



# 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Tampa-Hillsborough County Storytelling Festival

## 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?** Students in grades K-12 are welcome to submit videos and every storyteller that records and submits a festival quality performance will be featured. See [How to Record and Submit Your Story](#) and the [Storytelling Criteria](#).

**How old do I need to be to participate in the Storytelling Festival?** Six years old to 18 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 Festival 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 Storytelling of Tampa-Hillsborough County.

**Will there be in-person events for the 2023 Storytelling Festival?** Yes! The festival will take place live and in-person on Saturday, April 29.

**How do I register for virtual storytelling events?** Register at: [HCPLC.org/StorytellingFestival](https://HCPLC.org/StorytellingFestival)

**How do I find the video tutorials for storytelling?** Everything you need is here: [HCPLC.org/StorytellingFestival](https://HCPLC.org/StorytellingFestival)

**Does a storyteller have to attend all the sessions and watch all the videos to participate?** The performance must meet specific [Storytelling Criteria](#) in order to qualify as festival quality. Attending sessions, watching videos, and most importantly, practicing (practice, practice, practice!) the skills demonstrated will help the storyteller to consistently perform well enough to meet the criteria. These sessions are also where the storyteller gets the best benefits of storytelling: the literacy skills and the opportunity to build confidence.

**Does attending events, watching the videos, or 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.

**Will every storytelling video submitted be automatically accepted for the festival?** No, only storytellers who perform at a festival quality in their videos will be selected to be a part of the Storytelling Festival. Here's a link to more information about what traits make a performance festival quality: [Storytelling Criteria](#).

**How do I make a video of my storytelling?** View [How to Record and Submit Your Story](#).

**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.

Sponsored by the Friends of Storytelling of Tampa-Hillsborough County.