

AR Blue and Gold Junior FESTIVAL HANDBOOK

November 14, 2020 (9am-5pm)
Arkansas Educational Theatre Association

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. Conference Registration
3. Membership Status / Student Inductee Instructions
4. Sponsor /Troupe Agreement (Adult consent forms)
6. Individual Events Guidelines
7. Conference Rules and Regulations (PLEASE REVIEW WITH STUDENTS)
9. Permission forms from Principal

1. Cost for Festival

\$30 per student

\$30 for troupe directors (this includes workshops and tshirt)

\$10 for each competing EVENT not person.

Schools can have a max of FOUR entries each event

2. Registration Information

- Students may only attend Junior Festival with their school
- Registration will happen on Tabroom and registration will be open September 23, 2020.
- **NO "TBA'S"**. You must list a name for all participants. Registrations with "TBA's" will not be processed in Tabroom.
- 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 23, 2020 (tab room)**. 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 30. 2020.
- 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 (Aug 1, 2020 – October 15, 2020) for middle schools who already are members of Arkansas Thespians. Fees are \$129.00.

THE DEADLINE FOR TROUPE RENEWAL IS OCTOBER 15, 2020! 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.

 - **Reinstating Memberships** applies to whose troupe's membership has lapsed.
- 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, 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**
 - ***Thespy's events are \$10 per event***
 - **Duet Acting (4 entries per school)**
 - **Solo Acting (4 entries per school)**
 - **Solo Musical (4 entries per school)**
 - **Scene Design (4 entries per school)**
 - **Costume Design (4 entries per school)**
- **Students can only be enrolled in 3 events for the festival(one per 3 events)**
- Duet events: We are recommending that troupes follow the National guidelines for duet/group events -
- *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 four entries in acting and four entries in musical theater (1 group, 3 duet, 3 solo/monologue). For this year, we will continue to allow 7 total entries but they can be allotted between the three options in that category. Example: 0 group, 4 duet, 3 solo/monologue OR 1 group, 1 duet, 5 solo/monologue OR 0 group, 0 duet, 7 solo/monologue. Double entry rules are still in place so a student will not be able to enter more than one performance/technical event.
- 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/>
- Rubrics - [Thespy rubrics](#)

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.

8. Contact Elizabeth Young (Events Director) to ask about waivers for online platforms

Review

1. Register with Tabroom for all events, attendance, and drops for any events by October 30, 2020

2. Send a **school affiliated** check to:

DEADLINE November 6, 2020 for payment of Festival

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

3. Jr. Thespians entering a performance individual event or duet event must complete and email the **Individual Events Rights and Application Form**. [Look at pages 26-28; 31-32](#)

This form can be found on the website www.arkansasthespians.org along with the NIES Events Guidelines.

These forms are due **FRIDAY, October 30, 2020.**

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, chaperone, parents, and guest artist that are in attendance for the virtual 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.

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

_____ I will abide by and enforce the rules as stated in the virtual 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 virtual 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 IEs to hang out.

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

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 host of the workshop.

When a member is asked to leave the meeting, the troupe director and the student will meet with the Security Coordinator, Rob Spencer and the State Chapter Director, Marisa Arnold. 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 30, 2020. 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: Each school is to provide motel 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 conference along with the hotel phone number.

PROPERTY DAMAGE: Delegates are not allowed to remove bedding, furniture, or other motel property from the rooms. Delegates will be responsible to the motel for damages to their rooms or for any damage caused by them to motel property. The motel 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 (IE'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. **ALL CELL PHONES ARE TO BE SILENCED AND NOT TO BE USED DURING WORKSHOPS, INDIVIDUAL EVENTS, 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 Registration Desk.

THEATRE: The taking of flash photography is not allowed at any time during a 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.**

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
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Student Print Name	Student Signature	Date
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Troupe number _____
School Attending _____

Print Troupe Director's Name _____
School District _____