



ARKANSAS THESPIANSSM

Arkansas Thespians Arts Advocacy Program begins with.....YOU!

We need to start letting our legislators know how theatre is affecting the lives of our students. Congress is beginning to cut funding to arts education programs. Theatre in education seems to be one of the targets, although this federal money affects all arts programs. We must be the voice for our students. EdTA had their first advocacy day this past July. It is our turn to be contact our legislators. We need to let them know how many students in Arkansas are benefitting from the theatre arts. They are being made aware of the musical arts, and the visual arts, it is time for us to speak up for our field of study and the benefits to our student.

The Arkansas State Thespians Association encourages you to contact your Legislators. Make it a job of your PR chair for you productions, or one of the jobs for your club officers, or even better a class project.

Here only a few ideas:

1. Send all flyers about performances and productions to your Legislator inviting him to come as an honored guest and introduce him at intermission. Take a picture with him afterwards for the paper. Or maybe just so they receive so many invitations it will make them aware of the many theatre troupes in Arkansas.
2. Send an email listing all the members of your One Act cast and what rating they received at One Act Competition AND a picture.
3. Send him a framed cast picture that he just might hang up in his office (you should see what all they keep and display)

4. After productions, have your students make personal statements about they have experienced and learned from being a part of a play. Then have an officer compile them and email.
5. Schedule a time to visit the Capital to meet with your legislator and take as many students as you want to speak about your program and its benefits. They would much rather hear from the students than us. That is one thing we learned.

The Arkansas Thespian Association is going to begin trying to get a recognized Theater Arts Day in March to correspond with Theater in Our Schools Month. Then just like the choir does during December, invite all of our superior performances and technical events to come to the capitol and perform in the rotunda and present their technical events. We will let you know our progress on this.

Please find the contact information for our Legislators in your District on our website and make this a priority in our program. Help our students learn to stand up for something positive in this world, when the media is showing many other options that aren't worthy of their time.