

	PA Thespians State Conference Registration Information December 4-6, 2026 Altoona Area HS - Altoona, PA
---	---

Welcome to the PA Thespians State Conference!

On behalf of the PA Adult Board members and the Student State Thespian Officers (STO), I would like to invite you to attend our annual conference this year. We are grateful to Altoona Area HS in Altoona, PA for volunteering to be our host for this year's event. And we are actively searching for next year's host - please consider this amazing opportunity for your school!

Having completed my first year as Chapter Director, I am so proud of what we have accomplished over the past year - and the connections I've made with people from across the state. If you have never attended our event before, we invite you to give it a try and to see in-person all of the opportunities that our conference weekend includes. Any director whose troupe membership is in good standing with EDTA is welcome to attend with their students.

If you are new to Thespians and the Educational Theatre Association (EDTA), I invite you to reach out to me with any questions and to discuss the benefits of chartering a Thespian troupe at your school. At its core, the International Thespian Society (ITS) began as an honor society to recognize theatre students for their achievements both on and off stage.

If you are reading this, no matter your title, please remember that you make a difference in the lives of our Thespians, creating safe spaces where students can be their authentic selves. I have had the pleasure of serving as a PA board member for almost 20 years, and I look forward to serving our organization and all PA "theatre kids" in my role as Chapter Director. I am grateful to the entire PA board and STO's for their time and effort to build a successful and enjoyable conference weekend for us all.

Sincerely,

Melissa Mintzer - Penn Manor HS Troupe #274 / Chapter Director - PA Thespians

Email: chapterdirector@pathespians.org or melissa.mintzer@pennmanor.net

REGISTRATION DATES HAVE CHANGED THIS YEAR! Please review the directions in this packet to ensure that your troupe's registration process goes smoothly.

TROUPE DIRECTOR INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Attending for the first time? Want to learn more about the registration process? Have specific questions about programs? [Join me for an informational session via Zoom on Thurs, Sept 17th or Sunday, Sept 27th at 7pm. Email to sign up and receive login information.](#)

THINGS TO KNOW & DO BEFORE YOU GO....

REGISTRATION FEE

Includes access to all on-site performances, three workshop sessions, a t-shirt, and several meals (Friday dinner, Saturday lunch & dinner, Sunday lunch).

Students: Inducted Thespians -\$110. Not yet inducted -\$125. State Thespian Officers -\$0.

Adults*: Chaperones -\$75. Troupe Director (1 per troupe) - \$0.

*Every troupe should have 1 troupe director + 1 chaperone in attendance at all times. For larger delegations, please use a 15:1 ratio as a guideline for additional adult registrations.

REGISTRATION DEADLINES & PAYMENTS

All information packets must be received by Monday, October 5th. Late fees of \$25 per person will apply for any registrations/changes received after the deadline. Files should be sent via email to: chapterdirector@pathespians.org

There are no refunds for changes/drops after the registration deadline or if a school cancels its attendance. An updated W-9 form is available on our website. Email the Chapter Director with questions.

PA Thespians does purchase event cancellation insurance, and if the event is cancelled by a higher authority (ie. state of emergency), we will work with our insurance provider and attempt to issue at least partial refunds, if possible.

Payment must be postmarked by October 31st. Payment by check is preferred.

Checks should be made payable to 'PA Thespians' and mailed to: Melissa Mintzer, PA Chapter Director, 201 Skyline Drive, Willow Street, PA 17584.

