

A Publication of the Texas Clown Association

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texasclownassociation.com





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Purpose of TCA

1. To promote, preserve, and improve the profession of clowning.
2. To provide the opportunity to study the art, history, and philosophy of clowning.
3. To educate its members and the general public in the wholesome and clean entertainment that is provided by the profession of clowning.
4. To provide news to the members of all clown events in the state of Texas.

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THE JOEY JOURNAL

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Advertisements: Advertisements must be prepaid and camera ready. Rates: Back cover - \$80.00; Inside back cover - \$70.00; Full page - \$70.00; 1/2-page - \$40.00; 1/4 page size - \$25.00; and a business card size ad - \$10.00 an issue.

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Family (each add'l); \$20.00
Junior Membership (age 10-15): \$17.50
Senior Membership (over 90): \$20.00

Visit www.texasclownassociation.com for online or mail in membership application and renewal.

Central membership mailing location: Send all membership questions, dues, renewals, reinstatements, address changes and applications to TCA, Inc., P.O. Box 820, Hurst, Texas 76053.

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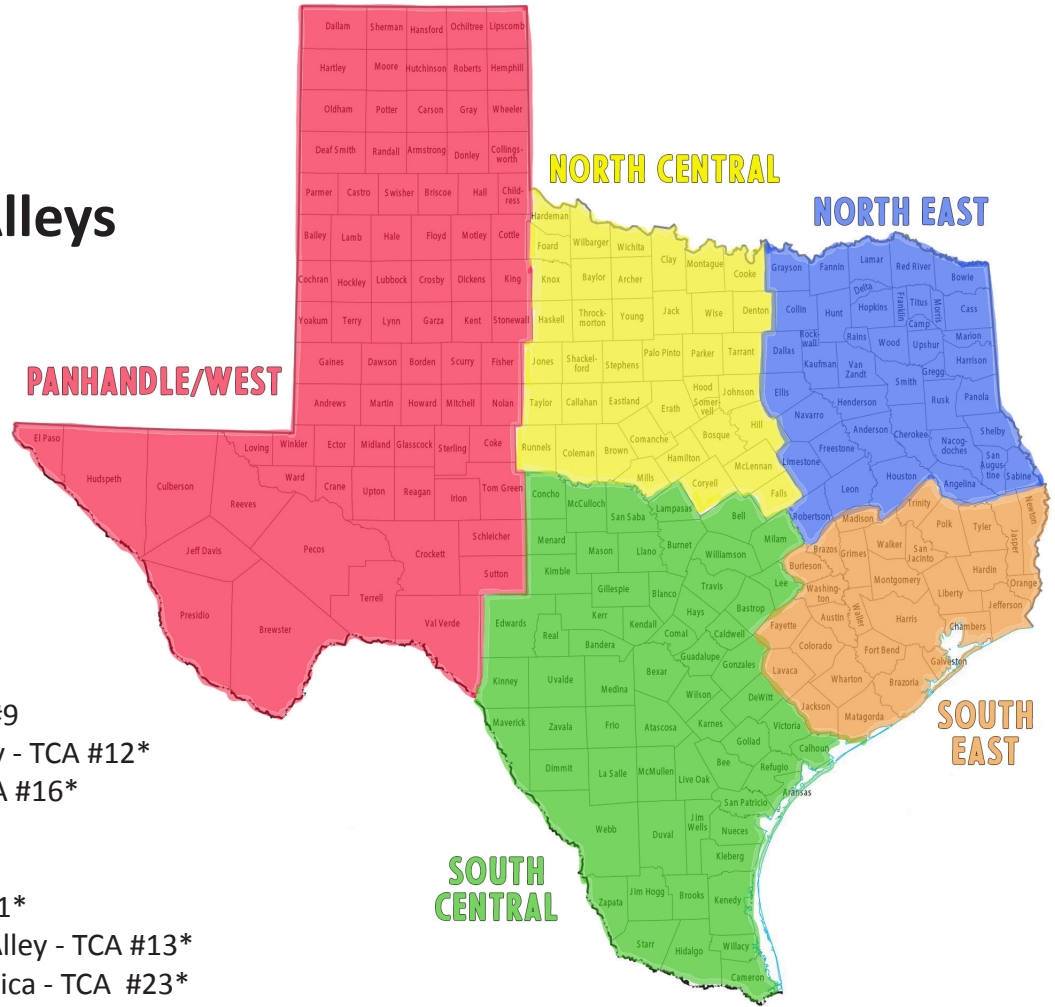
Be sure to check out the TCA website
www.texasclownassociation.com

The members only password is:
TCA24

**Password will change on
May 1st to toybox26**

Be sure to connect to our official TCA facebook page - you can find the link on our website. Follow us and stay current with what is going on with.

