



Volunteer Facilitator FAQ's

Facilitators are an integral part of the A.B.L.E. ensemble. These volunteers participate side-by-side with A.B.L.E.'s actors with intellectual and developmental disabilities to ensure everyone has a productive, supportive, and fun rehearsal.

Read on to see if this role is right for you!



What are the requirements?

- Age 18 or older
- Enthusiasm and kindness
- Communicates consistently, clearly, and authentically
- A proactive and collaborative work ethic
- Adaptability and responsiveness
- A sense of humor, and willingness to be silly
- Complete a criminal background check through A.B.L.E.'s partner, Sterling Volunteers



What do facilitators do?

- Participate fully in rehearsal games and activities to model and encourage bold choices
- Collaborate with actors in devising exercises and onstage
- Offer individual attention and assistance for actors who need additional support
- Nurture respectful and supportive relationships with individuals with and without disabilities
- Review weekly emailed rehearsal reports so they can come to each session prepared and ready to work
- Assist Teaching Artists with other needs (studio set-up & clean up, technology, taking notes and photos, etc.)
- Dance, play, and have fun!



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What kind of training do facilitators need?

Facilitators come from many personal and professional backgrounds. No formal education or acting background is required!

All new facilitators must attend a 2 hour training prior to the start of their first semester. A.B.L.E. also offers additional professional development trainings throughout the year for all staff and volunteers.

What is the Time Commitment?

A.B.L.E.'s core ensembles run for two semesters each season, from September to December and February to May, with a performance at the end of each semester. A typical semester is comprised of:

- 1 Orientation (2.5 hrs)
- 10 regular weekly rehearsals (2.5 hours each)
- 1 Tech Rehearsal (3 hours)
- 1 Dress Rehearsal (3 hours)
- 1 public performance (4 hours)

We know our volunteers have busy lives, and so have 2 different levels of commitment:

Core Facilitator (Estimated 40hrs per semester):

Core facilitators are expected to attend all sessions for their ensemble. At least 1 semester experience with A.B.L.E. is recommended before committing to this track.

Rotating or In the Wings Facilitator (Estimated 15-20hrs per semester):

For first-time facilitators, or those who need more flexibility. Rotating facilitators are expected to attend orientations, the first and last rehearsals, and any 3 additional rehearsals that suit their schedule.

Is there compensation for this role?

This is a volunteer position.

Facilitators receive free professional development opportunities, complimentary tickets to select events, and other perks throughout the year. Facilitators may also receive reimbursement for travel to/from in-person sessions or for internet service to connect to virtual sessions.

Do you have to live in Chicago?

No! As part of our commitment to accessibility, A.B.L.E. continues to offer virtual programming. Our virtual facilitators Zoom in from as far away as California, New York, and even the U.K.!

How can I sign up?

A.B.L.E. accepts applications for new facilitators twice a year - in January and July via our website at ableensemble.com/volunteer



For more information about A.B.L.E.'s Facilitation Team or other volunteer opportunities with A.B.L.E., contact

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