REGISTRATION BEST PRACTICES

- Be sure that you fill in all required information in the registration document. There are TWO tabs with key information:
 - **Troupe Summary** - including Troupe Director Contact info, total # of events/participants, and summary of all fees. Also if your school is performing a mainstage or one-act.
 - Adult Info - We must have the full legal name & email address for all chaperones and troupe directors to go through our background clearance process.
 - **Registration Details** - names of everyone connected to your troupe (students + adults), induction status, t-shirt sizes, and activities for each individual.
 - On this page, we will use names as they wish them to appear on the conference name badges - for both students and adults.
 - Please list any dietary restrictions, food allergies or special needs in the box provided.
 - Event Information - please put a 1 in any column(s) when a student will participate in any of these events.
 - We will use this information to provide ribbons, when applicable (so no separate ribbon order form will be necessary this year!)
 - Improv Pairs (max 2 teams) - \$20 fee - must be inducted Thespians to participate
 - Tech Challenge (max 2 teams) - \$25 fee

- Hall of Fame - Each troupe director may select one recipient in each of the following categories:
 - Overall Excellence
 - Performance
 - Technical Theatre
- Make copies for your own records before mailing anything and secure tracking if you need confirmation that your mail was received.
- Checks should not be stapled to paperwork. If sending a money order, don't forget to sign if it requires a signature (not all do) before sending.
- Because of the fees associated with electronic payments, checks for troupe registration payments are preferred.
- Submit paperwork early to ensure proper processing time & to avoid late fees.
- Late registrations will only be accepted for events (tech challenge, improv, etc) if space and time permit. Any changes to the information submitted will incur a \$25 fee.

TRAK-1 BACKGROUND CHECKS

ALL adults (Workshop Presenters, College Reps, Chaperones & Troupe Directors - any non-HS student) need to have a background check - and is why we need the full legal name listed for all adult registrations. All will receive an email at the address listed in October - please remind your group's adults to complete that form by the established deadlines enclosed in those email communications.

This background check is being done for and paid for by PA Thespians. This is separate from whatever school districts may require for adults to participate as chaperones. *Every non-student will receive an email with the link for the Trak-1 process (everyone needs to be registered with a working email address.)* Failure to complete this process by the established deadlines will result in their inability to attend the conference.

Bus drivers are not entering the building and will not be interacting with any conference delegates other than your own troupe for transportation - so they do not need to go through this process. They should make arrangements for another location to spend their time between drop off & pick up times that do not require them to be in the building.

HEALTH/ACCEPTANCE FORMS

Every delegate (students and adults) needs to complete a health/acceptance form. This form includes medical information, emergency contact information as well as other permissions (ie. photography consent). Troupe directors are responsible for collecting these forms from their students with all of the necessary information and signatures in advance. Troupe directors must SCAN and send a digital copy of everyone's forms prior to **November 6th. Hard copies will not be accepted.** Pro-tip: If your school's copier has a scan feature, you can run all of your forms through it at once & send them all as one file!

NOTE: Troupe directors should carry a hard copy of these forms at all times during the conference weekend, and students should have a hard copy folded & carried in their name badge throughout the weekend. In the event of an emergency, this allows the information to be referenced immediately without delay.

A PDF of this form will be emailed to all registered troupes and posted on our website.

TRANSPORTATION

Each troupe is responsible for their own transportation to and from the event, as well as from the hotel to the school, if applicable. No shuttle bus service is provided. Parking information will be provided by the host school (Altoona).

MEALS

Some meals are included in the registration fee and will be served in the Altoona HS cafeteria. These meals include: Friday dinner, Saturday lunch & dinner, Sunday lunch. Dietary restrictions are part of the registration process, and requirements should be listed for any individuals in need of accommodations.

IMPORTANT: Opening ceremony begins early Friday afternoon - your group should have had lunch PRIOR to arriving at the host school. No food deliveries are permitted on site and because school is in session there is not a place for you to bring food along & eat on site; please plan accordingly.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Troupe directors are responsible for making their own reservations and payments for any hotel stays for their group. Altoona HS has provided a list of hotels in the nearby area - and board members are working to attempt to secure blocks of rooms and rates for our delegates. While this has not yet been finalized, you are welcome to ask about any special rates when making contact with local hotels.

NAME BADGES & RIBBONS

All delegates (adults and students) will receive a name badge upon arrival. These badges must be worn at all times by all delegates -it is what allows you to enter performances, meals and all activities. If lost, a \$10 replacement fee will be assessed at the registration table as needed. Without a badge, students cannot participate in activities, shows, and meals.

