

Arkansas State Thespian Festival



Arkansas
Thespians

February 8-10, 2024

Red Wolf Convention Center/Arkansas State University, Jonesboro

Troupe Directors:

Please read all of this information as it is updated each year. This information must be shared with students, chaperones, administrators, and parents.

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1. OVERVIEW/QUICK INFO

A. The following information is relative to registering your troupe for the 2024 State Festival.
PLEASE READ EVERYTHING CAREFULLY AND MAKE SURE YOU FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS AND DIRECTIONS!

B. **There are only 3 Deadline dates.**
December 8, 2023, January 12, 2024, and January 19, 2024

December 8, 2023	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Online Festival Registration Due• State Thespian Officer Applications• Health Forms/Principal Forms/Rules&Conduct in shared folder provided by us	
January 12, 2024	January 19, 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scholarship Materials• Thespy Videos	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Honor Troupe Applications• Slideshow Slide• Leadership Awards• Registration Check Due

2. MEMBERSHIP STATUS AND STUDENT INDUCTEES

This is the time of year each school needs to check on their **Membership status** or **Student Inductees**. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT! Please read carefully and follow these instructions IMMEDIATELY! This must be done between August 1st and October 15th, 2023.

To Renew your Troupe (pay your dues)

1. Visit the home office website at www.schooltheatre.org
2. Click on the "Membership" menu item, then select "Thespian Troupe Membership" from the pull down.
3. Scroll to the bottom and click on "Manage Your Troupe," and then "Login to Manage Your Troupe Account." Your invoice will be available under "My Orders."

- **Renewal Dues:** for high schools & middle schools who already are members of Arkansas Thespians. Fees are \$129.00.

THE DEADLINE FOR TROUPE RENEWAL IS OCTOBER 15, 2022. 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 Troupes that have not paid their renewal dues by November 15 are withdrawn from active status and must pay an additional \$100.00 reinstatement fee.

- **IF STUDENTS ARE PARTICIPATING AT THE ARKANSAS THESPIAN FESTIVAL IN THESPYS/SCHOLARSHIPS, THEY MUST BE INDUCTED THESPIANS!**

Induction fees into the Educational Theatre Association are \$35.00 per student.

If you have any questions, regarding the status of your troupe or inducted thespians, please call Membership at the EdTA Home Office at 513.421.3900.

3. FESTIVAL REGISTRATION

- Online registration deadline is **December 8, 2023**.
- Any drops or changes after December 9, 2023 will incur an additional \$25 fee for each change.
- NO REFUNDS AFTER JAN 19, 2024.
- Health/Principal/Adult forms uploaded into your Google Folder before **December 8, 2023**.
- Principals must sign the appropriate forms or your troupe's registration will not be processed!
PLEASE MAKE COPIES OF EVERYTHING FOR YOUR OWN RECORDS!

1. **ONLINE REGISTRATION:** will be available starting November 1, 2023 and must be submitted by **December 8, 2023**. To register for festival please

[CLICK HERE: FESTIVAL REGISTRATION](#)

2. **PAYMENT:**

\$92 per student if attending in person

\$92 per Troupe Director if attending in person

(Troupe Director will receive a coupon code for \$60 to be applied to their 2025 Festival registration if duties are fulfilled.)

\$50 per Chaperone if attending in person

\$15 per Thespian Alumni if attending in-person and working as part of the Alumni Committee

Send a school affiliated payment/PO to:

Payment/PO must be postmarked or scanned and emailed by

JAN. 19, 2024

EDTA Arkansas

815 Technology Drive

#241417

Little Rock, AR 72223

- If a school has a troupe, students may only belong to that troupe regardless if they are inducted or not.
- By completing and signing the registration form you understand that all materials (Thespys, Showcase Performances, etc.) being presented by this troupe and representing the school listed on the registration form that include 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 year's event(s) should this rule be violated.

For questions pertaining to registration, please email registration@arkansasthespians.org

4. SCHOLARSHIPS

ALL APPLICATIONS, AUDITION VIDEOS AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION MUST BE SUBMITTED ON OPEN WATER. Deadline is January 12, 2024.

