsylvania.

Will there be time to take my child to a Broadway show?

Yes, parents typically find that they have time to take in a Broadway show with their child while in New York City. You should receive a detailed schedule of your child's daily time commitments by September 30th, 2008.

How do maintain a safe environment for children?

Camp Broadway has been working with children here in New York City for over 13 years. We have a very careful sign-in/out process at the end of the day. Also, we are extremely watchful when personally accompanying your child to the rehearsal in Herald Square. All Camp Broadway Teaching Artists are CPR/First Aid certified.

Will parents be able to watch rehearsals?

Due to limited space, all rehearsals held at Chelsea Studios are closed. In an effort to keep our positive long-standing relationship with Chelsea Studios, we ask that all parents/guardians sign their children in and leave the studio until it is time for sign-out. We will invite all parents to watch one dress rehearsal at The Hotel Pennsylvania where all cameras and video equipment are allowed and encouraged.

Camp Broadway has no access to grand-stand seat tickets. You are welcome to watch the parade along the route. We can make no guarantee that you will see your child or the parade from the route. In the

past, parents have been successful in watching the camera blocking rehearsal in Herald Square. Parents are not allowed inside the barricade, though some have camped early enough to see the performance from the sidelines. Again, Camp Broadway can make no guarantee that you will be able to see your child or the camera blocking rehearsal.

Programming Issues

Will my child be around any celebrities?

Yes, your child will have the opportunity to work with several Broadway celebrities, yet to be announced, through the course of Broadway workshops and parade rehearsals.

What are Broadway workshops?

To add to the New York experience Camp Broadway has added several workshops scheduled throughout the week. Each workshop reserves the last 15 minutes for an exclusive Q & A session between our Broadway guest artist and the group of approximately 20-25 participants. These workshops may include, but are not limited to, learning original choreography, scene study, or song interpretation from a contemporary Broadway show. Past shows have included: *Legally Blonde*, *Wicked*, *Hairspray* & *The Lion King*.

Will my child get some individual attention or do children remain in a large group all of the time?

Our staff is well-trained in working with children of all ages, making sure that each child feels engaged, supported and well-cared for throughout the week. The cast is broken up into smaller groups, approximately 20-25 campers, to learn the routines and to experience more individualized attention from the directors. During the “put-together” and camera blocking rehearsal, the cast works together as one large group.

Does the cost of the camp cover meals?

No, the cost of the experience does not include meals, except for a special pizza party one night.

Miscellaneous

Can I get a letter from Camp Broadway describing the reason for the absence?

Certainly, Camp Broadway can provide you with a letter vouching for your participation.

Will I be able to purchase a copy of the televised broadcast?

Unfortunately, we will not be selling any copies of the televised broadcast. Be sure to set your recording devices to ensure you have the parade on tape to enjoy in the future. There is, however, one company with exclusive rights to take photos and video tape all Herald Square performances from an aerial view. This order form will be available in your participant’s registration packet.

Will my child be able to keep their costume?

Yes – the costume is for you to take home as a commemorative outfit.

How can my child audition if there isn’t one held in my city?

Every year, many children audition for Macy’s parade and have been accepted after sending in a taped audition. We accept DVD or VHS tape, any size. You can send us a 1-2 minute clip of your child singing and moving to the music; the song choice is not important. We are just looking at the child’s current skill level, attitude, presence, energy, etc. These submissions are not expected to be professional.