Ribbons will be provided for special events and recognitions based on the information provided on the registration details form. The number of ribbons will be tallied based on your registration numbers - inducted Thespians, chaperones, troupe director, mainstage/one-act, etc. Ribbons should be attached to the bottom of the name badges to identify and recognize all of the accomplishments and achievements for all of our delegates. We will only provide ribbons based on your initial registration - we do not have the ability to manage any changes or updates, as well as if ribbons fall off of your name badge. We will have some additional "dramatic" ribbons for sale at the boutique.

HONOR TROUPE

The Pennsylvania Thespian Honor Troupe Recognition Program recognizes those troupes that achieve a high level of excellence both on stage and off. There is no limit to the number of troupes that can be recognized each year. A certificate will be presented to each qualifying school at the conference. We encourage EVERY troupe to complete the application documenting their troupe's accomplishments from last school year (following the

International Thespian Festival: July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026). There is no cost to apply. The google form application will be available on our website in September and must be submitted by **October 31, 2026**.

Troupes that are not able to attend the conference in person - ARE encouraged to complete the honor troupe application process - and we will mail your certificate to your home school after the conference weekend.

A digital presentation must also accompany your troupe application - and 1-2 student representatives will be scheduled to participate in a short presentation and review of your materials. Students should prepare a 3-4 minute presentation that highlights your troupe's year, and be prepared to field questions from board members. A troupe that cannot attend in-person should include email addresses for questions to be answered if needed.

Student Thespian Officers - STO CANDIDATES

Troupe Directors may nominate ONE student to apply for consideration to be an STO for a one-year term. Students must demonstrate strong leadership skills, be inducted Thespians, and have their troupe director's permission to apply. A signature page must also be completed indicating parental and administrative permission to participate as well. Students will need to complete an online application (google form), attaching a resume of their Thespian activities (including all troupe-related activities, not just productions) and a head shot. **Deadline: October 12**

STO candidates must agree to these terms: I understand that if elected I will be expected to attend the virtual and in-person Conference State Board meetings and to arrive the day prior to the state conference for board preparation. Conference board meetings are held on Sunday evenings on a bi-monthly basis via Zoom. Spring and fall seasons may also include an on-site board meeting in person at the host school. If I am unable to attend a meeting, I will notify the Chapter Director in a timely manner and do my best to communicate with my fellow STOs regularly. Communication of meetings and information will be done via email. STOs are expected to check their email for PA Thespian business.

The Chapter Director and Student Leadership Coordinator may remove any STO member due to inappropriate behavior. Any STO who misses both of the in-person meetings, and/or more than 2 bi-monthly zoom sessions of Board meetings for the PA State Thespian Conference will automatically be removed from their STO position.

Troupe Directors must agree to these terms: I understand that if my student is elected, s/he will be expected to attend the State Board meetings and I will commit (based on my school district's policy) to attending these meetings with my student. I also understand that I will become a State Board member At Large if my student is selected, and I am committed to taking on responsibilities to be an active contributor to board activities.

NOTE: There is to be only one candidate per troupe. All candidates will participate in an interview & the selection process will continue during the conference weekend.

ADMINISTRATOR AWARD

PURPOSE: To recognize outstanding leadership in arts education. To motivate excellence in arts education. To draw public attention to accomplishments of school arts leadership.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION: The nominee must be an active advocate for the arts and arts education. The nominee must demonstrate leadership in support of school arts programs.

PROCESS: Nominations for PA Thespian Administrators Award may be submitted by any Thespian sponsor to the State Board in care of the State Director. The award will be presented at the State Conference.

