



WASHINGTON STATE
THESPIANSSM

AN EDUCATIONAL THEATRE ASSOCIATION AFFILIATE

THESPIANS 101

(EdTA) EDUCATIONAL THEATRE ASSOCIATION

Since its beginning in 1929 under the name National Thespians, the Educational Theatre Association has worked to promote and strengthen school theatre by recognizing and rewarding excellence. We strive alongside educators, advocates, and artists to make theatre a relevant and lifelong event. The Association also serves as the eyes, ears, and voice of the school theatre community, advocating for a stronger role for theatre education in the curriculum.

ADVANTAGES OF HAVING A THESPIAN TROUPE

BENEFITS FOR TEACHERS

- Opportunities for state and national leadership development, recognition, and awards
- Risk management & insurance coverage for Thespian events
- Member rates for International Thespian Festival and EdTA National Conference
- A subscription to Dramatics magazine (nine issues, September through May)
- A subscription to Teaching Theatre journal (four issues, quarterly)
- Professional Education and networking at state and national conferences
- Representation in promoting and shaping theatre arts education policy
- Access to advocacy information and resources
- Potential royalty reductions for productions

BENEFITS FOR STUDENTS

- Official membership pin, card, and certificate
- Exclusive Thespian interviews for college admission and scholarships
- School, state, and international leadership opportunities
- Eligibility for state and international festivals
- Thespian opportunities including training, mentoring, and assessment from theatre arts educators and stage professionals
- Dramatics magazine, the only publication edited exclusively for theatre students and teachers
- Unified College auditions and scholarship opportunities for high school seniors
- Discounted entry fees for regional IE and state festivals

We are the professional association for theatre education. The International Thespian Society, our student division, is the world's largest honor society for theatre arts students. Together, the Educational Theatre Association and the International Thespian Society have worked to build strong school theatre programs for more than eighty-five years.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WASHINGTON STATE THESPIANS AND EdTA

Washington State Thespians is a Chapter of the Educational Theatre Association (EdTA). If you start a Thespian Troupe through EdTA you are automatically a member of the Washington State Chapter.

CHARTER A TROUPE

When you Charter a Troupe for the first time, you may induct all those whom you believe are committed members of your theatre department and who, if you had had a troupe, would qualify for Thespian membership. As a Troupe Director you may organize your troupe in a variety of ways to make it work for your school. Points and other membership criteria can be adjusted to fit your needs and your own school program. Visit the EdTA website at: <https://www.schooltheatre.org/membership/join>

THESPIAN TROUPE COST

- One-time charter fee - \$95
- One-time induction fees: \$30 per student (6 minimum = \$180)
- Minimum total to charter - \$370

TEACHER THESPIAN MEMBERSHIP

If you were inducted in high school you are a Thespian for life. As an adult, however, you do not qualify for the same benefits as they are specific to high school students. There are different memberships for your situation. If you Charter a Thespian Troupe you are automatically a Thespian Troupe Director and receive those benefits. <http://www.edta.org/membership/join/>

NON-THESPIAN PARTICIPATION IN THESPIAN EVENTS

Non-Thespians can participate and be adjudicated at Washington Thespian regional IE Events, attend State Thespian Festival, and in-service. If a student qualifies at regional IE and wants to participate in IE showcase auditions at State or NIES at the International Thespian Festival in June, they must be an inducted Thespian at the time of registration. Students must also be a thespian to audition for scholarships at Festival.

DO YOU NEED TO QUALIFY TO ATTEND THE INTERNATIONAL THESPIAN FESTIVAL (ITF)?

Anyone may attend the International Thespian Festival (ITF) in June. There are many technical and performance opportunities that do NOT require any qualification. You simply sign up when you register your troupe. However, if you wish to audition for scholarships, collegiate programs, or participate in Individual Events (NIES), you must be an inducted member of a Thespian Troupe.

To participate in NIES at the International Thespian Festival in June, you must qualify at one of the Washington Thespians regional IE events (NW, SW, or East). Your overall average adjudicated score must be in the superior column of your particular event rubric.

To bring a full length play or musical to ITF, your show must be adjudicated by EdTA's national adjudicators in your home school. See the Thespian website for more details. 'Chapter Select' cuttings are adjudicated at the State Thespian Festival.



2018-2019 THESPIAN COSTS

TEACHER IN-SERVICE/STUDENT MASTERCLASS

Teachers/Administrators/Arts Administrators: \$50

Students: \$15 (bring a sack lunch)

COLLEGE AUDITIONS

Thespian: \$40

Non-Thespian: \$50

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS REGIONAL EVENTS

Thespian: \$30

Non-Thespian: \$40

WASHINGTON STATE THESPIAN FESTIVAL

Thespian: \$60

Non-Thespian: \$80

JR. THESPIAN FESTIVAL

Thespian: \$25

Non-Thespian: \$35

EdTA COSTS

(2019 costs – subject to change)

INDIVIDUAL THESPIAN INDUCTION

\$35 one time induction fee per student to become a Thespian

YEARLY EdTA TROUPE DUES

\$95 yearly Troupe dues by October 15

INTERNATIONAL THESPIAN FESTIVAL

Thespian: \$790 (plus transportation/event/audition fees)

Non-Thespian: \$820 (plus transportation/event/audition fees)

TECHNICAL EVENTS

Each regional IE Event (East, NW, SW) gives students the opportunity to present technical projects in a variety of categories including: costume design, costume construction, scenic design, lighting design, stage management, sound design, and theatre marketing. Students who qualify at their regional IE can present for showcase at state and/or International Thespian Festival.

TECH OLYMPICS are part of the Washington State Thespian Festival each year. The TECH OLYMPICS are a hands-on competition based on technical skills.

THESPIAN SCHOLARSHIPS

Students applying for scholarships at the State Thespian Festival must be an inducted thespian. Students must pre-register and fill out the scholarship application and have a Troupe Director's Letter of Recommendation turned in by the deadline. The application and other information are located on the www.washingtonstatethespians.com website.

NON-TEACHERS AS TROUPE LEADERS

If your local high school does not have a Thespian Troupe and you are unsure if the teacher wants to take on the duties of establishing a new troupe, a volunteer parent can serve as Troupe Director. It is important the Troupe Director be dedicated and work closely with the theatre teacher.



WASHINGTON STATE
THESPIANS™

AN EDUCATIONAL THEATRE
ASSOCIATION AFFILIATE

JR. THESPIANS

Grades 6-8

HOW TO CHARTER A JR. THESPIAN TROUPE

Jr. Thespians must be in 6, 7, or 8th grade. Go to the EdTA website and you will see the membership documents to get you started: <https://www.schooltheatre.org/membership/manageitstroupe/charterjuniortroupe>

IS THERE A POINT IN STARTING A JR. THESPIAN TROUPE IF MY MIDDLE SCHOOL FEEDS INTO A HIGH SCHOOL WITH NO THESPIAN TROUPE?

Yes, there are Jr. Thespian honors, membership benefits and conferences that EdTA sponsors. See the EdTA website for more information on Jr. Thespians. And your Jr. Troupe may encourage the high school to develop a troupe: <https://www.schooltheatre.org/home>

JR. THESPIAN FESTIVAL

There is a Jr. Thespian Festival in Washington State every year. There is also a National Jr. Thespian Festival sponsored by EdTA.