TEXAS THESPIANS
JUNIOR FESTIVAL

Directors Packet

North Texas
October 17, 2026
The OC (Forney)
Reg. Sept 14- Oct. 9

South Texas
December 12, 2026
Seven Lakes HS (Katy)
Reg. Nov. 9 - Dec. 4

Central Texas
Feb 20, 2027
McCallum Fine Arts Academy (Austin)
Reg. Jan. 18 - Feb. 12, 2027

Inside:

- ✓ Junior Festival Director Checklist
- ✓ Festival Tentative Schedule
- ✓ Registration Handouts
- ✓ Smart Waiver Info
- ✓ Festival Rules
- ✓ Junior Events At a Glance
- ✓ Resources

TEXAS THESPIANS JUNIOR FESTIVAL Checklist

PLANNING STAGE

- [ ] Read this packet thoroughly!
- [ ] Choose which festival is best for your troupe.
- [ ] Follow campus and district protocols for student travel to get your trip to the Junior Thespians festival approved.
- [ ] Reserve your bus for the trip using your district protocols.
- [ ] Have an interest meeting with your students and potentially their parents. Pass out the Registration Packet to all students attending the festival. Be sure to add your districts own travel paperwork to the packet.
- [ ] As your students return their registration forms, organize them in a manner that makes sense for you for registration.

REGISTRATION

- [ ] Directors are the only person that will register your school/tropue.
- [ ] Once your registration window opens, you will register your troupe through the registration platform.
- [ ] Do not mail registration forms. These are to help you with registration.
- [ ] When you reach the end of registering your entire troupe, you will want to save a copy of your troupe invoice as it has your students unique registration number on it.
- [ ] You will then share those unique registration numbers with your students parents as well as the link that will be available at the end of your registration process. Every student attending will need to have a consent form on file.
- [ ] The parents will complete the consent form online and it will link back to the registration portal so you will be able to check to see who has not completed the registration form.

TEXAS THESPIANS
JUNIOR FESTIVAL
Checklist

REGISTRATION CONT.

- [ ] Send your adminstrator the link for the Troupe Participation Agreement. They will complete it virtually as well. The link can be shared with anyone that is responsible for signing for your program, campus or district.
- [ ] Print your invoice from registration and submit to your campus for a check.

COMPETITION PREPARTION

- [ ] After you have completed registration, you will need to enter your student competitors into Submittable. Submittable is the online balloting system that Texas Thespians uses to score contests.
- [ ] You will fill out a Submittable application for every contest that your students are competing in. There is a step by step guide on the webpage for navigating Submittable.
- [ ] Continue working with your students to prepare their competitions.
- [ ] Be sure to check eligibility for all of the performance Thespy competitions.
- [ ] Discuss competition dress with your students so they have appropriate competition attire.
- [ ] Download the Goosechase app. Goosechase is used for a troupe engagement contest the day of festival.

TEXAS THESPIANS
JUNIOR FESTIVAL

Checklist

WEEK OF FESTIVAL

- [ ] Send out final information to your students parents including the time you are leaving, where to meet you, what the students should bring and any other important info.
- [ ] Meet with your students that will be attending. Remind them about the rules and expecations for attending a Texas Thespian Festival. Discuss dress code expectations, clothing for competitions, personal belongings, schedules and expectations.
- [ ] Double check your travel arrangements with your district transportation department.
- [ ] The event passport will be availalbe with the festival information. If you prefer, you can have your students decide of their schedule before arriving at festival!
- [ ] Reach out to Texas Thespians staff if you have any questions or concerns!

