

# AR Blue and Gold Junior FESTIVAL HANDBOOK

March 8, 2025 Springdale Har-Ber and March 15, 2025 ASU Beebe  
(9am-3pm) Arkansas Educational Theatre Association

## INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS DOCUMENT

1. Cost for Festival
2. Registration Information
3. Membership Status / Student Inductee Instructions
4. Troupe Flags
5. Thespys
6. Flagging
7. Conference Rules and Regulations (PLEASE REVIEW WITH STUDENTS) separate document with health forms

## 1. Cost for Festival

- \$40 per student for in person attendees (this includes workshops,t shirt, and lunch )
- \$40 for troupe directors (this includes workshops,t shirt, and lunch )
- \$30 for each Chaperone (this includes a tshirt, lunch, and workshops)
- \$15 for bus driver lunch (no cost if not eating lunch)
- \$10 for each competing EVENT not person.

Students can only enter one group event (group acting, group musical),one individual event, and one short film.

**Payment sent to following address due February 14, 2025**  
**EDTA Arkansas Thespians**  
**815 Technology Dr**  
**#241417**  
**Little Rock, AR 72223**

## 2. Registration Information

- Students may only attend Junior Festival with their school
- Registration will happen on Open Water and registration will be open on **November 1, 2024**.
- **NO "TBA'S"**. You must list a name for all participants. Registrations with "TBA's" will not be processed in Open Water
- By completing and signing the registration you understand all material ( Thespy's, Showcase performances, and etc. Being presented by this troupe and representing the school listed on the registration form) That includes foul language, offensive material, and/or obscenities must be flagged for content. You further understand that your school/ troupe will not be allowed to participate in next years festival should this rule be violated.
- Online registration deadline is **January 24, 2025**. No **additional** entries will be allowed after this date.
- Principals must sign the appropriate forms or your troupe's registration will not be processed!
- **No** changes can be made after January 24, 2025.

- If you have any questions, please feel free to call Summer Scott, Arkansas Jr, Coordinator, 870-917-5884; email [juniorthespians@arkansasthespiansl.org](mailto:juniorthespians@arkansasthespiansl.org) **PLEASE MAKE COPIES OF EVERYTHING FOR YOUR OWN RECORDS!**

### 3 . Troupe Status and Student Inductees

- This is the time of year each school needs to check on their **Membership status** or **Student Inductees**.
  1. Visit the official website at <https://www.schooltheatre.org/internationalthespiansociety/renew>
  2. Click on “Membership”
  3. Click on Charter a Troupe
    - Renewal Dues for middle schools who already are members of Arkansas Thespians. Fees are \$129.00.

**THE DEADLINE FOR TROUPE RENEWAL IS OCTOBER 15, 2024!** After this date, troupes that have not paid their troupe dues become inactive and their benefits are suspended. Troupes that have not paid their renewal dues by November 15, 2024 are withdrawn from active status and must pay an additional \$100.00 reinstatement fee.
- The first stop for members or prospective members to ask questions about benefits, programs, events, and services is our membership team. Call (513) 421-3900, ext. 1, weekdays 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m. ET, or email [members@schooltheatre.org](mailto:members@schooltheatre.org) anytime and a team member will be happy to help you.

### 4 . Troupe Flags

- In the interest of boosting self-image, although not required, every troupe is encouraged to create a Troupe Flag. The flag design must be in banner-style, to be displayed vertically on an eight-foot standard or suspended from an overhead batten. The flag should be designed to attach the top to a wooden cross-piece (**3-1996**). If you are making a troupe flag, the maximum width is three feet and length six feet...to be displayed vertically (**10-14-2006**). Older larger flags, of a larger size, are "grandfathered in."
- Flags should display the school name and troupe number. Any color(s) may be used. Appropriate designs can be used to enhance the school's Troupe Flag. The flags are not judged but are currently (**2009**) displayed suspended from battens at the opening and closing ceremonies. To enable the stage crew to hang the flags, each participating troupe should present their flag at the time of registration. Flags will be immediately removed from the battens to be picked up after the closing ceremonies and before departure. At this time we do not have a designated space for the flags at festival, so bringing them to festival is not necessary. We would however love to see them presented at festival so we can have pictures of your group for the slideshow.