TCA Clown Alleys



Panhandle/West Region
Oops Alley - TCA #2

North Central Region
Cowtown Clowns - TCA #9
Happi Tymes Clown Alley - TCA #12*
The Clown Arounds - TCA #16*

North East Region
Tejas Klown Club - TCA #1*
Texas Mid-Cities Clown Alley - TCA #13*
Payasos Latinos de America - TCA #23*
Cedar Creek Clowns - TCA #24*
Rosey Nose Clown Alley - TCA #25
Memory Makers Clown Alley - TCA #26
DFW Clowns "R" Us - TCA #

South East Region
Space City Clown Alley - TCA #6*
Montgomery County Clowns - TCA #11*
Cheeful Clown Alley - TCA #14
Coastal Confetti Clowns - TCA #18*

South/Central Region
Jolly Joey Clown Alley - TCA #19
The Clown Alley - TCA #15

*Inactive Alleys



From the Circus Tent of the Red Nose in Charge

Bringing Back the Joy: Reviving Our Clown Traditions

by Cinde “Boopsie” Sanders

There is something truly special about traditions. They connect us to our past, strengthen our present, and give us something to look forward to in the future. In the world of clowning, our traditions are more than just events; they are moments of laughter, learning, and fellowship.



For many years, gatherings like our TCA Conventions were a cornerstone of that connection. At one time, we welcomed 300–400 clowns from across Texas each year! While those numbers have shifted over the past decade, we still have an incredible core group of 60–70 dedicated individuals who continue to show up, support one another, and keep the heart of clowning alive.

Last year, we took an exciting step forward by refreshing our brand and planning gatherings that are more affordable, accessible, and inspiring. And guess what? The pendulum is swinging back! There is a renewed interest in clowning and live performance. More people are showing up, ready to learn, laugh, and maybe even step a little “out of the box.” Seeing performers come together again reminds us just how important these moments are.

As we look ahead, we have an opportunity not just to bring back what once was, but to build something even better, more inclusive, more energetic, and just as joy filled as ever. Whether it’s workshops, shared meals, performances, or simply spending time together, every moment helps keep our red noses shining bright. Reviving traditions takes all of us. It takes showing up, sharing our talents, and encouraging each other. When we do that, we are not just preserving the past but also creating a future full of laughter.

So, let’s keep bringing back the joy. Let’s reconnect, re-energize, and reimagine what our clown community can be. After all... the world can always use a few more smiles.



ALL ABOOOOORD!

“Toybox...Out of the Box FUN!”

by Cinde “Boopsie” Sanders



Get ready, because the 2026 TCA Convention is like a Toy Train rolling into the station loaded with fun, laughter, and nonstop excitement! And when it arrives, it’s going to be BIG! This year’s theme, “**Toybox... Out of the Box FUN!**”, is all about creativity, imagination, and bringing out the playful spirit in all of us. And what better way to lead the fun than our incredible headliner...

Lanky the Clown!

That’s right—Danny “Lanky” Kollaja is bringing his one-of-a-kind energy, towering talent, and larger-than-life personality to center stage! Known for his wild antics, creative comedy,



and heartwarming connection with audiences, Lanky doesn’t just perform...he plays. And that’s exactly what this convention is all about. We are rediscovering the joy of play, just like opening your favorite toybox and letting your imagination run free.

