

AR Blue and Gold Junior FESTIVAL HANDBOOK

November 13, 2021 Cabot HS and November 20, 2021 Russellville HS (9am-5pm)
Arkansas Educational Theatre Association

Junior Festival is blended this year and community is vital to the theatre process. When possible, Troupe Directors may choose to gather their troupe at their school to collaborate, yet participate in a safe and socially distanced manner. Please read all of this information as it is updated each year. This information must be shared with students, administrators, and parents.

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)

1. Cost for Festival

- \$40 per student for in person attendees (this includes workshops, t shirt, and lunch)
- \$30 per student for virtual attendees (this includes workshops and tshirt)
- \$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.

2. Registration Information

- Students may only attend Junior Festival with their school
- Registration will happen on Open Water and registration will be open on September 15, 2021.
- **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 **October 15, 2021** . 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 October 22. 2021.

- If you have any questions, please feel free to call Summer Scott, Arkansas Jr, Coordinator, 870-917-5884; email <summerscott@sheridanschools.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, 2021! 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 you have any questions regarding the status of your troupe or inducted thespians, please call Brian Benz at Home Office of the Educational Theatre Association at 513.421.3900.

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.

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

- *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 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 (pre-recorded presentation). These guidelines can be found online at: <http://www.arkansasthespians.org/>
- All recorded event entries must be submitted by the troupe director into Open Water by Friday, October 22 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](#) - Jr. Thespians will be evaluated using the Sr. Thespian Rubrics this year. Copies of the rubrics can be found on [arkansasthespians.org](http://www.arkansasthespians.org/).

6. 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.

7 .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.

Review

1. Register in Open Water for all events, attendance, and drops for any events by October 15, 2021
2. Thespy's are to be uploaded by October 22, 2021, 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, October 22, 2021**. Forms are on the website 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 November.
4. Send a **school affiliated** check to:
DEADLINE November 1, 2021 for payment of Festival

EDTA Arkansas Thespians
361 Southwest Dr #178
Jonesboro, AR 72401

AR Junior Thespian Festival Adult Regulations

The goal is to present a weekend of educational opportunities for all delegates in a safe environment.

This form must be read and signed by every adult delegate (teachers, directors, chaperones, parents, and guest artists that are in attendance for the festival).

Thespian Festival Adult (Teacher, Parent, Guest Artist) Code of Conduct

Initial by each statement

_____ I will not bring or consume drugs, alcohol, smoke, vape, or any illegal substance on the virtual festival site live or recorded nor on the host campus.

_____ I will not bring/ use any weapons of any type in the festival.

_____ I will abide by and enforce the rules as stated in the festival handbook.

_____ I will not engage in behavior that constitutes discrimination or harassment in any way, including race, color, national origin, sex, gender, religion, age, disability, economic status, or citizenship of an individual.

_____ I will not use inappropriate language during the festival.

_____ I will not engage in inappropriate physical contact with any delegate.

_____ I verify that I have not been arrested for any criminal activity.

_____ I give consent for AR EdTA to conduct a background check.

Rules for you to enforce at festival:

Students are expected to participate at festival.

Students are not allowed to skip workshops, One-Act plays or Thespy's to hang out.

Students and adults are to abide in correct behavior in a zoom meeting and on campus.

Students and adults are not allowed to have cell-phones out during plays

Students may use their smartphones to evaluate workshops *at the end* of each session.

Students and adults shouldn't have phones out during a workshop.

Students are to stay muted in a workshop until directed so by a presenter.

_____ I will ask a student to leave the meeting if necessary for the above offenses or any violation of the guidelines discussed in the festival handbook, and turn it in to the coordinators of the workshop.

When a member is asked to leave the meeting, the troupe director and the student will meet with the Security Coordinator and the State Chapter Director, Daniel Stahl. In all cases, a letter will be sent to the student's principal stating the offense and the action taken at festival.

Signature: _____

Print name _____ Date: _____

These forms should be filled out and emailed to summerscott@sheridanschools.org by October 22, 2021. Please upload forms with students name on the file name and all forms into one folder before sending with google drive. This must be signed by each Thespian and their parent(s).

CONFERENCE RULES AND REGULATIONS

Troupe Directors are requested to make a copy of the following rules and regulations for each student attending the conference. Signatures of both student and parent are required. Troupe Directors and Chaperones are responsible for the conduct of their students; please stay aware of what your troupe members are doing.

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: As Thespians, 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. **Any** recordings of **any** part of the event are strictly prohibited.

EMERGENCIES: Please have health forms turned into troupe director with accurate contact numbers. If a student is running a fever over 100.3 on the day of the event they are not allowed to attend festival but will have a virtual option for festival.

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

ZOOM REGULATIONS: Reminder mute microphones while in Large Group. Unmute when called upon, watch for background noises. Do not talk over each other. No radios, Walkmans, or recording equipment, with or without headsets, will be permitted in zoom sessions.

CELL PHONES: All cell phones are to be silenced and not to be used during workshops, Thespy's, group events, or during One-Acts.

LIABILITY: The host, all facilities, and the Arkansas Thespians 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 Jr. Coordinator and or Registration Desk.

THEATRE: The taking of flash photography is not allowed at any time during a production. No recording equipment of any kind is 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.**

VIOLATIONS: 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. Violations may cause non-participation of the school 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 Jr.Festival.

SIGNATURES: I have read and understand the Arkansas Thespian Festival rules and regulations.

Parent(s) Print Name(s) _____ Parent(s) Signature(s) _____ Date _____

Student Print Name _____ Student Signature _____ Date _____

Troupe number _____ Print Troupe Director's Name _____

School Attending _____ School District _____