### 5. THESPY'S

- [Rules and regulations](#) - PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU READ ALL OF THE PROGRAM GUIDE INFORMATION - FAILURE TO FOLLOW THE RULES WILL RESULT IN A DEDUCTION IN OVERALL RATING.
- *Thespy's events are \$10 per event*
  - *Performance Categories*
  - **Monologue**
  - **Duo Acting**
  - **Group Acting**
  - **Solo Musical Theatre**
  - **Duet Musical Theatre**

- **Group Musical Theatre**
- **Solo musical Theatre Dance**
- **Duet Musical Theatre Dance**
- **Group Musical Theatre Dance**

- **Technical categories**
- **Costume Construction**
- **Costume Design**
- **Lighting Design**
- **Makeup Design**
- **Scenic Design**
- **Short Film**
- **Sound Design**
- **Stage Management**
- **Theatre Marketing**

- Students can only be enrolled in 1 individual event (which includes duets) and 1 group event for the festival and one entry in a short film (creates or participants in)
- All entries will be evaluated asynchronously (prior to the start of the Jr. Festival). Performances that earn a superior may have the opportunity to perform for a new set of judges at Jr. Festival to be considered for Best of Show.
- Thespy's are designed to recognize the talents and hard work of inducted thespians. Students who meet the requirements outlined below will perform and are adjudicated in a category of their choosing in front of theatre educators and professionals. Selected participants with superior ranking and critic choice will perform their pieces on the main stage during the Festival awards ceremony. These guidelines can be found online at: [www.arkansasthespians.org/](http://www.arkansasthespians.org/)
- All recorded event entries must be submitted by the troupe director into Open Water by Friday, February 7, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. There will be no refund for entries registered in Open Water that does not get uploaded to Open Water by the deadline. Substitutions will result in a change fee of \$10 per change.
- **Rubrics - [Thespy rubrics](https://www.arkansasthespians.org/thespys)** - Jr. Thespians will be evaluated using the Sr. Thespian Rubrics this year. Copies of the rubrics can be found on <https://www.arkansasthespians.org/thespys>
- It is the responsibility of the troupe director to ensure that all entries submitted meet the event requirements.
- This year we will, once again, be using Open Water.
- All entries will be registered and submitted through Open Water.
- Students will have two rounds of judging. Round 1 judging will determine a superior rating in Round 1, All superior rated students will also have the opportunity to compete in a Round 2 at junior festival in a live judging panel. This round 2 competition would award outstanding performances the ability to perform in the Best of Show Showcase before the festival award ceremony. Training videos/resources can be found at <https://www.arkansasthespians.org/> for all troupes along with video recording guidelines and suggestions.
- Troupe directors will be responsible for submitting entries to Open Water by the deadline. Your Open Water submissions MUST match your festival registration. Changes/substitutions after the deadline will result in a change fee being added to your tabroom account.
- It is the responsibility of the troupe director to ensure that all entries submitted meet the event requirements as outlined in the Thespy Program Guide.
- Adjudication will happen in two rounds for ALL events, including group performance events.
- Round 1 - All entries will be adjudicated virtually by a panel of three judges and scored using the national Thespys rubrics, prior to the start of Festival 25. All three scores will be average to determine

an entries overall rating (Superior, Excellent, Good, Fair).

- The top 20 entries in any event receiving a Superior can also move to round 2 on the Region (Blue/Gold) level.
- Round 2 - These entries will be adjudicated by a different panel of three judges, at the beginning of Festival '25. These round 2 entries will be performed live .
- Top scoring entries will be featured during our Thespys Showcase which will happen prior to Awards.
- What about a tie??? The tabulation committee will handle ties on a case by case basis. If time allows, all tied performances will be featured, if time is tight a tie breaker will be initiated.
- What if there are no superiors in an event? If there are no superiors, there will be no Thespy showcase for that event. All events will be offered with the following exceptions/guidelines: Currently, each troupe is allowed to enter as many students as they wish for our preliminary phase of competition. These preliminary phase entries are all to be pre-recorded and submitted through Open Water. Double entry rules are still in place so a student will not be able to enter more than one performance/technical event. For example, each student may only register for and compete in a maximum of 1 individual/duet and 1 group and 1 short film.
- A troupe director may register as many entries as you like for individual(performance/tech) and duet events.
- A troupe director can only register one group acting, group musical, and group musical dance.
- **ALL VIDEOS MUST BE UPLOADED BY THE TROUPE DIRECTOR ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 7, 2025.**

