



# Arkansas State Thespian Festival

## February 10-12, 2022

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.

**Table of Contents:** (click to jump to the topic)

1. [Overview/Quick Info](#)
2. [Membership Status / Student Inductee Instructions](#)
3. [Conference Registration](#)
4. [Scholarships](#)
5. [Leadership Awards](#)
6. [Honor Troupe](#)
7. [One-Act Showcase](#)
8. [State Thespian Officer Nominations](#)
9. [Leadership Seminar](#)
10. [Troupe Flag Information](#)
11. [Thespys Guidelines](#)
12. [Tech Challenge](#)
13. [Playworks](#)
14. [Conference Rules and Regulations](#)

## 1. OVERVIEW/QUICK INFO

A. The following information is relative to registering your troupe for the 2022 State Festival.

PLEASE READ EVERYTHING CAREFULLY AND MAKE SURE YOU  
FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS AND DIRECTIONS!

B. There are only 4 Deadline dates.

November 5, 2021, December 10, 2021, January 7, 2022, and January 21, 2022

November 5, 2021	December 10, 2021
State Thespian Officer Nominations	Festival Registration
January 7, 2022	January 21, 2022
Registration Check Due Leadership Awards Scholarship Materials Health Forms/Code of Conduct in Drive Principal Letter in Drive	Honor Troupe Applications Slideshow Slide Thespy Videos Health Forms/Principal Forms/Rules&Conduct

## 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!

To Renew your Troupe (pay your dues)

1. Visit the home office website at [www.schooltheatre.org](http://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 "Renew Your Troupe"
  - **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, 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 Troupes that have not paid their renewal dues by November 15 are withdrawn from active status and must pay an additional \$95.00 reinstatement fee.
  - **IF STUDENTS ARE PARTICIPATING AT THE ARKANSAS THESPIAN FESTIVAL IN INDIVIDUAL EVENTS OR 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 10, 2021**.
- Any drops or changes after December 10, 2021 will incur an additional \$25 fee for each change.
- All material must be postmarked/scanned and emailed on or before **January 7, 2022**.
- 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 October 11, 2021 and must be submitted by **December 10, 2021**. To register for festival please visit:  
<https://edta-chapter-events.secure-platform.com:443/a/organizations/Arkansas/solicitations/175/home>

### 2. PAYMENT:

This year's rates:

#### Virtual Rates:

**\$75 per Student if attending virtually**

**\$75 per Troupe Director if attending virtually**

(Troupe Director will receive a coupon code for \$60 to be applied to their 2023 Festival registration if duties are fulfilled.)

**\$20 per Chaperone if attending virtually**

**\$15 per Thespian Alumni if attending virtually and working as part of the Alumni Committee**

#### In-Person Rates:

**\$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 2023 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. 7, 2022**

**EDTA Arkansas**

**361 Southwest Dr #178**

**Jonesboro, AR 72401**

- 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  
[hollie.shepherd@littlerockchristian.com](mailto:hollie.shepherd@littlerockchristian.com)**

---

## **4. SCHOLARSHIPS**

**ALL APPLICATIONS, AUDITION VIDEOS AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION MUST BE  
SUBMITTED ON OPEN WATER. Deadline is January 7, 2022.**

No Submissions will be accepted after this date.

Troupes may submit eight students in total:

Unlimited- College Scholarship Applicants- Juniors and Seniors May Apply (\$10 Fee)

1- Theatre For Life Scholarship Applicant- Must be Honor Thespian Nominee (\$10 Fee)

2- Arkansas EdTA Scholarship Applicants- Seniors Only (\$10 Fee)

[Click here](#) for scholarship documentation.




For questions or more info, contact [arthespianscholarships@gmail.com](mailto:arthespianscholarships@gmail.com)

### **STO Nancy Brown Student Leadership Scholarship**

- Each troupe is allowed one student for eligibility of this scholarship. It will be awarded based on the student's leadership in their troupe, school, community, etc.
    - Each applicant will be interviewed by the STO and their Liaison/Coordinators.
    - Final determination will be made by the STO.
    - Application packet is available on the AR Thespian website
-

## 5. LEADERSHIP AWARDS

These award applications are due **Jan 7, 2022**. All applications are available on the State Festival page located on our website at [www.arkansasthespians.org](http://www.arkansasthespians.org) or by clicking the links below:

- **Hall of Fame Award**  **Hall of Fame Award Form 2022** 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** 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 2022**  
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 [kmaupin@mhbombers.com](mailto:kmaupin@mhbombers.com)**  
**Deadline Jan 7, 2022**

---

## 6. HONOR TROUPE

### Honor Troupe Form

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](http://www.arkansasthespians.org) under State Thespian Festival.

Honor Troupe award recipients will be announced during the Arkansas State Thespian Festival in February 2022. 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 21, 2022** to Amy Pumphrey at [apumphre@fortsmithschools.org](mailto:apumphre@fortsmithschools.org).**

---

## 7. ONE ACT SHOWCASE

THE ONE ACT SHOWCASE consists of the Superior scored one-acts at the regional festivals or virtually. 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 2022 International Thespian Festival in Bloomington, IN, June 2022. *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.

---

## 8. STATE THESPIAN OFFICER NOMINATIONS

### **STO (State Thespian Officer) CANDIDATE NOMINATION GUIDELINES**

All participating thespian troupes select two (2) representatives to represent their troupe with the Arkansas Thespian State Student Board. One thespian from your troupe may run as an STO. Arkansas Thespians State Student Board has up to six Student 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 Student State 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 email by the **November 5, 2021** deadline in order to be considered for candidacy. Send to [arthespianssto@gmail.com](mailto:arthespianssto@gmail.com)

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. Candidate application packet can be found under the STO tab on the state website: [www.arkansasthespians.org](http://www.arkansasthespians.org).
2. All applications will be reviewed by the STO and their liaison in November.