If you would like to nominate an administrator, please send the following information via email to chapterdirector@pathespians.org with "Administrator Award" in the subject line. In your message, please include the administrator's full name, school name, job title, and your troupe #. You should also elaborate on the leadership of your nominee in support of your school art program and their advocacy of arts and arts in education. **Deadline: October 24**

WORKSHOP SELECTIONS

There will be three workshop sessions during conference weekend. These 75-minute sessions will include a variety of options for all aspects of theatre, taught by theatre professionals, troupe directors, college reps and more. Board members will accept proposals from guest artists through October 5th- and choose a broad selection to meet the needs of our delegates as best we can.

Upon receiving your troupe registration and payment, troupe directors will be sent a document outlining the workshop options, and a form to request sessions for their students. We will collect information from TD's and do our best to fill those requests until a workshop session has reached maximum capacity.

Students will check in at the door when that session begins - and hand over their admission ticket as they enter. Students must attend the session for which they are listed, and must check in upon arrival to the session.

Troupes that complete their registrations on time, and submit payments in a timely manner will receive this workshop registration information on a first-come basis. We will continue to accept workshop selections from our delegates until conference begins or until a session has filled.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND CASH AWARDS (grade 12 only)

ELIGIBILITY: To apply, students must be in grade 12, inducted Thespians and members of an active troupe. *No more than 3 performance and 3 tech applicants per troupe may apply.* There is a \$10 non refundable fee. Students will complete their data information and make payment through the OpenWater online software. The actual audition/portfolio presentation will be done in person at the PA Conference. Each applicant may only audition in ONE area: Performance or Technical, designating their eligibility for a scholarship or cash award consideration.

AWARDS: **Scholarships** are only open to students planning to major or minor in some area of the performing arts. (Up to 3 available for performance, Up to 2 available for technical). **Cash Awards** are open to all students who may or may not be planning to major/minor in the performing arts. A student who applies for but does not win a scholarship will automatically be considered for a Cash Award.

Scholarships will be paid directly to the college or university. Winners must send the chapter director their transcript showing successful completion of their first semester with a major in the performing arts. Also included must be the information on to whom checks need to be made payable and the mailing address for where they are to be sent. PA Thespians will then make payment directly to the college or university. Cash awards will be granted directly to the recipient.

We ask that each troupe include the number of students participating in this event on their troupe registration form in October so that the board can plan for the time and space needed. Individual students must complete the registration in OpenWater by November 1.

COLLEGE SHOWCASE (grade 11 only)

The College Showcase program is designed for grade 11 students to be able to showcase themselves for colleges. This will not replace a formal college audition, but it does give students a chance to get themselves seen by the colleges and universities participating in our conference. These colleges and universities may then ask to see students at conference or further follow up. These auditions/presentations will be filmed to share with colleges who will be accessing virtually if they are not able to attend our conference weekend in person. To participate, students must be in grade 11, inducted Thespians and members of an active troupe. There is a \$10 per person non-refundable fee. Students will complete their data information and make payment through the OpenWater online software. The actual audition will be in person at the PA Conference. *There is no limit to the number of students that can register from each troupe.*

We ask that each troupe include the number of students participating in this event on their troupe registration form in October so that the board can plan for the time and space needed. Individual students must complete the registration in OpenWater by November 1.

WHILE YOU ARE AT THE STATE CONFERENCE

STUDENT BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES

ALCOHOL/DRUGS - Students consuming drugs or alcohol, or found to be under the influence at any time will be returned home immediately, at parents' expense.

ATTENDANCE - All student delegates are REQUIRED to attend the events scheduled. You may not congregate in unauthorized areas.

CELL PHONES - Delegates are not permitted to use phones, send messages, take photographs during any performance. When the house lights are down, your phone is away.

CURFEW – HOTEL ROOMS - All delegates will be required to be in their rooms with lights out at the time indicated on the conference schedule. Sponsors and chaperones check rooms and halls throughout the night. Any troupe that does not abide by the curfew rules will not be invited to conference the following year. Mixed gender groups may not visit behind closed doors.

DRESS CODE - Proper attire, including shoes, must be worn at all times while on the conference site. Delegates are encouraged to wear comfortable clothing for workshop activities and to dress according to their school's dress code.