No Submissions will be accepted after this date.

Unlimited- College Scholarship Applicants- Juniors and Seniors May Apply (\$10 Fee)
1 - Theatre For Life Scholarship Applicant- Must be a Senior (\$10 Fee)
2 - Arkansas EdTA Scholarship Applicants- Seniors Only (\$10 Fee)
Unlimited - STO Nancy Brown Student Leadership Scholarship - Senior Only \$10 Fee

[CLICK HERE](#) for scholarship documentation.

For questions or more info, contact Courtney Shepard at scholarships@arkansasthespians.org or at 817-378-6899.

This year all auditions will be held virtually using the Open Water platform. Colleges wanting to callback students will contact them via email. Callbacks will be held at the festival.

[CLICK HERE: SCHOLARSHIP REGISTRATION](#)

5. LEGACY AWARDS

These award applications are due **Jan 19, 2024**. All applications are available on the State Festival page located on our website at www.arkansasthespians.org or by clicking the links below:

- **Hall of Fame Award** [Hall of Fame Award Form 2024](#) The *Arkansas EdTA Hall of Fame Award* was established to honor individuals who have given outstanding service to the organization and to Arkansas Thespians.
- **Gail Burns Educator of the Year Award** [Gail Burns Educator of the Year 2024](#) The *Gail Burns Educator of the Year Award* is presented to a deserving teacher who exemplifies the best qualities of a teacher within his/her building, district, and community. They should also represent the best qualities of a theatre educator.
- **Administrator of the Year Award** [Outstanding Administrator Form 2024](#) The *Administrator of the Year Award* is presented to a school administrator or team of administrators for their dedication and efforts to support educational theatre in their building, district, and community.

Applications for Leadership Awards may be emailed to
legacyawards@arkansasthespians.org
Deadline Jan 19, 2024

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 www.arkansasthespians.org under State Thespian Festival.

Honor Troupe award recipients will be announced during the Arkansas State Thespian Festival in February 2024. 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 **January 19, 2024 to Amy Pumphrey at sto@arkansasthespians.org.**

7. ONE ACT SHOWCASE

THE ONE ACT SHOWCASE consists of the Superior scored one-acts at the regional festivals. Showcased one-acts may perform for the *Rick Chudomelka Chapter Select* show. One one-act will be selected to represent Arkansas as Chapter Select at the 2024 International Thespian Festival in Bloomington, IN, June 2024. *In order to be considered for Chapter Select you will be charged a fee of \$50. This fee will be added to your festival registration.* One troupe will be awarded as an alternate in the event the Chapter Select cannot attend ITF.

Chapter Select Consideration: Any troupe submitting a one act to be considered for chapter select, must follow the ITF rules for set pieces, props, time limits at the Preliminary One-Act Festivals and Showcased performances. Rules and Regulations:

ITF Chapter Select Production Guide

https://itf.schooltheatre.org/chapter_select_guide.cfm#rubrics

8. STATE THESPIAN OFFICER APPLICATIONS

STO (State Thespian Officer) CANDIDATE APPLICATION GUIDELINES

All participating thespian troupes select two (2) representatives to represent their troupe with the Arkansas Thespian State Thespian Board. One thespian from your troupe may run as an STO. Arkansas Thespians State Thespian Board has up to six State Thespian Board Officer positions. Final voting will occur at state festival, and the new STOs will be announced at the closing ceremonies.

ELIGIBILITY

In order to be a candidate for the State Thespian Board, a student must meet the following qualifications:

1. Must be an entering Sophomore or Junior in good standing with your troupe, school, EdTA, and have a 2.5 GPA or higher.
2. Must be an active thespian registered with the EdTA.

