



**TROUPE**

**8445**

Membership FAQ

**“Act well  
your part,  
there all the  
honor lies”**

## **International Thespian Society Membership FAQ**

Welcome to Troupe 8445! Congratulations on the recognition of all your hard work and dedication to the art of theatre as evidenced by your induction to the world's largest theatre honor organization.

This is a hands-on organization, so please familiarize yourself with the ITS with these FAQs and by exploring the ITS website. Let's get ready for an amazing year!

### General Information

What is the Educational Theatre Association?

- The Educational Theatre Association (EdTA) is a national nonprofit organization with more than 100,000 student and professional members. EdTA's mission is shaping lives through theatre education by: honoring student achievement in theatre and enriching their theatre education experience; supporting teachers by providing professional development, networking opportunities, resources, and recognition; and influencing public opinion that theatre education is essential and builds life skills. EdTA operates the International Thespian Society (ITS), an honorary organization that has inducted more than 2.2 million theatre students since its founding in 1929. EdTA also publishes *Dramatics*, a monthly magazine for high school theatre students, and *Teaching Theatre*, a quarterly journal for theatre education professionals.

What is the International Thespian Society?

- The International Thespian Society, a division of EdTA, is an honorary organization for high school and middle school theatre students. There are ITS troupes at more than 4,400 affiliated secondary schools across America and abroad. The Society's mission is to honor student achievement in the theatre arts. Students earn induction by participating in an affiliated school's theatre program and accumulating points based on the quality and quantity of their work in theatre. High school inductees are known as Thespians and junior high/middle school inductees are known as Junior Thespians.

What kinds of educational programs and events does the Educational Theatre Association offer?

- EdTA National Conference – The event for busy theatre education professionals, Conference features practical workshops designed to be integrated into the classroom. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) and college credit are available.
- EdTA Professional Development Intensives (PDI) – These training programs for theatre education professionals are one- or two-day workshops focused on a single topic. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) and college credit are available.
- Thespian Festival – The world's largest educational and performance event for middle and high school theatre, Festival is a weeklong celebration of theatre for students and educators held each year at the end of June.
- Chapter festivals and conferences – These local and regional celebrations of theatre are organized by and for theatre teachers and students from EdTA chapters established within US states and other geographic areas.

How do the website log-in IDs and passwords work?

- Any individual may create an account to access the Theatre Education Community at schooltheatre.org. Logged-in EdTA members gain access to features that include members-only Community resources and discussions, digital editions of our publications, and special member pricing for events and theatre books, DVDs, etc. Logged-in troupe directors can induct students and purchase ITS honor items and troupe supplies online. Thespians with email addresses have log-in access to online student benefits, but there are no access codes for Junior Thespians at this time. The log-in ID is always the email address on the individual's personal profile, which may differ from the email on his or her troupe profile. Online trophy store log-in codes may differ from those used for schooltheatre.org.

What does a Thespian troupe get for its annual troupe dues?

- EdTA professional membership for the designated troupe director
- The ability to induct top theatre students into their honor society, ITS
- A subscription to print and digital editions of Teaching Theatre, our quarterly journal for theatre educators (a \$34 value)
- A subscription to print and digital editions Dramatics magazine (nine issues, September through May) (a \$30 value)
- Member-level access to online Community discussions and resources
- EdTA affiliate professional membership opportunity for adults affiliated with the troupe (save \$35)
- A charter certificate and membership roll
- Access to Thespian graduation and honor items, which may only be purchased by troupe directors
- Member rates for EdTA educational programs and events at the national, chapter, and local levels
- Member pricing for theatre and classroom resources through our online EdTA Store
- Assistance in obtaining reduced royalties on plays from publishers
- The ability to nominate and be considered for EdTA awards and grants
- Troupe director ability to nominate, vote, and run for elected office in the Association
- Scholarship and grant eligibility for Thespian inductees
- Advocacy support and representation at the national, chapter, and local levels

How do students benefit from International Thespian Society affiliation?

- Thespians receive the highest recognition due those who have demonstrated commitment and excellence in their school's theatre program—induction into the world's largest theatre honor society. In addition to the many tangible benefits listed below, inductees enjoy the sense of community and recognition inherent in being inducted into an honor society. ITS membership and its system of progressive honors and recognition encourages them to practice their craft and to grow as artists and people. The 21st century skills that they learn from a quality theatre arts education—creativity, self-confidence, leadership, communication, and interpersonal skills, as well as specific theatre skills—will benefit them throughout school and beyond.

## Student Information

How do students qualify for membership?

- Students qualify by earning points for their work in the theatre arts. ITS provides a point system guide for reference. The points listed are the suggested maximum for excellent work. These

points should be earned in a minimum of two productions and in two different production areas (i.e., acting and stage management).