Lanky is one of us. He is a TCA member who lives in Corpus Christi but travels the globe with fairs and festivals and community celebrations. From the moment Lanky steps into the spotlight, you can expect surprises, laughter, and maybe even a few “how did he DO that?!” moments. Whether you are a seasoned performer or just love the art of clowning, his sessions and performances will leave you inspired, energized, and ready to think a little more outside the box. <https://youtu.be/WweVzw5XjYI>

This year’s convention is shaping up to be a colorful mix of creativity, learning, and pure FUN. Picture a toybox filled with:

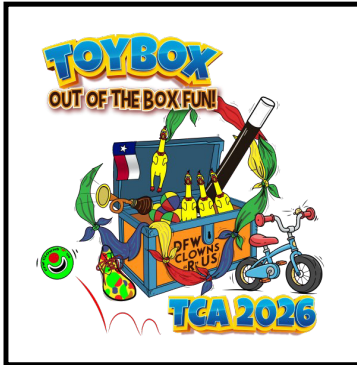
- Bright new ideas
- Hands-on workshops
- Silly surprises
- Meaningful connections with fellow clowns

Every moment is designed to spark imagination and remind us why we fell in love with clowning in the first place.

Here’s the thing...a toybox isn’t much fun if it’s empty! We need YOU to help make this convention the joyful, laughter-filled experience it’s meant to be.

So go ahead—dust off your props, pack your biggest smile, and **get your registration in today**. The sooner you sign up, the sooner the excitement can begin!

Let’s come together, think outside the box, and create something unforgettable—because when clowns gather, magic happens. **We can’t wait to play with you at the TCA Convention!**



Name: _____

Clown Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

TCA #: _____ (if you don't know this, we can fill it in. If you are not a member, join online at www.texasclownassociation.com)

Is this your first TCA Convention? Yes ___ No ___

Registration (see right side)	\$	_____
Extra Banquet Ticket \$108	\$	_____
Extra Sunday Breakfast Ticket \$69	\$	_____
T-shirt \$25 each Size _____	\$	_____
Total	\$	_____

Payment options:

Zelle—dfwclownsrus@gmail.com

Checks mailed to Clowns "R" Us at:

TCA, P.O. Box 820, Hurst, TX 76053

Visit www.texasclownassociation.com regularly to see updates as they become available

Please contact us with any questions or concerns. Please let us know if you have any allergies or need other special accommodations. Cinde "Boopsie" Sanders
214-796-8122 or cindesanders@gmail.com

DFW CLOWNS "R" US
Presents
Texas Clown Association
42nd Annual Convention
August 12-16, 2026
In Irving, Texas

Registration Fees:
\$195 until April 30
\$215 Until June 30
\$230 Until Aug 11
\$250 at the door

(no refunds after July 22)

Full registration is all inclusive with all scheduled workshops (including Pre-convention events on Wednesday night), shows, jams, auctions, parties, vendors, competitions, Saturday banquet dinner and Sunday breakfast

\$85 for single day registration

(access to all activities on that day, excluding meals)

Junior Joey's FREE registration with paid adult

(access to all activities, plus special Jr activities, excluding meals)

Pre-Convention Bonus Event

Immersive focus - choose Face Paint or Balloons

Wednesday, August 12th—6:30-9pm

Free with full paid registration or \$50 for non registered guests.

Westin DFW Airport Hotel

4545 W. John Carpenter Fwy, Irving, Texas 76541

Room Rate: \$135 (plus tax) - up to 4 in a room

To book your room

[Book your group rate for Texas Clown Association August 2026](#)

Ask for the Texas Clown Association Block

Please plan to stay at the hotel to help us make our room requirements and make your reservations early.

Deadline July 22nd.

Ambassador of Clowning Award

By Kathy "Picolo" Keaton 2026 Ambassador

Texas Clown Association (TCA) was founded in 1982 and the first TCA AMBASSADOR OF CLOWNING AWARD was presented in 1983. This award is to recognize and honor the TCA member who most exemplifies the art of clowning and supports and promotes TCA. The award is a "lifetime achievement award" meaning that a member is only honored once (in a lifetime) with this prestigious award.

Since this is presented once in a lifetime, it takes more than a "little bit" of clowning and TCA support to earn this award. TCA Ambassador Award recipients are granted lifetime membership in TCA (meaning they no longer pay annual dues – at the TCA Board of Directors' discretion). The award is usually presented during the annual TCA convention but an Ambassador selection, is not mandatory each year. Nominees should have the following qualifications and/or traits:

- Must be current and active member of TCA.
- Must be known for his/her dedication and promotion of clowning without personal gain.
- Should be well-rounded clown, i.e. someone who gives to the community, is an active volunteer, and who is exposed or is a professional in the art of clowning.
- Should promote TCA in all facets of clowning, and always strive to be positive, upbeat, agreeable and have a fair attitude.
- Nomination letters should explain why the nominee should be considered for the award and provide examples of the points listed above – it is not enough to just say you want to nominate the person.