TEXAS THESPIANS
JUNIOR FESTIVAL

Session Title	Time Start	Time End
Festival Check-In and Arrival	7:30 AM	8:15 AM
Opening Ceremonies	8:30 AM	8:50 AM
Session 1: Tech Playland Intensive (for Tech Challenge Competitors), Workshops	9:00 AM	9:50 AM
Session 2: Tech Playland, Thespys, Workshops	10:00 AM	10:50 AM
Session 3: Tech Playland,Thespys, Workshops	11:00 AM	11:50 AM
Lunch 1 *or* STO Playland or Tech Challenge	12:00 PM	12:30 PM
Lunch 2 *or* STO Playland or Tech Challenge	12:40 PM	1:10 PM
Lunch 3 *or* STO Playland or Tech Challenge	1:20 PM	1:50 PM
Session 4: Thespys, Workshops, Open Mic	2:00 PM	2:50 PM
Session 5: Workshops, Improv, Closing Ceremonies Rehearsal	3:00 PM	3:50 PM
Design Pick Up, Clean-Up	3:30 PM	3:45 PM
Closing and Award ceremony	4:00 PM	4:30 PM

This schedule is tentative. Final schedule will be sent with registration info!

The Texas Junior Thespians Festival prepares middle school students for high school theatre—and beyond!

TEXAS THESPIANS JUNIOR FESTIVAL

For Middle School Theatre Students (Grades 6–8)

Get ready for a day that transforms passion into performance, curiosity into confidence, and students into theatre leaders!

WHY THIS FESTIVAL MATTERS

- **A Launchpad to Excellence**
  Receive professional feedback, compete in Thespy events!
- **Hands-On Learning**
  Dive into technical theatre challenges, design projects, and more
- **Safe Space to Experiment**
  Perform in judged events — low pressure, encouraging feedback
- **Teamwork & Growth**
  From production crews to acting ensembles, students learn to collaborate, self-evaluate, and process feedback
- **Bridge to High School Theatre**
  Build a foundation of skills, confidence, and vision for what's next
- **Network & Inspire**
  Meet theatre peers, connect with directors, and spark mentorship relationships across Texas.
- **Accessible & Inclusive**
  No Thespian charter required — any 6th–8th grade theatre program in Texas can join.

THREE REGIONAL LOCATIONS

North - October 17, 2026
The OC - Forney, Texas
Registration Deadline:
October 9, 2026

South - Dec.12, 2026
Seven Lakes High School
Registration Deadline:
December 4, 2026

Central - Feb. 20, 2027
McCallum Fine Arts Academy (Austin)
Registration Deadline:
February 12, 2027

Registration: $60 per attendee
Performance/Thespy Events: $20 per entry
Design Events: $5 per participant

Grants available for first-time attendees and troupes

THESPIAN

TEA CPE Provider #902-342

FOR MORE INFO
www.texasthespians.org

BRING YOUR STUDENTS & YOUR SPIRIT!

Thespian Festival Registration Worksheet

Return to your Troupe Director who will use this sheet to register you online. DO NOT MAIL THESE TO TEXAS THESPIANS.

Festival Attendees/Delegates- Fill out and return to your director by _____

Director's Name _____ Troupe # _____

Student Name _____ Badge Name _____ Cell # _____

Email _____ Grade Level _____

ADA Requests/ Special Needs? _____

Parent Name _____ Cell # _____

Medicines to be dispensed while on the trip? ___ YES ___ NO Wheelchair Accessible ___ YES ___ NO

COMPETITIONS & ADDITIONAL REGISTRATION

Thespys -National Qualifying Events

Schools may enter 10 National Performance and Technical I.E. Events - ***National Short Film & Playwriting are unlimited.***
Students may ***not*** *be cross-entered in more than ONE Thespy National Qualifying Event*

- ☐ Monologue- $20.00
- ☐ Duet Acting - $20.00 per person
- ☐ Group Acting - $20.00 per person
- ☐ Solo Musical- $20.00
- ☐ Duet Musical- $20.00 per person
- ☐ Group Musical- $20.00 per person
- ☐ Solo MT Dance- $20.00
- ☐ Duet MT Dance- $20.00 per person
- ☐ Group MT Dance- $20.00 per person
- ☐ Costume Construction- $20.00
- ☐ Costume Design- $20.00
- ☐ Lighting Design- $20.00
- ☐ Makeup/Hair Design- $20.00
- ☐ Playwriting- $20.00
- ☐ Prop Design - $20.00
- ☐ Scenic Design- $20.00
- ☐ Short Film- $20.00 per person
- ☐ Sound Design- $20.00
- ☐ Stage Management- $20.00
- ☐ Theatre Marketing- $20.00

Texas Only Events

Students may participate in National and Texas Events. See below for troupe entry limits.