3. Candidates will be notified by January 15, 2022 informing them if they have been selected as a semi-finalist candidate.
4. All semi-finalist candidates will participate in a phone interview with STO and their liaison in late December/early January.
5. Candidates will be notified before February 1, 2022 informing them if they have been selected as a final candidate.
6. All final candidates are required to be registered for festival Leadership Seminar.
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 Director will be emailed an online ballot. Each attending troupe will have a small window of time at festival to vote for their desired board of six officers. *Troupe Directors, please consult with your troupe and vote based on troupe consensus.*

## **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.

## **TERMS OF OFFICE**

Terms begin on the Monday following the State Festival and run until closing ceremony at the following state festival.

---

# **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 21ST, 2022**. This slide should represent your troupe, your students, and your activities. Please email to [abby.curry@littlerockchristian.com](mailto:abby.curry@littlerockchristian.com).

---

## **11. THESPYS**

### **THESPYS**

(formerly known as Individual Events)

**Individual Event \$15**

**Duet Event \$20**

**Group Event \$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, 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, duet and group performances; as many entries as they would like in each technical event category; two tech challenge teams, 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. Troupes have the option to register as an in person performance or pre-recorded virtual performance. A training video will be made available 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 by a panel of three judges and scored using the national Thespys rubrics, prior to the start of Festival 22. 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 2022. 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 '22. These round 2 entries can be performed live (if you are able to attend festival in person) or by using your original video submission (if you will be attending virtually). 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:

Duet/Group events: We are recommending that troupes follow the National guidelines for duet/group events -

- \*Students may prepare traditional, in person performances
- \*Students can separately record their parts and edit into one video (do not confuse this with a short film) or can use a platform such as Zoom
- \*Circumstances may change by the due date. If local/state/national guidelines allow it, students can get together with their partner/group to record the video. Be smart, be safe, and follow the rules!

If none of the above are able to happen a troupe will have the following option:



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 students as you like for individual, duet, and group events.

!! Thespians entering monologue, duet acting and group acting must complete and email the **Individual Events Rights and Application Form**. This form can be found in the Thespy Program Guide page 27. [Click here for the Thespy Guide](#). These forms must be uploaded to Open Water by the Thespy submission deadline.

**ALL VIDEOS MUST BE UPLOADED BY THE TROUPE DIRECTOR ON OR BEFORE  
JANUARY 21, 2022.**

## 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 5-6 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 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. PLAYWORKS 2022

### **Fee is \$25 per entry**

Three StAR Playwrights will be selected to have the opportunity to workshop their plays through virtual mentoring sessions with theatre professionals. Each selected play will be performed as a virtual staged reading during the Arkansas State Thespian Festival. For more information check out the [Arkansas Playworks Packet](#).

Submissions will be open starting Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. Last day to send a submission will be **Wednesday, October 27, 2021**.

---

## 14. CONFERENCE RULES AND REGULATIONS

(PLEASE REVIEW WITH STUDENTS)

### **Arkansas EdTA Code of Conduct**

*Rev. 7/20/21*

Arkansas EdTA is committed to providing a safe, productive, and welcoming environment for all meeting participants. All participants, including, but not limited to, attendees, speakers, volunteers, exhibitors, Arkansas EdTA staff, service providers, and all others are expected to abide by this Virtual Programs Code of Conduct. This Policy applies to all Arkansas EdTA meeting-related events, including those sponsored by organizations other than Arkansas EdTA but held in conjunction with Arkansas EdTA events, on public or private platforms. In an effort to provide the safest environment, AR EdTA will be offering in an person and virtual option for 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 meetings. If you experience harassment or hear of any incidents of unacceptable behavior, Arkansas EdTA asks that you inform the AR Thespians Security Coordinator so that we can take the appropriate action.

- **Act well your part.** Arkansas EdTA events engage participants with a wide range of beliefs and ideas about the subjects they are discussing. We encourage an open dialogue but require that participants remain courteous and respectful at all times.
- **There are no small parts.** Everyone is essential in this event. Visit often, participate, and encourage others to do the same. You have answers that others are seeking, and they are just as capable of helping you.

- **Know your audience.** This is an event that connects students, teachers and people passionate about the arts. Just as you would in any educational environment, refrain from posting pictures or comments with inappropriate content.
- **YES and...** This event is meant to be a positive experience for anyone who chooses to participate. Feel free to post helpful and relevant advice or suggestions, but do not be abusive, profane, threatening, or offensive. Think before you post. Is it necessary? Is it kind? Is it true?
- **SHHHHH!** The participants themselves do the best monitoring of an online event. If you see any inappropriate or offensive content, please notify [arthespians@gmail.com](mailto:arthespians@gmail.com). We do not discuss any user's account with another user, so your report will remain anonymous, as will the actions we have taken.
- **All the world's a stage.** On the internet, you always have an audience. If you wouldn't say it to your mother, your boss, or a child, don't put it in our chat. Respect the privacy of others. Arkansas EdTA is not responsible for any consequences you experience resulting from anything you have posted during this online event. Please refrain from using any information that would lead to exposing your personal identify (last name, email address, or other personal information).
- **Copyright.** If it's not yours, get permission before you post it, or cite the necessary sources.

The pool area at all hotels will not be available.

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 exhibit hall, 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.
- Participants should not copy or take screenshots of Q&A or any chat room activity that takes place in the virtual space.

**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 (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.