

Kitsap Forest Theater Survival Guide – 2025



Introduction

Welcome to the Mountaineers Players, a family-oriented community theater group dedicated to providing quality entertainment suitable for all ages in a lush outdoor setting. We are the oldest theater company in the Pacific Northwest, presenting shows since 1923 in the Kitsap Forest Theater, located on a 460 acre Rhododendron Preserve near Bremerton. **2025 is our 102nd year!** Our annual spring show coincides with the blooming of the native rhododendrons.

The Kitsap Forest Theater, constructed in 1926, provides a magnificent backdrop for any show. Seating is carved out of the side of a natural amphitheater and a lush row of ferns serves as “footlights”. Cedar bark and living moss cover the wings to complete this splendid setting. During the spring, wild rhododendrons bloom along the quarter-mile trail down to the theater and on the stage. Surrounded by giant old growth fir, cedar and dogwood, the earth stage is much the same as it was in 1926, providing a truly unique setting for outdoor theater.

During rehearsal weekends at Kitsap, many stay the night in rustic cabins or bring their own tents. Children play in the forest and near the stream and resurrect many outdoor games. Adults hang out – playing games, reading, singing, or just relaxing. Everyone enjoys singing around the campfire behind Kitsap Cabin – don't forget your guitar.

There is also a good-natured initiation ceremony (*not to be missed event for all new Players!*) that takes place on the evening of the second or third performance weekend, weather permitting.

Kitsap Cabin & Yurt

Kitsap Cabin is the traditional hub of social activity for the Players and provides a warm, dry place for relaxation on rehearsal and performance weekends at the theater. One of the pleasures of “Kitsap” weekends is hanging out and eating meals together at the Cabin and playing games or singing after dinner. Kitsap Cabin has wireless internet to help you stay connected.

Volunteer cooks prepare Saturday dinner, Sunday breakfast and lunch for interested cast, crew, and friends.

The operation and clean-up of the facilities are shared by everyone. A line forms after meals so everyone can wash their own dishes (along with some of the pots and pans). A list of jobs to be done will be posted in the cabin on a clipboard. Please sign-up for one or more tasks.

Kitsap Yurt is another dry place to “hang-out” or even sleep. The yurt must be cleaned out every morning to allow rehearsals or other activities to take place. **There is no food or drink allowed in the yurt at any time.**

Please respect quiet time around the yurt and outside on the property after 10:00 pm.

Mountaineers Membership

The Mountaineers Players have been a part of The Mountaineers – a 501(c)3 non-profit – since 1923. **We strongly encourage all those participating in Players' productions to support The Mountaineers by becoming a member.** The benefits are many – check out all of the activities offered each month at their web site: www.Mountaineers.org.

All Mountaineers Players are required to sign a release form before the first Kitsap rehearsal. Children under the age of 18 are required to submit a Medical Release Form signed by their parent/guardian to be used in case of an emergency.

Meal Sign-Ups

- Dinner **\$10.00**
- Breakfast **\$ 5.00**
- Lunch **\$ 5.00**

Total for all 3: \$20.00

Children 12 and under are half price and children 5 and under are free.

Sign-ups for meals are done online through the email link sent every week. You can also email your meal sign-ups by 9:00 pm on Thursday evening.

Fire Prevention

Smoking is only allowed in the designated smoking area between the up-top concession stand and the flush toilets; no smoking is allowed in the theater, cabins, or on the trail.

Rain or Shine

It's important to note that The Mountaineers Players have a tradition of never cancelling a rehearsal or performance because of rain. “The Show Must Go On” is our motto!

People to Know/Contact Info

Production Mgr/Property Co-Chair
Gala Lindvall 206-941-4168

Assoc. Production Mgr/Players Chair
Jenny Dreessen 206-295-7493

Property Co-Chair/Webmaster
Brian Lindvall 206-941-4173

Kitsap/Players' Coordinator
Jerry Dreessen 206-910-9279

Stage Managers
Annie: Danette Lam 253-797-9829
Big Fish: Danette Lam 253-797-9829

KFT Caretaker
Travis Foreman 360-536-8960

www.ForestTheater.com
KFT Info Line: (206) 542-7815

Sleeping Facilities

There are indoor and outdoor sleeping options while staying at the Kitsap Forest Theater – all of them rustic! They do provide shelter from wind and rain, but are not heated.

