

STO Commitment Contract

Purpose

State Thespians Officers are student leaders who exemplify and promote Texas Thespians over the course of their term. State Thespians Officers enhance the positive environment at Texas Thespians Festival by exhibiting leadership skills, respect for individual differences, building consensus, academic excellence, and modeling appropriate behaviors at all times, both in and outside of school and Texas Thespian events.

Expectations of an STO

- To serve Texas Thespians for one year (February 14th - July 1st of the following year)
- To attend various meetings, workshops and festivals throughout the year
- Transportation costs and rooming arrangements are the responsibility of the student and school
- Must have the ability to stay in constant communication with fellow STO members, regional students, the adult board, and Thespians in general via email, video conference and social media
- Must meet bi-monthly deadlines and have good time management skills
- Must be proactive and responsible
- Must travel to surrounding schools to see shows and support the Thespian troupes in his/her region
- Must serve as an example of the ideal Thespian

Application and Selection

- Students must first have their director submit an email of sponsorship; speaking to the student's character, saying that they support the student in the candidacy process and that they understand the duties and responsibilities of an STO if their student is elected into Submittable.
- Students must then also complete the STO Candidacy Application form, linked in the "Become a STO" icon.
- NEXT: All candidates are required to participate in the Pre-Festival **Candidate Process** which includes; a letter of support and understanding from their administration (Principal Commitment Form), and a letter of recommendation from a non-fine arts teacher be sent to Mrs. Morgan, phone interviews, and Pre-Festival online meetings prior to the festival. **See [STO Candidate Handout](#).**
- You will also record a slate video and upload to YouTube that includes the following information: your name, your school, your troupe number, and your current grade level ("Freshman", "Sophomore", "Junior") as a part of the application. You will attach the YouTube link for private viewing (unlisted) as part of your application.
- There is no general campaigning to become an STO. After applications and qualifications are reviewed and jobs at the festival completed, a vote of the incoming officers will be taken by the current officers and STO sponsors during the festival

- Students are evaluated based on their application packet, recommendations, videos, and personal interactions during the interactive selection process. For more information: [STO Candidate Handout](#)

Leadership/Teamwork

State Thespian Officers must

- Abide by their school's student code of conduct, and the rules governing their Thespian troupe.
- Behave in a manner that is becoming to the individual, their school and Texas Thespians. This behavior should extend to all forms of social media.
- Maintain desirable attitudes and spirit.
- Cooperate with all State Thespian Officers, Chapter Thespian Adult Leadership, Festival participants, and other members of Texas Thespian Organization.

Attendance

State Thespian Officers are required to attend all Texas Thespians events and meetings. Students will be provided with a tentative calendar for the following year at the Thespian Festival. Any changes to this calendar will be given to students 30 days prior to the event.

Regular school attendance in all classes is expected.

State Thespian Officers may not leave events early without pre-authorization from the Chapter Director or her designee.

Work, Extracurricular activities, family trips are not appropriate excuses for absence in any required event.

Transportation and Housing for Texas Thespian Events

- Each member of the STO is required to secure and provide all transportation to and from Texas Thespians sponsored events.
- Each member of the STO will need to secure housing for Texas Thespians Events. This could include housing to attend meetings and State and National Festivals. These could be volunteered locations with other STO's in the area of the meeting or paid for by the student and/or their school.
- Retreat will be paid for by Texas Thespians which includes room, board and training activities.

Appearance

As a representative of Texas Thespians, the STO is expected to dress in a manner that is professional and appropriate to the event.

- STO will participate in dress up days.
- STO will wear the assigned outfit for each event.
- STO is responsible for caring for the STO sash.
- STO appropriate apparel: professional dress, appropriate length skirts, footwear conducive to extreme walking, neatly groomed hair.
- Not allowed:
 - Visible facial piercings
 - Short shorts, athletic (wind) shorts
 - Midriff baring tops
 - Pajamas

Financial

STO are responsible for their own expenses not covered by Texas Thespians. This includes: travel and additional meals not provided by Texas Thespians (which will be indicated prior to any and all events) along with housing state and national festival. The STO will have their festival registration waived by the Texas Thespians upon registration by the STO's Troupe Director in Submittable. Additionally, Texas Thespians will pay for Leadership Retreat for all STO's.

Eligibility

All STO members are required to maintain eligibility for academics. Texas Thespians follow the eligibility requirements outlined by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and the University Interscholastic League (UIL).

A student who receives, at the end of any grading period (after the first six weeks of the school year), a grade below 70 in any class (other than an identified advanced class) or a student with disabilities who fails to meet the standards in the Individual Education Plan (IEP) may not participate in extracurricular activities for three school weeks. An ineligible student may practice or rehearse, however. The student regains eligibility after the seven calendar day waiting period has ended following a grading or the 3 school weeks evaluation period when the principal and teachers determine that he or she has earned a passing grade (70 or above) in all classes, other than those that are advanced. All schools must check grades for all participants at the end of the first six weeks of the school year. From that point, grades are checked at the end of the grading period whether it is six, nine, or twelve weeks in length. Students who pass remain eligible until the end of the next grading period. All activity coaches and directors are responsible for obtaining official grade reports from the individual the principal designates as the keeper of official grades before the student represents the school. This provision applies to all grading periods. It also applies to all three-school week evaluation periods for ineligible students. Texas Administrative Code identifies advanced courses eligible for exemption and includes any College Board Advanced Placement (AP) course, International Baccalaureate

courses in all disciplines, Honors and high school/college concurrent enrollment or dual credit courses in the subject areas of English Language Arts, Mathematics Science, Social Studies, Economics or language other than English. Waivers are the responsibility of the STO's School District.

In addition, all conduct grades should be satisfactory.

Behavioral Expectations

Texas Thespians have specific conduct expectations.

Permanent Dismissal

Reasons for permanent dismissal include, but are not limited to:

- Expulsion;
- Truancy;
- Alternative school placement;
- Academic ineligibility.

Standards of behavior

Behaviors that could result in disciplinary action or removal:

- Profanity
- Inappropriate or negative social media
- Violation of festival rules
- Out after STO curfew

Candidate:

Printed Name	Signature	Date
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Guardian:

Printed Name	Signature	Date
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Troupe Director:

Printed Name	Signature	Date
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