FOOD & DRINKS- MUST BE CONSUMED OUTSIDE THE AUDITORIUM.

SMOKING - Everyone is prohibited from smoking and/or vaping on all school property.

SOCIAL MEDIA- Please interact appropriately online. Be respectful and kind - your feedback and thoughts should be constructive and not hurtful.

THEATRE ETIQUETTE- Students are expected to behave as ladies and gentlemen at all times. Rudeness in gesture or language will not be tolerated. Do not walk in or out of the theatre during a performance. Do not stand in the lobby during a performance; be seated. Avoid talking and catcalls. Treat those on stage with the same respect you want when you are on stage. This includes social media comments. Acknowledge the accomplishments after the show. Applause should be held until the end of an act or production. Your actions as an audience member should not detract from the events occurring on stage. Express your reaction to comedy through laughter, not applause or cheering since these may affect the pacing of the actors.

INFRACTIONS AND CONSEQUENCES

MINOR INFRACTIONS - Disrespect for adult authority; profanity; unauthorized absence from conference activity; eating or drinking in the theatre; not wearing name badge visibly around the neck; photography/cell phone use during performance; improper theatre etiquette. **CONSEQUENCES** - Verbal warning, report to troupe director, and a letter of apology to State Board and to those wronged.

MAJOR INFRACTIONS - Not in assigned hotel room at curfew; smoking; possession of alcohol, non-prescription drugs or a weapon; leaving the conference area; sexual activity; repeated minor infractions. **CONSEQUENCES** - Appear before the State Board with troupe director to explain the actions; letter of apology to the State Board and to those wronged; loss of audition privileges; loss of troupe state activities for 1 calendar year; sent home at parents/guardians expense. The Chapter Director and State Board will notify the school principal of the incident and outcomes, in writing.

CHAPERONE EXPECTATIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES

Chaperones can attend all conference events but should also consider themselves supervisors of students throughout the conference. We are all proud of our students and troupes. We have all worked hard and look forward to sharing our best work with each other. We want everyone to return home with smiles on their faces having grown and learned from their experiences together.

All Chaperones are asked to help each other enforce the outlined expectations and responsibilities listed below. Students may receive warnings and if necessary, be asked to leave the auditorium. In this way, no Troupe will need to receive a warning or jeopardize their future participation due to the behavior of one or a few students.

As Chaperone, I understand that I am required to:

- Help monitor students' arrival to events, and with workshop attendance.
- Provide supervision at all events during Conference, and ensure a safe return home.
- Model and supervise appropriate behavior while in the hotel and at the host school.
- Encourage appropriate dress, adhere to lights out, and make sure your students clean up after themselves and respect the facilities they are using.
- Refrain from drinking alcoholic beverages at all points during the Conference.
- Take responsibility for all students at the conference. Help monitor problematic behavior from any troupe's student.
- Be aware of proper conduct through social media, and confiscate cell phones if out and in use during a performance. All cell phones should be silent and stored away, from house lights down to house lights up. Photos are NOT permitted during performances.
- Make sure all students are in the house and seated by the time each performance begins and the doors close. **Adults are expected to remain with their students!**
- Set the example of respect for the work presented on stage with appreciation and by modeling appropriate responses. Stadium behavior, screams and the Wave are never appropriate. Nor are performances a 'sing along' experience.

Remember, all you are asking when you follow through with enforcement of the rules is the behavior and respect you hope others would show your own students. With Sponsors and Chaperones who work together to assure a positive experience for all students, memories of our conference should all be good ones.

VENDORS

There will be items for sale at the conference -including clothing, accessories and a large variety of theatre-related items. Students who would like to purchase any of these items may do so during designated times. Payment by cash or card will be accepted.

COLLEGE REPS & BOOTHS

We are fortunate that several colleges attend our event in person to meet our students and talk about career opportunities in the performing arts and entertainment industry. Many college representatives will also present workshops and sit in on the college showcase program. They will have tables set up in a designated area for all delegates to visit. We encourage all delegates - students and adults- to visit their booths and say hello!

