

***Kagura* Performers (Hosha)**

In the Takachiho region, those who train and perform *kagura* are referred to as *hosha*. They often begin training when they are young, around elementary school age, and are instructed by a local *kagura* master. When they are not performing, *hosha* are members of the community with various professions.

In the past, *hosha* roles were restricted to the eldest sons of important local families. This is because, in Japanese custom, eldest sons were often the inheritors of businesses and estates. Recently, however, there has been an increase in *hosha* from various backgrounds, including some performers who moved to the area from other regions.

***Kagura* Stage (Koniwa)**

The *koniva* is the sacred space where the *kami* deities are invited to descend on the night of a *yokagura* performance. No one except the *hosha* performers may enter. Traditionally, the *koniva* is established in the home of an elected host, so its location may change from year to year. Recently, some groups have begun using community centers.