

Compass Creative Dramatics

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Each summer, Chicago-based children's theatre company Compass Creative Dramatics brings week-long day camps to Sheboygan, guiding as many as 75 students each week through the process of putting on a play. We meet the students on Monday, cast them in parts, begin rehearsal, and by Friday, they are ready to perform a full musical. Through this experience, the students learn to stretch their creativity and bravery "muscles" as they explore the respect, responsibility, teamwork, and empathy necessary for a team art like theatre – and life.

I grew up in Sheboygan. I performed my first play with Jan Anderson at Longfellow School. At South High, I was a debater under Robert Leet and an actor on the forensics team coached by Ty Wesley. I worked with Ralph Maffongelli at STC and was directed by Charlie Krebs at UW-Sheboygan, where I graduated before transferring to UW-Parkside in Kenosha to continue studying theatre. **Bringing my own theatre programming back to my hometown, to the place where I spend every Thanksgiving and Christmas, and helping grow the next generation of critical thinkers, empathizers, and citizens of the world is very near to my heart.**

After bringing our program to Sheboygan the last four years, we've realized that the major hurdle we cannot continue to jump is the expense of housing our educators, and we're asking for your help. **We don't require any funding – we're simply asking for a volunteer to open their home.**

Each program lasts one week and includes three educators who travel from Chicago. Educators are female and male educated professionals averaging between 26 – 35 years of age. Ideally, all three educators would be housed in the same home, as they travel in one vehicle, but splitting the educators would be an option. Requirements for "homestays" are fairly simple; the included flyer outlines the requirements of housing a Compass Creative Dramatics educator.

Is someone in your organization connected to:

An AirBNB owner or hotel manager with room donations available?

An empty nester?

A fan of house guests?

A person who travels, leaving empty rooms at home?

We often are able to offer exchanges of service; if a potential host is connected to a family-friendly organization or business, we're happy to offer advertising in exchange for hosting our educators.

Help us get connected, and help us continue to offer children's theatre programming to students in Sheboygan County.

You can reach me directly at cathlyn@ccdramatics.com, or at our office line: 773.893.0535.

Sincerest thanks,

Cathlyn Melvin
Co-Founder and Teaching Artist
Compass Creative Dramatics