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES AT THE STATE CONFERENCE

MAINSTAGE PERFORMANCES

All delegates registered with a troupe will be assigned a seat in the auditorium for all mainstage events, as well as the opening & closing ceremonies. Our weekend will include FOUR full-length mainstage shows - where the troupe has deconstructed their set, packed it all up into a truck, and will rebuild it in a short period of time to present for the entire conference delegation.

ONE-ACTS

There are up to 13 schools who are preparing to perform a one-act for our conference delegates. These will all occur on Saturday morning - some will perform in the HS auditorium, others will perform in the Junior High Auditorium just across the street. Saturday morning includes a lot of simultaneous events -so delegates will work with their troupe directors to attend various events during that time. While attendance may be limited in some activities, there is always room for everyone to watch one-acts in either auditorium!

CHAPTER SELECT ONE-ACTS

If there is a school performing a one-act at ThesFest that would like to be considered for ITF's Chapter Select program, troupe directors should contact the Chapter Director by **November 1st**. These performances will be reviewed using an EDTA rubric. Participation in this process is a commitment by the troupe that, if selected, will take their complete one-act production to ITF in June.

COSTUME DESIGN - NEW THIS YEAR!

During a 50-minute timed challenge, teams of four (4) students will imagine and create their costume design based on a show-specific prompt.

Reminders:

- This event is a time challenge, and is not a judged event
- The goal is to have fun, work as a team, apply skills, and show off creativity
- Following the challenge, designs will be displayed throughout the rest of the conference.
- Following closing ceremonies, If you want your design articles, we ask that you take your design off the mannequin and bring it home. The physical mannequins will be reused next year. Do not take the mannequin.

Rules:

- Team Size - Maximum 4 people per team
For the first year of this event, there is only 1 team allowed per school.
- Mannequin – You may not alter the mannequin in any way. As these are to be reused each year.

The Challenge:

- At the beginning of the challenge, all teams will be reminded of rules & time.

- All teams will receive 2-3 descriptions of characters from musicals or plays. As a team you will choose which costume to create.
- Teams will have 50-minutes to create their selected scene.
- After 50-minutes, teams complete their "tag" by listing their school name, team members, and design selected. Additionally, they will have their picture taken for the Thespian Instagram and website. (Picture is optional)
- Teams are responsible for cleaning up their area and surrounding areas, to leave the space as it was found, prior to leaving the challenge area.

Supplies:

- Your team must supply all items for this event (other than the mannequin)
- Limited number of extension cords will be available, we recommend bringing your own if you will need one.

****You cannot use spray paints, spray adhesives, flames/lighters, other hazardous materials!**

<u>Supply List</u> - Scissors - Box Cutter / Exacto Knife - Cutting mat or scrap material to cut on (Required for box cutter / exacto knife) - Hot Glue & sticks / Extension Cord - Fabric scraps - Needle & Thread (hand sewing kit) - Pins - Pipe Cleaners - String / Ribbon - Felt - Paint / Paint Brushes - Markers / Crayons / Colored Pencils - Paper / Construction Paper / Foam Board - Glue (paste or stick) - Tape - Tissue Paper - Feathers, flowers, etc - Other Craft based materials - Pom Poms, popsicle sticks, googly eyes, etc. - Paper Towels	<u>Mannequin:</u> - Doll Sized – see possible size below - Plastic – cannot be pinned into 
---	---

Troupe Directors must register teams on the Troupe Registration form - there is NO COST to enter this event. **Deadline to register: October 5.**

HAIR & MAKEUP DESIGN

During a 50-minute timed challenge, teams of up to five (5) students will imagine and create their Hair & Makeup design based on a show-specific prompt. Please note the event has shifted from Hat & Make up to Hair and Makeup!

