

# JUGHEADS

JOURNAL

Monthly news of JUGHEADS Youth Juggling Company, LLC • Edina, Minnesota • January 2015

## JJ17 Q&A for Rookie Families... ...and Reminders for Veteran Families!

**Q: What is Juggle Jam?**

A: Juggle Jam 17 (JJ17), **May 15 & 16 at 7 pm at Hopkins HS Auditorium**, is our pinnacle event, featuring all six clubs, specialty acts, skits, a Slide Show, and a Senior Presentation. Audiences are *surprised* with its entertainment and inspiration.

**Q: Does my Jughead have to audition to be in JJ17?**

A: No and Yes. Every Jughead is guaranteed to appear in our Opening & Finale, club routine(s), and Slide Show, but “specialty acts” (solos & small ensembles) are determined by auditions in April. Even Ultimate-level specialty acts may not make it into JJ.

**Q: Are there extra time commitments involved for JJ17?**

A: The only *extra* rehearsals involving the entire company are the evenings of **Wed.**, May 6 & **Tues.**, May 12. (Hopkins’ conflicts prevent our tradition of holding the Final Dress Rehearsal on the **Wed.** of JJ week.) All Jugheads should try to stay at club until 5:45 pm from now on (9 pm for UC). Please text or email Paul with conflicts (esp. for May 6, 12, 15 & 16), incl. kids leaving early from club rehearsals through May 14.

**Q: How does the process of selling tickets work?**

A: Specific information on how to promote JJ17 and purchase tickets through [www.jugheads.com](http://www.jugheads.com) will be available in March.

**Q: How will you communicate JJ17-related info.?**

A: This monthly newsletter; a separate “Final Memo” mailed home in late April; and occasional emails to our group list will keep all parents and performers apprised of JJ17 info. Contact Wendy if you’re NOT on the “[jugheads\_parents]” group list.

## EYJA: 10 Years and Counting!

### Non-profit widely enriches youth juggling

The **Edina Youth Juggling Association (EYJA)** was founded in 2005 by former Jughead dad and current president **Doug Watson** under the **Edina Community Foundation** with the purpose to promote youth juggling in Edina and surrounding communities. Annual grants include (co-) sponsorship of the EYJA Showcase, JUGHEADS Juggle Jam, the EYJA Juggling Meet, special guest instructors (for specialty acts, group choreography, and/or technical expertise), equipment (to be used for JJ and for students to go out and teach juggling), and “Youth Juggling Caught Here!” yard signs.

In 2013, EYJA vice president **Rich Lovdal** spearheaded

an annual scholarship for one or two juggling seniors in recognition of outstanding leadership, service, and/or excellence in and through the art & sport of juggling. The \$500 scholarship(s) will be put toward post-secondary education or training. This year’s scholarship(s) will be announced at the Showcase in March; current seniors should look for an email soon inviting them to apply!

The EYJA directly and indirectly supports *many* youth in juggling, and we’re grateful as a company for collectively benefitting from the service of the board, funds from donors, and ideas to keep youth juggling fresh, exciting, and always *developing*.

## 10th Annual EYJA Winter Showcase

March 20, 7:30 pm at Hopkins Little Theater

The EYJA Winter Showcase is set for Friday, 3/20 at 7:30 pm at Hopkins HS Little Theater. Led by our Student Leadership Team headed by **Student Director Reid Johnson**, the Showcase is free & open to the public, offering both a valuable performance experience and an entertaining show. Any polished solo or ensemble from any club is invited to perform; prospective acts should **inform Coach Paul by Fri., 1/30 (incl. song choice)** and **preview their routine for Reid J. by Fri, 2/27**. Acts should limit their routines to three minutes (3:00) or less, but they may perform up to 4:00 with special permission. The cast will be confirmed by March 6. *NOTE: The EYJA Showcase is a pre-requisite for JJ17 specialty act auditions on 4/14 in the Wooddale-Edina gym.*

## CLUB SPOTLIGHT: Advanced Club

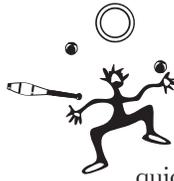
### 76.67% rookie influx=surge of progress

Talk about an extreme makeover! Of the 30 current Advanced members, only seven were in the club last year--meaning that 23 members worked hard to move up from (or add to) their Rec. Club roots. Due to such demand, selected standards for Advanced (and Elite) are increasing or even being newly introduced for next fall in order to challenge prospective members to keep working on being well-rounded jugglers and passers.