Cascade Dorm (located closest to the flush toilets, “Toutle”) has a male side and a female side. It is open to all ages on a first-come, first-served basis. Cascade is for sleeping – we observe quiet time in the dorm after 10:00 pm (or whenever anyone is sleeping). Please use Kitsap Cabin for socializing.

Many adults and families choose to bring their own tents (or campers) and find a spot to camp for the weekend. Please allow a respectful distance between you and your camping neighbors to ensure a goodnight’s sleep for all. If you need help finding a suitable spot, please check with the Cabin Chairs or any experienced Player.

Overnighters will need to bring a flashlight, warm sleeping bag and pad and a pillow.

Rehearsals

Please plan to arrive at Kitsap prior to your call time to allow time to arrange sleeping quarters, unpack, hike down to the theater and help with sound & piano set-up. It is expected that cast and crew be on-time, considerate of others, and quiet and attentive during rehearsals.

Be aware that the weather may change without warning and rehearsal (at the director’s discretion) will usually continue, so be prepared.

All actors 15 and under must have a parent or designated adult guardian present at all times.

Kitsap Forest Theater

Maintaining the natural beauty of the theater and the surrounding area demands that each of us be aware of its fragile nature and the care required to preserve it. Please:

- stay on established trails
- protect the vegetation (especially the fern row between the seating area and the stage)
- pack out what you pack in – you are your own clean-up crew
- smoke only in designated smoking area “up top” (not in the theater)

Kitsap Rehearsal Necessities

- ✓ script/pencil in a plastic bag
- ✓ layered warm clothes and sturdy, waterproof shoes
- ✓ rain gear
- ✓ lunch (Saturday) and hot beverage cup or mug
- ✓ water bottle with name
- ✓ cushion/chair to sit on (optional)

Family Friendly Policies

The Mountaineers Players value a “family friendly”, inclusive work/play environment where we treat each other with respect, choose appropriate language and refrain from the use of illegal substances. The safety and security of our participants and their families is of utmost concern.

Due to this, we do not support the overt use of alcohol on the Kitsap Forest Theater property. Discreet and moderate alcohol use by those 21 and older is allowed, but we encourage everyone involved to be sensitive to, and aware of, the needs of others.

We also ask that outside noise be curtailed after 10:00 pm to respect those sleeping on the property.

Well behaved and supervised dogs are allowed on the property with the exception of the kitchen, the stage during rehearsals, and the theater during performances.

Working Together

As you will discover when you walk down the trail to the theater for the first time, rehearsing and performing shows in our unique outdoor environment takes extra effort. We rely on volunteer help with everything from theater maintenance, sound set-up, costumes, set construction, show preparation, ticket selling, to general work around the property. Family and friends can help with ushering & parking and see the show for free.

Each cast member is asked to contribute volunteer hours over and above rehearsal time to support this massive effort. If you have any special skills (carpentry, plumbing, electrical, etc.) please inform us. We are truly a **community** working in a unique and beautiful theater and it takes many hours to produce quality shows here. Call time is early compared to other theaters because of the tasks required before show time.

The temptation to pack up your belongings and leave after a long weekend is high. There is a great deal to do to put everything away and get the theater and cabin areas cleaned up. When everyone stays and helps out, it saves a few people from having to remain late. Please stay and help out a few extra minutes. Always ask, “What can I do?” before you leave. Many hands make light work!

The Tradition Continues!

The long existence of this theater (over 100 years!) is due to generations of caring people who have a love for the theater and the outdoors.

Through the unique “forest theater” experience, lasting friendships have formed and others have met, fallen in love, and married! We hope you find this play season to be rewarding and refreshing, and that you’ll continue to share this time-honored treasure with us.