The nominations are reviewed by a committee of past recipients of the award. Remember, that while most of the committee members are active in TCA, it is possible that they do not know every qualified member. Nominations should include sufficient details describing the nominee to the Committee members as if they do not know the nominee. Be sure to include such facts as:

- How long this nominee has been an active supporting TCA member?
- Have they held any position in their alley or on the TCA board or TCA committees?
- How do they support and promote TCA in their clowning?
- How have they exhibited extra-ordinary clownmanship?
- How has the nominee been shown to be positive, upbeat, agreeable and sharing? Are they unselfish in assisting others, caring and most of all, just there when needed with no thought of being reimbursed for their time or effort?
- How have they displayed being a well-rounded clown; someone who gives to the community as an active volunteer, and who also demonstrated professionalism in the art of clowning?
- How has this nominee shown his/her dedication and promotion of the art of clowning in assisting others?

Nominations will be accepted from CURRENT TCA members only. Nominees must be CURRENT TCA members (to check membership status, contact the TCA Treasurer). Be sure to include your name and TCA number on your nomination letter as well as the REAL name and CLOWN name of your nominee. (Include your contact information too in case the committee has any questions about your nomination).

A list of the Ambassador Award recipients can be found on the TCA website. Remember do not nominate any members who have already received the award.

Nominations will be accepted by regular mail or e-mail. The chair will validate each nomination received by the deadline (confirming the membership). The nominations will be considered by the TCA Ambassador Committee which is made up of previous recipients. The award will be presented during the Award Banquet at the annual TCA convention.

The deadline for nominations is July 30, 2026

Nominations for the 2025 Ambassador Award are being accepted by:

Kathy Keaton
kathykeaton2119@gmail.com
4505 Southern Oak Lane
San Angelo, Texas
76904



Past ambassadors from the 2025 TCA Convention

Ambassador

Thank you so much for awarding me the title of TCA Ambassador for 2026. I was honored and excited to join those others who have been recognized as ambassadors. My goal is to continue to promote and support TCA and its mission to help clowns in any way I can.

Thank you again for believing in me,
Kathy Keaton

The Eight True Traits: Guiding Our Art and Our Audience

by Cinde “Boopsie” Sanders

As performers, we know that clowning is more than just putting on makeup or making a puppet come to life. It is a craft built on connection, respect, and shared joy. At the heart of that connection are the Eight True Traits: Respectful, Prepared, Enthusiastic, Confident, Creative, Humble, Authentic, and Giving. These traits aren't just ideals; they are the foundation of how we present ourselves, both on stage and off.

Check this out: <https://www.8truetraits.com/>

When we embody these traits:

- Respectful – we honor our fellow performers, our audience, and the art itself.
- Prepared – we bring our best, showing dedication to every performance.
- Enthusiastic – our energy is contagious, inspiring laughter and engagement.
- Confident – we trust ourselves and our craft, helping others trust in our performance too.
- Creative – we innovate and play, making each show unique and memorable.
- Humble – we acknowledge the contributions of others and remain open to learning.
- Authentic – we are genuine, letting our true personality shine through our character.
- Giving – we share joy, time, and attention, leaving audiences enriched and uplifted.



But here is the important part: these traits aren't one-sided. When we bring these values to our performances, we set the tone for our audience as well. The same respect, enthusiasm, and authenticity we show them creates an environment where they respond in kind. Children, families, and communities come to trust, engage, and enjoy because they feel valued. When our audience follows these traits in return, the magic of clowning and the joy of shared experience truly comes alive.

Example: Have you ever done a show at a home where the parents are talking so loudly the children cannot hear? Well, if you practice respect, enthusiasm and authenticity; if you include them and show them you expect the same from them, then they will automatically engage and respond.

When we embody these traits, audiences respond respectfully, enthusiastically, and with hearts open to fun. That's when real magic happens.