APPLICATION

All four items listed below must be received via OpenWater by the **December 8, 2023** deadline in order to be considered for candidacy. For Questions please email sto@arkansasthespians.org

1. Two minute video submission including:
 - a. Introduction of self
 - b. Description of leadership skills
 - c. Explanation of what you would bring to the table as an STO
2. One page essay including:

- a. Why advocating for theatre is important
- b. How you would advocate for theatre as an STO
3. Headshot
4. Completed Candidacy Consent Form

CANDIDACY PROCESS

1. Complete and submit the application by the deadline. The candidate application packet can be found under the I Am A Thespian tab on the state website: www.arkansasthespians.org.
2. All applications will be reviewed by the STO and their liaison.
3. Candidates will be notified by January 14, 2024, informing them if they have been selected as a semi-finalist candidate.
4. All semi-finalist candidates will participate in a Zoom interview with STO and their liaison, which will be scheduled after they are notified.
5. Candidates will be notified before February 1, 2024, informing them if they have been selected as a final candidate.
6. All final candidates are required to be registered for Leadership Seminar at state festival.
7. Candidates must be present at all General Assemblies and will be used as STO interns by assisting current STO as asked during Festival.
8. Each Candidate must participate in the Leadership Seminar at Festival and be prepared to give a two-minute election speech and answer prompted questions from the STO.

ELECTIONS

1. Each troupe represented at the State Festival Leadership Seminar will be allotted one vote of their top six STO candidates that will be completed before leaving the final seminar session.

DUTIES

The main duties of the Student Board Officers are as follows:

1. Attend State Board Meetings with the Chapter Director and Adult Board members, as requested.
 - Meeting sites are determined by the Chapter Director. Travel & Food expenses are incurred by the individual student.
2. Attend the summer leadership camp (date TBD), and conduct a statewide leadership day camp for AR Thespians.
3. Decide on the theme and logo for the upcoming Festival.
4. If attending International Thespian Festival, attend the week-long leadership workshop led by ITO.
5. Advocacy: Promote Arkansas Thespians and the ideas for which it stands.
6. Raise the funds necessary for the **'Nancy Brown Student Leadership Scholarship'** that is given to a student in Arkansas by the STO.
7. The Student Board Officers are responsible for creating and conducting the Leadership Seminar at the State Festival.
8. Visit school classrooms and performances around the state to help maintain Arkansas Thespian's presence amongst constituents.

TERMS OF OFFICE

Terms begin June 1st and will remain active through May 31 of the following year.

9. LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

The Leadership Seminar covers several topics of interest relevant to students in leadership positions including: Stress & Time Management, Psychology of Leadership, Fundraising, Team Working Skills and Officer-Member Responsibility. THIS IS A GREAT WORKSHOP FOR NETWORKING WITH OTHER STUDENTS!

IT IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED AND RECOMMENDED THAT TROUPE BOARD OFFICERS ATTEND. ALL STATE STUDENT OFFICER CANDIDATES ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND! EACH SCHOOL CAN SEND UP TO 5 STUDENTS. The cost is \$10 per student.

10. TROUPE FLAGS/SLIDESHOW

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, suspended from an overhead batten. The flag should be designed so that it can be hung from a pipe using grommets or a dowel of some sort on which tie-line or zip ties may be used. The flag's maximum width is three-feet and length six-feet...to be displayed vertically. Older 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 will be displayed for all to see. 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.

This year's Digital Slideshow will be limited to 1 slide per troupe so that we can more easily showcase all troupes in attendance. These slides are due **JANUARY 19TH, 2024**. This slide should represent your troupe, your students, and your activities. Please email to pr@arkansasthespians.org.

11. THESPYS

THESPYS

(formerly known as Individual Events)

Individual Event \$15

Duet Event \$20

Group Event/Playworks \$25

Short Film \$20

THESPYS 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 will perform their pieces on the main stage during the Thespys ceremony. Students that receive a superior rating in an event and meet the guidelines for Thespys are eligible to participate in the National Thespys event at the International Thespian Festival in June. These guidelines can be found [here](#). **Inducted thespians are allowed to enter one individual or tech event, one group event, one short film, one team tech event, and one tech challenge team.** Non-thespians may participate on a tech challenge team, one group event, and one short film, however your group events must contain at least 51% inducted thespians. Troupes may have as many entries as they would like in individual and duet performances; **one** group acting, group musical, or group musical dance entry per troupe; as many entries as they would like in each technical event category; two tech challenge teams, one short film, and one playworks entry. **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 eligibility for national competition. A superior rating in Round 1, guarantees your ability to register for ITF as long as you are following event rules including performing acceptable material (See rules 5-7 in the Thespy Program Guide by clicking [HERE](#)). All superior rated students will also have the opportunity to compete in a Round 2 at state festival. 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.