Reminders:

- This event is a time challenge, and is not a judged event
- The goal is to have fun, work as a team, apply skills, and show off creativity
- Following the challenge, designs will be photographed for Instagram/website.(optional)

The Challenge:

- At the beginning of the challenge, all teams will be reminded of rules & time.
- All teams will receive 1 prompt of which can be taken in multiple avenues. As a team you will choose what to create.
- Teams will have 50-minutes to create their selected design on their model.
- After 50-minutes, teams complete their "tag" by listing their school name, team members, and design selected. (Picture is optional)
- Teams are responsible for cleaning up their area and surrounding areas, to leave the space as it was found, prior to leaving the challenge area.

Supplies:

- Limited number of extension cords will be available, we recommend bringing your own if you will need it for your design.
- Your team must supply all items for this event:
 - Make up
 - Face paints
 - Face Glitter
 - Extension cord
 - Hair tools (Curler / strainer / crimper / etc.)
 - Ribbon/String
 - Decorative pieces: feathers, flowers, etc.
 - Other Hair accessories: bobby pins, hair ties, bows, scrunchies, etc.

****You cannot use Hair Spray or other aerosols (challenge is in contained room).**

Teams will have a limited amount of time to create their designs & transform their model to meet the theme of the event, which will be announced to the group as the timer is started. Troupe Directors must register teams on the Troupe Registration form - there is NO COST to enter this event. **Deadline to register: October 5.**

IMPROV PAIRS

Teams are comprised of 2 students who are inducted Thespians and members of an active troupe. Troupes can submit *up to* 2 teams. Troupe Directors must register Improv Pairs teams on the Troupe Registration form and include the fee in their troupe registration payment. **Deadline to register: October 5.**

1. Time limit: 3 (three) minutes maximum.
2. Preliminary rounds will be open for people to watch if space permits.
3. NOTE: NO planning time will be given.
4. When the troupe director registers a pair for Improvisational Pairs, the pair will be scheduled into a time slot.
5. When a team is called, they introduce themselves to the judge and are given 2 suggestions from which the improv scene will be inspired. The suggestion can come from any of the following categories: (1) A relationship between two people, (2) An object, (3) A location, (4) An occupation or hobby, or (5) Any word or phrase. For example, "Hi, I am Joe Smith [and I am Jane Lee] from Anytown High School. We are going to improvise a scene for you, but we need a suggestion to get started." The judge will give them a suggestion for 2 of the categories. Team members repeat the suggestions given to confirm it was heard correctly, then thank the judge for their suggestion and begin the scene. (Please note, the improv will begin immediately; there will be no planning.) To end the scene, actors break character and call "Scene!" Otherwise, the judge will call your scene at the 3-minute mark.

SCENIC DESIGN

During a 50-minute timed challenge, teams of four (4) students will imagine and create their theatrical design based on a show-specific prompt.

Reminders:

- This event is a time challenge, and is not a judged event
- The goal is to have fun, work as a team, apply skills, and show off creativity
- Following the challenge, designs will be displayed throughout the rest of the conference.
- Following closing ceremonies, we ask that you take your box with you and display or dispose of it at your home school.

Rules:

- Team Size - Maximum 4 people per team. If your school has more than 4 participants, you're welcome to have more than 1 team. Each team needs their own box, but teams can share supplies. 2 teams max per school
- Box – You may not alter the size of the box in any way or remove parts of the box.
You can cut a hole or slit in the top to hang scenic pieces if desired.
- Your design must be fully contained inside your box

The Challenge:

- At the beginning of the challenge, all teams will be reminded of rules & time.
- All teams will receive 2-3 descriptions of scenes from musicals or plays. As a team you will choose which scene to create.
- Teams will have 50-minutes to create their selected scene.
- After 50-minutes, teams complete their "tag" by listing their school name, team members, and design selected. Additionally, they will have their picture taken for the Thespian Instagram and website. (Picture is optional)
- Teams are responsible for cleaning up their area and surrounding areas, to leave the space as it was found, prior to leaving the challenge area.

