

45th Annual Tampa-Hillsborough County Storytelling

Frequently Asked Questions

Can my child / student read a book for the festival? No, storytelling is an oral tradition, and a performance art. Storytellers learn published stories that are appropriate for the festival and perform them from memory.

Is this a competition? No, every storyteller that records and submits a *festival quality* performance will be featured.

How old do I need to be to participate in the Storytelling Festival? Six years old to 14 years old

Do I have to live in Hillsborough County to participate? All participants are welcome. There are no location requirements.

Do I have to have any previous storytelling experience? The Tampa-Hillsborough County Storytelling Chapter and Hillsborough County Public Library will provide all the resources you need to participate.

Is there a fee? The storytelling activities are free. Thank you to the Friends of the Hillsborough County Public Library.

Will there be live events for the 2025 Storytelling Festival? This year we will have in-person Storytelling Workshops series at the libraries, and an online story school (found here on this website). If you are interested in taking an in-person workshop, they will be starting in January at six library locations. See the information on the HCPLC homepage. Registration starts on December 15, 2024.

How do I find the video tutorials for storytelling? Everything you need is here: [Story School - Tampa-Hillsborough County Storytelling Festival - YouTube](#)

Does a storyteller have to watch all the videos to participate? No, but there are specific criteria that the performance must meet to qualify as festival quality. Watching the videos, and most importantly, practicing (practice, practice, practice!) the skills demonstrated will help the storyteller to consistently perform well enough to meet the criteria. Practicing is also where the storyteller gets the best benefits of storytelling, the literacy skills and the opportunity to build confidence.

Will every storytelling video submitted be automatically accepted as festival quality? No, only storytellers who perform at a festival quality level in their videos will be given that designation. See *Storytelling Criteria* on hcplc.org/storytelling for more information about what traits make a performance festival quality

How do I make a video of my storytelling? Use the *How to Submit the Recording* document on hcplc.org/storytelling to learn how to record and submit a video recording.

Can my child wear a costume or use props for the festival? No, to promote confidence and public speaking skills, storytellers rely on their voices, facial expressions, and gestures/movements to tell their story.

How do I register for online storytelling events? Follow this link: hcplc.org/storytelling to register for the storytelling events.

Does watching the Story School videos and submitting a video guarantee festival quality? No, festival quality is a designation that means that the storyteller submitted a video demonstrating the criteria of festival quality storytelling.