As members of the Texas Clown Association, we are not just performers; we are ambassadors of joy and respect. Let's continue to lead by example, inspiring both each other and our audiences to live and laugh by the Eight True Traits. After all, clowning is not only about the laughs we give, but the trust, kindness, and connection we create.

The World Needs Clowns More Now Than Ever

by Misha Usov

Submitted by Kathy “Piccolo” Keaton

I don’t usually write long posts about life, but lately, I’ve started noticing something strange. Watching what’s happening around us and how we treat one another, these thoughts just came together. I guess it’s simply time to say them out loud...

Look at the world today: everything has suddenly gone south, and you don’t even want to check the news anymore — nothing but conflict and anxiety everywhere. On YouTube, various “experts” and pundits spin their narratives with a very serious air, leaving you with nothing but a heavy heart. And they constantly use the word “clown” as an insult, to belittle someone or call them a fool.

But as I look at this, I realize: the world has simply turned upside down.

I think back to history: great masters like Chaplin, Keaton, Grock — they became most vital precisely when the world was falling apart. Because in the darkness, people need a breath of light.



I am a professional clown. I have many friends and kind acquaintances in this profession, including famous masters. I have students, too. And among them, I have never seen a mean or a stupid person. On the contrary: to give joy when there is enough gloom around, one needs a very deep mind and a big heart. My colleagues and students are people who, through their work, simply give people back the will to live.

Meanwhile, those who look so respectable and say “smart” things often bring only despondency. The clown — whose name they use as an insult — is actually the one helping people stay human. This is the great paradox.

My advice? Just turn off the noise. Make some room for creativity, for a kind joke, for just being a fool with the ones you love. Don’t wait for the light to come from somewhere else. The most sensible thing you can do right now is to keep on shining yourself, despite everything.

Used with permission by Misha Usov

<https://inside-theatre.com/>

Torn and Restored Tissue Paper Heart

A Simple Trick with a Powerful Message

by Cinde "Boopsie" Sanders

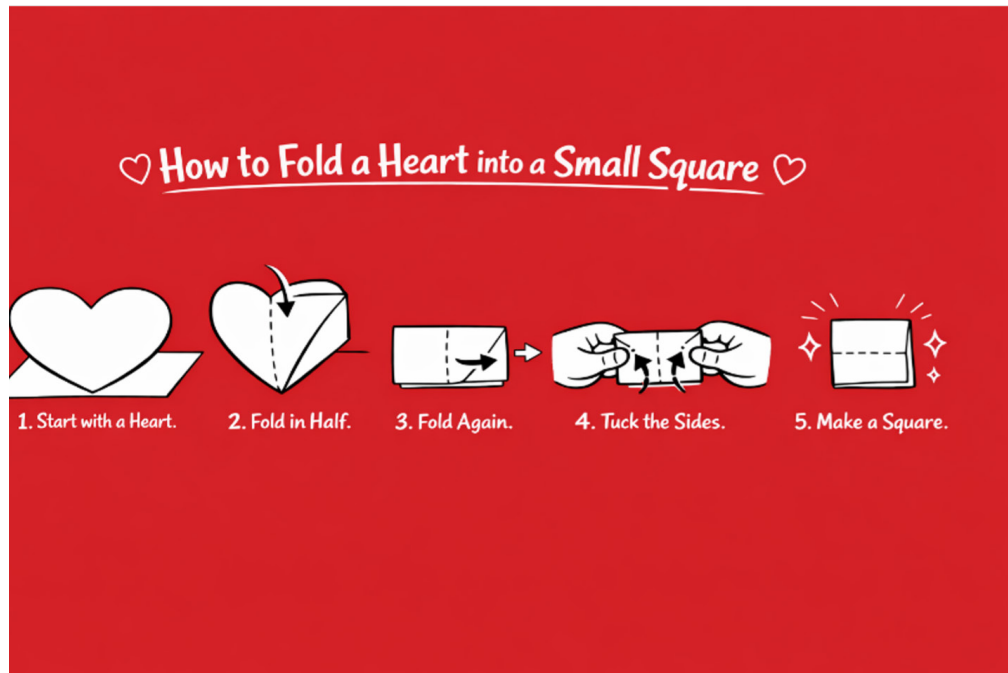
The Effect: Tear a tissue paper heart into small pieces and restore it before your spectators' eyes.