Supplies:

- Your team must supply all items for this event.
 - Every team must supply their own box, which will serve as the "stage". This box should be a standard copier paper box that schools get shipments of paper reams in.
 - Limited number of extension cords will be available, we recommend bringing your own, as hot glue is the main way to adhere your set together in the time allotted.
- **You cannot use spray paints, spray adhesives, flames/lighters, other hazardous materials!**

Supply List

- Scissors
- Box Cutter / Exacto Knife
 - Cutting mat or scrap material to cut on (Required for box cutter / exacto knife)
- Hot Glue & sticks / Extension Cord
- Paper / Construction Paper / Foam Board
- Pipe Cleaners
- String / Ribbon
- Paint / Paint Brushes
- Markers / Crayons / Colored Pencils
- Glue (paste or stick)
- Tape
- Other Craft based materials - Pomp Poms, popsicle sticks, googly eyes, etc.
- Recycled materials
- Balsa Wood
- Paper Towels

Troupe Directors must register teams on the Troupe Registration form - there is NO COST to enter this event. **Deadline to register: October 5.**

TECH CHALLENGE

The Tech Challenge is a series of events that are designed to test your knowledge of basic skills that every technician should have. The combination of team and individual events underline the principle that theatre technicians do not work alone and an ensemble that works together to accomplish the given tasks makes the production successful. In technical theatre both time and accuracy are critical to a successful outcome. As artists we demand excellence in the tasks we are given, but as technicians we also have to perform the tasks quickly and efficiently so as not to disrupt the production process.

General Information

- Up to 11 students are allowed per team. A school may enter up to 2 teams in the PA Thespian Festival Tech Challenge.
- The true spirit of Tech Challenge is to offer a fun, competitive, educationally sound environment that showcases the skills and talents of young theatre technicians. Each event is designed to demonstrate as closely as possible the techniques and practices used in the professional theatre industry.

The challenge will include up to five of the following tasks:

Event	# of participants	# of attempts
Costume Quick Change	2 person team	2 attempts
Prop Shift	2 person team	2 attempts
Lighting Hang & Focus	2 individuals per team	2 attempts each person
Lighting / Sound Cable Relay	4 person team	2 attempts
Fold a Drop	4 person team	2 attempts
Leg a Platform	2 person team	2 attempts
Knot Tying	2 individuals per team	2 attempts each person



DOWNLOAD THE EVENTSENTIAL APP!

Our entire schedule - including all activities, workshop locations, digital show program info, etc - will be available shortly before the conference weekend begins.

CHECKLIST OF IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

September 11	☐ Registration opens
September 17	☐ Zoom Troupe Director Info Session #1, 7:00 pm
September 27	☐ Zoom Troupe Director Info Session #2, 7:00 pm
October 5	☐ Registration closes (late/change fees apply as of Oct 6). Send via email; share troupe document in Google Docs
October 12	☐ Royalty affidavits must be submitted for all one-acts
	☐ Administrator award nominations due via email
	☐ STO candidate applications due (Google Form)
	☐ Workshop proposals due (Google Form)
	☐ Submit paperwork for registration check to process (Workshop selection occurs on a first-come basis.)
Mid-October	☐ Trak-1 clearances must be completed by all adults
October 31	☐ Payment due. Postmark deadline to mail checks
	☐ Honor troupe applications due (Google Form)
November 1	☐ Grade 12-Scholarship entries due in OpenWater
	☐ Grade 11-College showcase entries due in OpenWater
	☐ Chapter Select One-Act commitment due via email
November 2	☐ TD must submit information about all Thespy entries
Early November	☐ Send workshop information for students' choices
November 6	☐ Health/Acceptance forms due. Scan & send via email
Mid-November	☐ Gather supplies for hat/makeup & scenic design events
November 23	☐ Follow PA Thespians on social media
	☐ Download our app to keep track of everything
December 3	☐ Pack your bag & get ready for a wonderful weekend!