Texas Challenges

- ☐ Lip Sync Challenge (solo, duet, group)- $5 per person
- ☐ Reader's Theater (team of 2-12) - $5 per person
- ☐ Thespians Open Mic - $5 per person
- ☐ Tech Team Relay (team of 2-6) - $5 per person
- ☐ Team Dramatic Design Challenge (team of 1-4) - $5 per person

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Festival Fees- Workshops and lunch included (**$60 per registrant**) **$**_____

Competition and Additional Registration Fees- Total of any item(s) checked above **$**_____

Travel Expenses - Each troupe will have a different amount - Troupe directors fill this in. **$**_____

TOTAL DUE $_____

FOR DIRECTOR USE

Name on Check _____ Check # _____ Amount $ _____

Cash Payment ☐ Amount $ _____ Payment Date _____

Thespy Registration Worksheet

Return to your Troupe Director who will use this sheet to register your contests in Submittable.
DO NOT MAIL THESE TO TEXAS THESPIANS.

Festival Attendees/Delegates- Fill out and return to your director by _____

Thespys -National Qualifying Events

Each entry only needs ONE form filled out. For example, a Group Musical only needs ONE FORM for the whole group musical.

- ☐ Contrasting Monologue - $20.00
- ☐ Monologue- $20.00
- ☐ Duet Acting - $20.00 per person
- ☐ Group Acting - $20.00 per person
- ☐ Solo Musical- $20.00
- ☐ Duet Musical- $20.00 per person
- ☐ Group Musical- $20.00 per person
- ☐ Solo MT Dance- $20.00
- ☐ Duet MT Dance- $20.00 per person
- ☐ Group MT Dance- $20.00 per person
- ☐ Costume Construction- $20.00
- ☐ Costume Design- $20.00
- ☐ Lighting Design- $20.00
- ☐ Makeup/Hair Design- $20.00
- ☐ Playwriting- $20.00
- ☐ Prop Design - $20.00
- ☐ Scenic Design- $20.00
- ☐ Short Film- $20.00 per person
- ☐ Sound Design- $20.00
- ☐ Stage Management- $20.00
- ☐ Theatre Marketing- $20.00

Student's First Name _____ Student's Last Name _____

Unique Registration Number _____

Duet Partner (if solo, leave blank)_____

Group Members (if solo, leave blank) ____ _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

School Name _____ Troupe # _____

Troupe Director's Name _____

Troupe Director's E-Mail _____

Play or Musical Title _____

Playwright/Lyricist _____

Publisher _____

For Playwriting, fill out these additional sections:*

Student's E-Mail Address_____

Script of TItle_____

For Short Film, fill out these additional sections:*

Student's E-Mail Address_____

Script of Short Film TItle_____

Type of Short Film: ☐ Documentary ☐ Live Action ☐ Animation

***For these categories, work with your director to give them the documents that will need to be submitted!**

TEXAS THESPIANS
JUNIOR FESTIVAL

Smart Waiver Information

Texas Thespian Cosent Forms have gone online this year using Smart Waiver!

Smart Waiver Process

- ☐ Once a student is registered for festival, Troupe Directors will share the Smart Waiver link with the parents of their delegates.
- ☐ Each delegate will be assigned a random number at registration. This number must also be shared with parents of delegates.
- ☐ Parents will then visit the link provided and fill out the Waiver form for the event. NEW: Each Texas Thespians event will have its own consent form. You should use the link provided by your Troupe Director for that event.
- ☐ Parents of multiple Thespians can do one waiver form for multiple children.

