

MISSOULA, CHILDREN'S THEATRE

Annually, the Missoula Children's Theatre (MCT) visits all 50 U.S. states and 14 countries to provide more than 1,200 week-long residencies aimed at developing life skills in children (K-12) through participation in the performing arts—life skills that are critical to succeed in school, realize personal potential and confidently face the challenges of everyday life.

The week begins on Monday when two MCT Tour Actor/Directors (TADs) arrive with everything needed to produce a full-length musical; costumes, sets, lights, scripts, make-up. They audition local children and cast 50-60 of them. The week culminates in two performances.

Throughout the week, the kids have fun learning lines, cues, songs and choreography, and, at the same time, learn the importance of commitment, confidence, teamwork and trust. In each MCT cast, girls and boys are equal, the disabled become able, the shy experiment with bravery and the gifted become part of a whole. By the end of the week, as the kids savor the applause, they gain confidence in their ability to tackle new challenges. They have learned that, if they work hard and if they push themselves, they can create something wonderful!

Residency weeks include an open audition, intensive rehearsals, two public performances and three enrichment workshops. As a non-profit 501(c)(3), MCT relies on donations in order to keep fees affordable and accessible to any community. More than 70% of the communities MCT visits are rural. Throughout the year, MCT also visits, on average, 50 military bases in the continental US and 40 military bases overseas. Each year MCT works with more than 65,000 children worldwide. We estimate that more than 1 million people have participated in an MCT production.