- Thespians (grades 9 through 12). One Thespian point represents ten (10) hours of excellent work. To be eligible for Thespian induction, a student must obtain a minimum of ten points, the equivalent of one hundred hours.

What do Thespians receive as inducted members of ITS?

- All Thespians receive:
  - A personalized membership card and certificate
  - A bumper sticker that reads: "Proud parent of a theatre arts honor student"
- Eligibility to:
  - participate in Individual Events at chapter conferences and the National Individual Events Showcase at Festival (per chapter policy)
  - receive ITS graduation and honor items (per troupe policy)
- All Thespians also receive:
  - A Thespian induction pin
  - Log-in access to his or her own member homepage and a variety of online benefits
  - A one-year, nine issue subscription to Dramatics magazine (a \$30 value) and a subscription to the online edition, Dramatics Digital, from induction through the year following high school graduation
  - The ability to renew the print subscription at a special member rate (\$15 as of 8/1/15)
  - Member-only pricing on theatre books and resources at the online EdTA Store
  - Student member access to the online Theatre Education Community
- Eligibility to:
  - apply for scholarships and grants
  - run for office as a State Thespian Officer (STO) (per chapter policy)
  - run for office an International Thespian Officer (ITO)
  - submit their original plays to the Thespian Playworks program

When are student memberships due?

- Troupe directors may submit new inductions at any time during the school year.

Do students need to renew their memberships every year?

- No. Payment of the one-time induction fee entitles the student to a lifetime membership, the active benefits of which last through high school or middle school graduation. Our troupe will continue to assess a \$20 per year participation fee to pay for troupe needs and events.

Can a troupe director revoke a student's membership?

- No. Once a student's membership has been processed online or by the National Office, he or she is a Thespian for life. However, our troupe has its own requirements for being a member in good standing and has to do with attendance, quality of work, reliability, and attitude. These are outlined in the troupe's constitution. If a director determines that a student is not eligible to participate in troupe activities, he or she may prohibit that student from participating (ideally the sanction is within the guidelines of the troupe's constitution). Resolution of any dispute over a student's ability to participate in a troupe activity rests with the school's administration.

Can a student be a member of more than one troupe?

- No. If a student's school has an active ITS troupe, he or she may only be a member of that troupe. Students may participate in and earn points for work done with other ITS groups and in other theatrical activities if the troupe constitution and bylaws permit.

What if a student changes schools?

- Troupes are expected to accept transferring student members with credit for a minimum of ten points. If a student member transfers to a school that has an active ITS troupe, the director of the new school must submit a student membership transfer form to the National Office. Transferring members are not submitted along with new inductees, and they do not pay any additional membership fees. Transferring members may be required to fulfill certain additional expectations to receive local troupe benefits at their new school. The troupe director may order new ITS credentials for the transferring member for a small fee using a separate membership card and certificate replacement form. Student members transferring to schools without active troupes remain members of their original troupes. That troupe's director and constitution determine if the student will continue to receive local benefits. We encourage members transferring to unaffiliated schools to pursue chartering a troupe there.

What happens to students' points if they move to another school with an ITS troupe?

- Whether or not points beyond the ten needed for induction will be recognized at the new troupe is determined by the new troupe director and that troupe's constitution. Similarly, all, some, or none of the points of students who haven't been inducted may be accepted by the new troupe.

What is a Thespian membership card used for?

- Some chapters require proof of induction to participate in auditions and other activities at their conferences. Some member schools extend special deals and privileges (discounted tickets, free preview performances, etc.) to cardholding ITS members as part of a good neighbor policy. Some local theatres and businesses may extend similar deals to cardholders based on previously arranged deals. Troupe directors should make themselves aware of any such deals and inform their students. (We are working on deals for our members)

How do the Thespian subscriptions to Dramatics magazine work?

- All Thespians receive a one-year, nine-issue print subscription that is renewable at our lowest rate. Thespians inducted August through March can expect to receive their first print issue within four to six weeks. Those inducted April through July will receive their first issue the following September. ITS will only provide missing issues if notified within ninety (90) days of the missing issue date. If a student's address changes while the subscription is active, he or she should log in to [schooltheatre.org](http://schooltheatre.org) and update the address on his or her online member profile. Thespians also receive a subscription to the online edition, Dramatics Digital, from induction through the year following graduation, which is accessible by logging in to [schooltheatre.org](http://schooltheatre.org).

What are ITS graduation and honor items?