TEXAS THESPIANS
JUNIOR FESTIVAL

Festival Rules

- All DIRECTORS and CHAPERONES must take full responsibility for the conduct of their troupe delegation during Festival from arrival to departure. This includes audience behavior in all ceremonies, as well as behavior in workshop rooms, competition rooms, the dining hall, hallways, indoor and outdoor common areas and Tech Playland.
- Theatre etiquette should be followed during all workshops and competition rooms, as well as during the opening and closing ceremonies. Recording and photography are strictly prohibited during performance competitions. All electronic recording devices will be taken up if they are used during a performance competition.
- Badges are to be worn above the waist at all times, from the time of arrival until the time of departure. This is a safety and security issue – there is no exception – student or adult.
- The festival buildings are a non-smoking area. Local ordinances will be enforced.
- The Texas Thespians Festival has a zero-tolerance policy regarding vaping, alcohol, drugs, inappropriate physical contact, weapons and violence.
- Defacing or causing damage to properties and facilities will not be tolerated.
- Students may not congregate in the vicinity or inside of buildings or locations not being used for Festival activities without a Director being present. Badges will be pulled for loitering or not participating in Festival Activities.
- Students may not leave the Festival venues without a Director or Chaperone.
- Texas Thespians Festivals are welcoming places where students gather to share their love of theater. Everyone should be treated with love and respect. Everyone including Texas Thespians Festival staff, host school employees, judges and guest artists, as well as delegates, directors and chaperones should all be treated with respect.
- Inappropriate behavior during performances, workshops or any part of the Festival will result in the delegate's removal from this performance space and being sent home.
- Selling, soliciting, or fundraising of any kind is strictly prohibited.

TEXAS THESPIANS JUNIOR FESTIVAL

Events at a Glance

Performance Thespys*

Solo Musical (1)
Duet Musical (2)
Ensemble Musical (3-16)
Monologue (1)
Constrasting Monologues (1)
Two-Person Scene (2)
Ensemble Acting (3-16)
Solo Musical Theater Dance (1)
Duet Musical Theater Dance(2)
Ensemble Musical Theater Dance (3-16)

*These pieces must be on the approved list found at schooltheatre.org.

Technical Thespys*

Costume Construction
Costume Design
Hair and Makeup Design
Lighting Design
Prop Construction
Scenic Design
Sound Design
Stage Management
Theatre Marketing
Playwriting
Short Film

Troupe Opportunity

Troupe Spotlight - This is a free way to recongize your troupe and all you do! Templates will be available for you to create a slide for your troupe!

Texas Only Challenges

Solo, Duet and Group Lip Sync - Unlimited entries. Costumes and props allowed. Seven min time limit.

Improv - These contests will be held in workshop format! No need to sign up during registration.

Reader's Theater - One entry per school. Group can be 2-12 people. Group performs a section of a published book or script. Students are allowed to use propts, costumes and chairs. Students are not allowed to use music or additional set peices. Scripts allowed.

Open Mic Showcase - One entry per school. Performances will happen during a workshop session as a performance opportunity. 1-12 people in an entry. Performance selections may include (but are not limited to) original or pubished poetry, slam poetry, prose, monologue, song, pantomine, TV commericals, comedy, etc.

Junior Dramatic Design - Unlimited entries per school. 1-4 people in an entry. These design contests are brought to festival completed. Prompt and categories (Costume Design, Hair and Makeup Design, Set Design and Marketing Design) align with UIL Middle School Theatrical Design contest.

Tech Relay Challenge - One entry per school of 2-6 students. Schools with teams entered will be able to attend Tech Playland Intensive in first workshop session to learn skills.

*Each troupe can only enter ten total Thespy entries per festival.
** Playwriting and Short Film entries do not count towards the ten total allowed entries.

TEXAS THESPIANS JUNIOR FESTIVAL

Resources

National Qualifying Performance Contests

National Qualifying Technical Contests

Texas Only Challenges

Festival Grants

Goosechase Mobile App

How to Navigage Submittable

Link to check Thespy eligibility

Texas Thespians Teacher Conference