

Steps to Becoming a Performing Member of the Jonesborough Storytellers Guild

- (1) All members join as Supporting Members, signing up as a helper for one committee and one event as listed on the Application for Membership.
- (2) Be active in the guild. Besides being involved in your chosen committee and event, attend as many of the general meetings as you are able (held approximately every other month). This is a good opportunity to get to know your fellow members and the business of the guild.
- (3) Attend as many of the Tuesday night performances as you are able. These are free to you as a supporting member. You will get a first-hand idea of what the guild expects of performers (telling, timing, emceeing, general stage presence).
- (4) Enrich your exposure to guild-sponsored events by attending and participating in such things as the Jonesborough parade (ride on the float), the Swappin' Grounds tent during the International Storytelling Festival, Tellabration (entrance fee required if you are not a teller or worker), and other specialty events.
- (5) While you are doing the above, be putting your own portfolio of stories together. Create your identity as a storyteller:
 - a. What kind of stories do you want to tell?
 - b. What stage name would you like to go by?
 - c. Create your stories and practice them. Now time them and practice some more.
- (6) When you have a story you feel comfortable with telling, take advantage of open mics. There are opportunities to tell in several venues before you are an official performing member of the guild. Some of these are:
 - a. The Crumley House (Contact Jerry Muelver). Held the fourth Tuesday of every month at the Crumley House in Telford at 1:00 p.m.
 - b. The StoryLab (Contact Marjorie Shaefer). Held numerous times during the year, usually on a Saturday at Oak Hill School in Jonesborough.
 - c. Open Mic at the General Store (Contact Amy Yeary-Holmes). Held the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the General Store, Main Street, Jonesborough.
 - d. Swappin' Grounds tent during the Storytelling Festival. It is on the hill behind the Storytelling Center and is hosted by JSG. Sign up to tell a ten-minute story. Arrive early and listen to others. Help guild members if needed.
- (7) When you:
 - a. have been a supporting member and acclimated into the guild activities above, usually a process of approximately a year,
 - b. have put together a portfolio of your own stories that total approximately two hours of telling time (8-10 stories),
 - c. feel you are ready to take the next step,

Contact any of the guild's Board of Directors (names are listed on top of the monthly newsletter) and request an interview. It is an informal get-together – a chance for questions from you and the board members. If it is determined you are ready, you will be assigned an official mentor and enter the Apprentice Channel.

- (8) Work with your mentor until you both feel you are ready to audition. There will be two auditions – one at a general meeting with only JSG members, and the second on stage at the ISC with members of JSG and the public.
- (9) Evaluations by your peers will be shared with you and your mentor within a couple of days. After two successful auditions, you will officially be recommended as a Performing Member by your mentor and accepted by a vote of the membership at a general meeting. Then you will continue to work with your mentor until you have attained the final steps of being an emcee and a featured teller (longer telling time allotted). Happy Telling!