## • **RIGHTS AND LICENSING**

- Since adjudications involve performances of copyrighted works, you'll need to select materials that the authors or their legal representatives have approved for use in the Thespy program. Any performance of a copyrighted work before an audience requires permission, even in an educational setting. In the instance of Thespy adjudication, the adjudicators, fellow Thespy participants, and anyone else present in the adjudication room constitutes an audience, and therefore, permission must be granted to perform the selections.
- EdTA and participating licensing agencies have reached agreements that allow the usage of available titles at no monetary cost to the Thespy participant. EdTA has compiled this list of instructions for how to gain approval for the vast majority of published theatrical works. Please read this list carefully – not all materials from the organizations below are approved for use. Each licensing agency represents its authors slightly differently, and each has their own policies and procedures for approvals of performance rights for the titles they represent. When applicable, restricted or pre-approved materials are noted after each organization below.
- Arkansas Thespians will follow guidance from EdTA in accordance with licensing regulations from all reputable licensing agencies. Any student performances must adhere to the rules and regulations laid out by the EdTA to prevent disqualification from competition.
- Please see the updated [Rights and Licensing](#) page for more information.

## 6. **HONOR TROUPE**

- Through the Honor Troupe program, the Arkansas Thespian Society seeks to recognize troupes for their many achievements and endeavors during the school year. Activities must take place between the last day of this year's State Festival to the first day of next year's State Festival. The application for [Honor Troupe](#) is available on the website.
- Honor Troupe award recipients will be announced during the Arkansas Junior Thespian Festival in March. Honor Troupes will be designated as Gold, Silver, or Bronze Honor Troupes, based on

the amount of points awarded to each troupe. We encourage all troupes to apply for Honor Troupe!

**Deadline to submit your digital slide show and honor troupe form is February 7, 2025 to Amy Pumphrey at [honortroupe@arkansasthespians.org](mailto:honortroupe@arkansasthespians.org)**

## 7. FLAGGING

Because of recent liability cases (i.e. Texas teacher losing her job because she took class to an art museum displaying nude art) all IE selections and one-act plays containing any "questionable material" in language and/or situation must be flagged to avoid disqualification. When registering on the on-line registration system, type the title of your piece followed by FLAGGED in all caps. For Example, *Fat Pig* FLAGGED. Then complete the form to be signed by your principal noting flagged material presented conforms to your campus rules. Failure to flag "questionable material" could result in disqualification and/or probation.

If your entry is flagged, you will be emailed and asked to explain why so that we can compile a document that will be available at the information desk that can be consulted by troupe directors.

## 8. GUIDELINES & RULES

**Please review the guidelines & rules!**

Troupe Directors and students must read all the rules carefully. The Arkansas Thespian Thespy Events are intended to be a non-competitive, educational program offering Festival delegates the opportunity to receive constructive feedback on prepared theatrical material and technical designs. The goal for participating students is to find their talent, strengths, and weaknesses and to grow as theatre artists. The Thespy Events culminate in the selection of a performance showcase cast of an outstanding entry from each category. These entries will present their selections during the closing ceremonies of the Festival on Saturday.

## 9. Review

1. Register in Open Water by January 24, 2025( extension Jan 31).
2. Thespy's are to be uploaded by February 7, 2025, at 11:59pm into Open Water
3. Complete a health form for **every** registered participant. Health forms and the conference rules, and regulations must be scanned in and shared by a google doc by **FRIDAY, January 24, 2025**. Forms are on the website [www.arkansasthespians.org](http://www.arkansasthespians.org) on the State Jr. High Thespian Festival tab/page. The originals need to be on your person as well when coming to festival in March.
4. **Deadline to submit your digital slide show and honor troupe form is February 7, 2025 to Amy Pumphrey at [honortroupe@arkansasthespians.org](mailto:honortroupe@arkansasthespians.org)**

Send a **school affiliated** check to:

**DEADLINE February 7, 2025 for payment of Festival**

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#241417  
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