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 24. All three scores will be average to determine an entries overall rating (Superior, Excellent, Good, Fair). All entries receiving a superior are qualified for ITF in June 2024. All entries receiving a Superior can also move to round 2 on the State level.

Round 2 - These entries will be adjudicated by a different panel of three judges, at the beginning of Festival '24. 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 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
JANUARY 12, 2024.**

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.

FLAGGING

Because of recent liability cases (i.e. Texas teacher losing her job because she took a 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 Open Water, 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.

Click [HERE](#) for the Thespys Guide

Click [HERE](#) for Rules and Rubrics by Event Category

Click [HERE](#) for FAQs and filming suggestions

12. TECH CHALLENGE

Fee is \$25 per Team

The Tech Challenge consists of 5 events that are designed to test your knowledge of basic skills that every technician should have. The combination of team and individual events represents the fact that theatre technicians do not always work alone and that it is an ensemble working together to accomplish the given tasks that makes the production successful. In technical theatre both time and accuracy are critical to a successful outcome. As artists we demand excellence in the tasks we are given but as technicians we also have to perform those tasks quickly and efficiently so it does not disrupt the production process. Your tech team should consist of between 4-7 students. Teams may consist of inducted and non-inducted thespians. Up to two teams per school is allowed. Visit www.arkansasthespians.org for more information and to preview videos of the events that could be a part of our state festival this year.

13. CONFERENCE RULES AND REGULATIONS

(PLEASE REVIEW WITH STUDENTS)

Arkansas EdTA Security Rules and Regulations

Signatures of student and parent(s) on the bottom of the health form are required. Troupe Directors and Chaperones are responsible for the conduct of their students.

Arkansas EdTA is committed to providing a safe, productive, and welcoming environment for all event participants. All participants, including, but not limited to, attendees, speakers, volunteers, vendors, college representatives, Arkansas EdTA staff, service providers, and all others are expected to abide by this Code of Conduct. This Policy applies to all Arkansas EdTA events, including those sponsored by organizations other than Arkansas EdTA but held in conjunction with Arkansas EdTA events.

Arkansas EdTA has zero-tolerance for any form of discrimination or harassment, including but not limited to sexual harassment by participants or our staff at our events. If you experience harassment or hear of any incidents of unacceptable behavior, Arkansas EdTA asks that you inform the AR Thespians Security Coordinator (security@arkansasthespians.org) so that we can take the appropriate action.

The pool area at all hotels will not be available for Arkansas EdTA Participants.

STUDENT CONDUCT: Students will not be allowed to attend the Festival unless they have agreed, in writing, to abide by the Festival conduct guidelines and have completed the permission forms required by the school to attend an out-of-town field trip.

DRESS CODE/BADGES: School dress code is required. Do not wear anything you would not wear to your own school on a regular school day. All conference participants must wear their badges at chest level on body front EASILY VISIBLE TO ALL at all times in any conference activity.

ALCOHOL/DRUGS: Students in possession of, consuming, or under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol including cigarettes, vapor cigarettes, and tobacco at any time during the Festival will be returned home on a first violation. The parent, guardian, or next of kin will be financially responsible for all necessary costs incurred in returning the student home.

COURTESY: Students are expected to behave in a manner which reflects positively upon their individual schools and Arkansas Thespians. Students who exhibit improper and disrespectful behavior in public may be subjected to disciplinary action by the Chapter Board. Any Troupe Director/chaperone has authority to pull the badge of any delegate whose behavior reflects poorly upon Arkansas Thespians regardless of their troupe affiliation.