**Coach Stefan Brancel’s** availability due to a delay in medical/grad school has been a perfect catalyst to keep this growing club with renewed focus on its technical toes, and the student leadership team has been increased to accommodate many eager

students’ continuous progress. Most notably, senior **Taylor C.** has added a 4th day to her weekly regimen as a Jughead, both to follow up with several of her former Monday Rec. students and to be the voluntary visionary for this year’s JJ17 Advanced routine: “Fiddler on the Roof.”





## JUGHEADS Community News

- **RELEASE DAYS REMINDER:** Monday Rec. will NOT meet on 1/19 or 2/16; Elite will NOT meet on 1/20 or 2/17.
- **MEGA CAMPS** are from 9-5 pm on 1/19 & 20 led by **Coach Stefan Brancel**. *Showcase acts are encouraged to attend!* \$65 w/lunch; \$30 half-day w/o lunch. Likely to be discontinued due to waning interest, take advantage of this mid-winter tradition while it lasts! (There will be no camps on 2/16 or 2/17.)
- **MONDO Juggling & Unicycling Festival** at Concordia U. in St. Paul marks our 21st year attending as a group! See attached form (or request one) to join us on **1/31** for all day juggling, workshops, Pizza Luce, and a show at Central HS. (Mega Camp exp. & Rec. standards recommended but not required.)
- **THE IJA FESTIVAL** is July 19-26 in Quebec City, Quebec. A choice of *two mandatory info. meetings* will be held **Thurs., 2/5 and Tues., 2/10 at 6 pm** in South Hall for Elite and UC-level Jugheads considering traveling with us.
- **Next Officer Meeting:** 1/10, 9am-Noon @ Claeys' home.

## Paul's Platform: "The Social Benefits of JUGHEADS Membership, Part 2"

Personal character, the body, the brain, and healthy co-ed friendships among our 10-year age range with a long tradition of custom-made special events...those are some benefits of juggling in general, and Jughead membership specifically, to which I've devoted this monthly column since September. This half-year series concludes with some thoughts on two dramatic and contagious benefits of being a Jughead: student leadership and Juggle Jam.

Remember, I didn't set out to be a juggling coach; in fact, I never even set out to work with youth, even upon college graduation! Instead, my presumed career in radio led me to pursue theatre, music, speaking, and writing from ages 12-22, with athletics and hobbies thrown in for fun. Therefore, when God called me to pursue youth work rather than the media, I created my coaching role as I went along, growing as our rosters grew. Many kids

quickly matched and surpassed my juggling skills, making it necessary for them to be cutting-edge instructors of each other.

I established club captains right away in '94-'95, but it wasn't until the original 1999 Juggle Jam that I introduced older teen leaders to my Rec. Clubs, followed by establishing an Officer Team to plan Juggle Jam 2000. Now, I've settled on 17 as the ideal size of my Student Leadership Team: students who are regularly trained through meetings; learn that servant-leadership can be both overt & received gratefully and menial & thankless; and whose roles as current members (i.e., still in childhood) carry with them a credibility and effectiveness that is different from even my college-aged coaches. It could be argued that being on our SLT carries with it an honor similar to that of a high-ranking Boy Scout or Student Council member; even so, the virtues of learning responsibility and giving of oneself aren't easily articulated on a resume or college application. But several former leaders have done just that!

The social benefits of Juggle Jam? For rookie families, just you wait till May. For veterans, it's self-explanatory. **Chris Jost** (Class of '12) once quipped, "Juggle Jam weekend should be a national holiday!" That sentiment from a young man who didn't even join till 9th grade encapsulates much of the magic of JJ: 120+ youth working together for months toward a shared goal which is then applauded by hundreds of supporters over two nights in one of the best high school venues in the state. Many lifetime memories are made; friendships are solidified; skills are stretched; stage fright is forgotten; and there is a very special bonding that is parallel to experiences of actors, athletes, and even extended families.

The word "Jughead" combines both athletics and the arts but is cemented by friendships. As long as this company exists, there will remain ongoing benefits that can't be fully chronicled but will continue to change lives and develop youth. And even when the juggling stops, the changed lives go on, and hopefully, go on to change others' lives as well.

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