- ITS offers a wide variety of items for recognizing member achievement. Induction and scholar pins, graduation honor cords and tassels, medallions, and other honor items may only be purchased by troupe directors. They may only be presented to officially inducted students. Some items are specific to Thespians. ITS trophies and plaques may be presented to student members and non-members (parent volunteers, for example) at the troupe director's discretion. Troupe directors should work closely with their school administrations to determine

which items are appropriate. Graduation and honor items can be ordered through the online EdTA Store.

What is an ITS scholar distinction?

- While ITS does not have a minimum GPA requirement for induction, officially inducted Thespians who demonstrate high academic success in addition to their achievements in theatre arts may earn the distinction of scholar. The scholar distinction always follows the student's ITS rank to create his or her full designation: Thespian Scholar, Honor Thespian Scholar, Thespian President's List Scholar, National Honor Thespian Vice President's List Scholar, etc.

What's the difference between Thespian honor rank and ITS scholar distinction?

- High school students earn Thespian honor ranks for reaching Thespian point awards over and above the ten points required for induction (60, 120, and 180). Thespian points are awarded based on the quality and quantity of each student's work in theatre arts. Scholar distinction is granted to a Thespian for academic achievement in overall coursework. Thespian honor ranks are only available to high school Thespians.

### Thespian Point System (open to adjustment at the discretion of the Troupe Director)

Category	Position/work done	One Act	Full Length	Category	Position/work done	One Act	Full Length	
<b>Acting</b>	Major role	4	8	<b>Directing</b>	Director	4	8	
	Minor role	3	5		Assistant director	3	6	
	Walk-on	1	2		Vocal director	3	6	
	Chorus	1	3		Video producer/director	3	4	
	Dancer	1	3		Assistant vocal director	2	5	
	Understudy	1	2		Orchestra or band director	3	6	
<b>Production</b>	Stage manager	4	8		Assistant orchestra or band director	2	5	
	Stage crew	2	4		Choreographer	4	7	
	Lighting technician	3	6		Assistant choreographer	3	5	
	Lighting crew	2	3	<b>Writing</b>	Original play (produced)	5	8	
	Set designer	4	5		Original radio script (produced)	4	6	
	Set construction crew	3	5		Original TV script (produced)	4	6	
	Costumer	3	6		Original play (unproduced)	1	2	
	Costume crew	2	5		Original radio script (unproduced)	.5	1.5	
	Properties manager	3	5		Original TV script (unproduced)	.5	1.5	
	Properties crew	2	3	<b>Miscellaneous</b>	Oral interpretation		2	
	Sound technician	3	5		Duet acting scenes		2	
	Sound crew	2	3		Participation in theatre festival or contest		3	
	Video editor	1.5	2		Attending theatre festival		1/day	
	Video crew	1.5	3		Assembly program		1	
	Makeup manager	3	5	<b>Advocacy</b>	Participation in advocacy event		1/day	
Rehearsal prompter	2	4	Local advocacy work			.1/hour		
Pianist	3	6	<b>Officers</b>		President		6	
Musicians	2	3		Vice president, treasurer, or web editor		4		
<b>Business</b>	Business manager	4		6	Secretary/clerk		5	
	Business crew	2		4	International Thespian Officer (ITO)		10	
	Publicity manager	3		5	State Thespian Officer (STO)		8	
	Publicity crew	2		3	<b>Audience</b>	Troupe directors may award points at the hourly rate for attending productions, or they may award .5 point for attending <i>and</i> writing a critique or report reflecting the educational value of the experience.		
	Ticket manager	2		4				
	Ticket crew	1	3					
	House manager	2	4					
	House crew	1	2					
	Ushers	1	2					
	Programs	1	3					
	Program crew	1	2					

<b>Thespians points earned</b>	<b>Thespians rank</b>	<b>Honor may be signified by...</b>
10	Thespians	Thespians induction. Membership card, certificate, and induction pin awarded.
20-50	1- to 4-star Thespians	Induction pin and 1 to 4 Thespians point stars are affixed to ITS honors ribbon. 1 to 4 paper stars are added to membership certificate.
60	Honor Thespians (5-star Thespians)	All Thespians point stars removed from ITS honors ribbon. Honor Thespians pin replaces point stars. Paper honor bar added to membership certificate.
70-110	6- to 10-star Thespians	One point star added to honors ribbon for <i>each</i> additional 10 points earned.
120	National Honor Thespians (11-star Thespians)	All point stars removed from ITS honors ribbon. National Honor Thespians pin replaces Honor Thespians pin.
130-170	12- to 16-star Thespians	One point star added to honors ribbon for <i>each</i> additional 10 points earned.
180	International Honor Thespians (17-star Thespians)	All Thespians point stars removed from ITS honors ribbon. International Honor Thespians pin replaces National Honor Thespians pin.