SOCIAL MEDIA: We recognize that social media is a useful tool for expanding our theatre knowledge and for recognizing ourselves and others in a positive manner and that our words and images are not only a reflection of ourselves, but our peers, programs, directors, and the general theatre community. Thespians are to use social media in a positive way for uplifting the arts and our artists.

EMERGENCIES: Each school is to provide hotel security/main desk with a list of delegates and the rooms they will be staying in. This same information will be required at the registration desk for the conference along with the hotel phone number.

PROPERTY DAMAGE: Delegates are not allowed to remove bedding, furniture, or other hotel property from the rooms. Delegates will be responsible to the hotel for damages to their rooms or for any damage caused by them to hotel property. The hotel will bill the delegate, the parents, and/or the school for any damage fees not collected at time of check out.

FESTIVAL ATTENDANCE: All student delegates are required to attend the events scheduled during the Festival (Mainstage productions, workshops, one-act plays, etc.) Delegates are not permitted, under any circumstances, to leave the Festival events without troupe director/chaperone permission.

CAMPUS REGULATIONS: There will be no eating or drinking in the theatres, workshop, and lecture areas. These are allowed in those areas with drink machines or hallways with trash cans. By direction of the State Student Board and EdTA Chapter Board, no hats, or caps may be worn in any campus

building. In addition, no music players/recording equipment, with or without headsets, will be permitted in campus buildings (including instruments).. Large bags and backpacks will not be allowed into the theatre. **ALL CELL PHONES ARE TO BE SILENCED AND NOT TO BE USED DURING WORKSHOPS, THESPYS, GROUP EVENTS, CEREMONIES, OR ONE-ACTS.**

LIABILITY: The host, all facilities, and EdTA Arkansas shall not accept responsibility for the theft, loss or breakage of personal effects, monies, or valuables. All items found may be turned in to the Registration Desk.

THEATRE: The taking of flash photography is not allowed at any time during any production. No recording equipment of any kind are permitted in the audience. No one is to enter or exit the theatre during a performance. Proper and acceptable behavior will be expected by all members of an audience. Inappropriate theatre etiquette includes feet on the seats, disruptive behavior, improper language, or discourtesy to other delegates, performers and theatre personnel. Badges of any delegates violating any rule may be taken by ANY sponsor or chaperone and turned in at the registration desk. **Silence ALL CELL PHONES.**

Badge Pulling: Any delegate may have their badge pulled by any chaperone or director for any unacceptable behavior. Having your badge pulled will require you to go to Festival Court.

Unacceptable Behavior is defined as:

- Harassment, intimidation, or discrimination in any form.
- Verbal abuse of any attendee, speaker, volunteer, exhibitor, Arkansas EdTA staff, service provider, or other meeting guest. Examples of verbal abuse include, but are not limited to, verbal comments related to gender, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, religion, national origin, inappropriate use of nudity and/or sexual images in public spaces or in presentations, or threatening or stalking any attendee, speaker, volunteer, exhibitor, Arkansas EdTA staff, service provider, or other meeting guest.
- Disruption of presentations during sessions, in the expo halls, or at other events organized by Arkansas EdTA throughout the virtual meeting. All participants must comply with the instructions of the moderator and any ArkansasEdTA virtual event staff.
- Presentations, postings, and messages should not contain promotional materials, special offers, job offers, product announcements, or solicitation for services. Arkansas EdTA reserves the right to remove such messages and potentially ban sources of those solicitations.

Festival Court: Delegates violating rules and regulations of the conference will be required to meet with their troupe director or chaperone along with the State Chapter Director and another State Board Member (Thespian Court). Violators will not be allowed to participate in the Festival activities until the meeting takes place. Violations could result in a letter to the student's school principal, contacting parents, and/or immediate removal from State Festival.

Arkansas EdTA reserves the right to take any action deemed necessary and appropriate, including immediate removal from the meeting without warning or refund, in response to any incident of unacceptable behavior, and Arkansas EdTA reserves the right to prohibit attendance at any future meeting, virtually or in person.