The Preparation: The Torn and Restored Heart is made by cutting two tissue paper hearts the same size. Then carefully folding one of the tissue paper hearts into a small square, and hiding it behind another tissue paper heart. (You can use double sided tape to keep it attached).

The Presentation:

1. Hold the heart with your thumb in the front and the fingers in the back. The fingers are hiding the extra heart taped to the back. Show the heart and talk about what it represents, maybe friendship, feelings, trust, Love.
2. Tear the heart into small pieces. As you tear it you can turn it over and unfold the one on the back.
3. Unfold the heart to reveal it fully restored.
4. Pause. Let them react.



The Secret is not fancy tools or sleight of hand. It is careful folding, gentle tearing, and thoughtful practice. We perform the Torn and Restored Heart because magic can teach more than surprise. It can teach empathy. When children see the heart torn, they recognize how words and actions can hurt. When it is restored, they learn that kindness, forgiveness, and care have the power to heal. This simple trick reminds us that even when feelings are damaged, they are never beyond repair.

Why This Trick Works

The Torn and Restored Tissue Paper Heart is more than a trick. It is a lesson wrapped in wonder. With just a piece of tissue paper, you can teach themes of love, kindness, forgiveness, resilience, or healing.

Materials Needed

- Red or pink tissue paper (enough to cut two hearts)
- Scissors
- Double Sided Tape

Pro tip: Tissue paper works best. It tears easily and restores smoothly.

Performance Tips:

- Tailor the message to your audience. The magic supports the lesson not the other way around
- Move slowly. This is an emotional piece, not a fast gag.
- Soft music would be a plus
- Practice, Practice, Practice until it feels natural and quiet.
- Use less talking during the restoration. It makes the moment stronger

Why We Teach This Trick: The Torn and Restored Tissue Paper Heart reminds us that simple magic can carry deep meaning. It's inexpensive, packs flat, resets instantly and leaves a lasting impression. If you can make your audience feel something, the magic will always be remembered.

Area Alley Reports



Panhandle West Report - Jan 2026
by Kathy “Piccolo” Keaton
kathykeaton2119@gmail.com

Panhandle West members were busy in the Midland/Odessa area during the holidays with face painting events for corporate sponsors as well as children’s events. Suzie Wall in Herford also stayed active with volunteer events and holiday window painting. Susan “Tinker” Butler continued to entertain with her uke at local nursing homes in Odessa and looking to possibly expand to surrounding communities. She will be joining “Clowns on a Mission” on a second trip to Guatemala in February, entertaining children in small villages. We were sorry to lose long-time Oops member Voncille Cox who moved to Abilene giving her and her grandson the opportunity to join a Dallas Alley. We wish her the best with her new alley and clown friends. Kathy Keaton was appointed as new secretary for Oops Alley.

Education Scholarship

It's time to start planning for the 2026 TCA Convention and that means you have time to apply for a scholarship to the upcoming Convention! Check out the requirements below and then download an application and get it submitted before this year's deadline, July 30, 2026.

Requirements for Scholarship:

- All applications must be received by the date listed in the current Joey Journal.
- All applicants must be TCA members who have maintained membership for at least 1 year by the application deadline.
- Recipients must wait two years before reapplying.
- Applicants must agree to write an article for The Joey Journal regarding their experiences at the TCA Convention they attended within thirty days of the convention.
- It is strongly suggested that the recipient participate in one or more competitions at the convention.
- Attach with the application form: A letter of reference from a TCA member who has first-hand knowledge of your clowning abilities & a picture of you in costume & make-up. (Photo will not be returned.)
- Questions for the application form.
 - o How long have you been clowning?
 - o Have you been a TCA Member for at least a year before the application deadline?
 - o What clowning venues are you most comfortable clowning and why?
 - o What clown skills are you interested in developing?
 - o What clown educational programs have you attended in the past two years?
 - o Have you received a TCA scholarship in the past two years?
 - o How will you apply the education you receive as a result of receiving this scholarship?
 - In your community?
 - In your alley?
 - In the Art of Clowning?

You can download a scholarship application at <https://texasclownassociation.com/forms>



Register Today!

<https://texasclownassociation.com/tca-convention>