

State Thespian Conference 2027

What:

The State Thespian Conference is a great opportunity for performers and theatre technicians to learn about their craft in workshops with experienced artists. Students will also attend various performances produced by schools across Missouri. In addition to the excellent workshops and performances, students will have the opportunity to audition and compete for numerous scholarships, as well as speak with college representatives from across the country. They will also be allowed to compete in Improvisation, A Technical Challenge, Tech Design, and individual Events. Furthermore, they will have the chance to audition for the Scholarships. In addition, there will be multiple late-night activities. The theme of the conference is "A Missouri Thespian MYSTERY (Show Me the Mystery)." Visit missourithespians.org for more information.

Where & When:

The State Conference will be held at The Union Station Hotel in St. Louis, MO, January 6th-9th. The specific **Conference schedule** will come later.

Hotel:

We will be staying at the Union Station Hotel. There will be four students per room, and the room listings will be selected in advance by Mrs. Babcock. All nighttime activities will be held at this hotel. Students must be in their hotel room by the designated curfew each night. Breakfast is not included, but you are welcome to bring coolers so you can store snacks and drinks. There is a list of **student conduct guidelines** that students must follow while at the conference; **if these rules are not followed, students will be sent home at their parents' expense.**

Cost:

The school district will cover the cost of students who are competing in Tech Challenge, Improv Olympix, Tech Design, or Thespy. The total cost for non-competitors will be different for Inducted Thespians and non-inducted drama club members. I have estimated the total for this conference based on 26 students attending. This has been the average for the last several years. The price may be reduced depending on the number of attendees. Official Thespians get a \$25.00 discount on their registration fees this year.

The Thespians conference cost is ESTIMATED at \$440.00 for Thespians & \$465.00 for Non-Thespians.

***This price includes the conference registration, a hotel room for THREE nights, transportation, school registration fee, and 7 meals (Wednesday Lunch, Wednesday dinner, Thursday Lunch, Thursday Dinner, Friday Lunch, Friday Dinner, and Saturday Lunch). Breakfast will not be included.**

***Students interested in competing at the conference will need to audition or apply for their spots in these events.** Those interested in auditioning for the Improv team or IE's will be required to submit an audition tape. Those hoping to be on the Tech Challenge team or the Tech Design Team will apply. **Applications and audition videos are due Sept. 19th.** Final decisions will be made by September 26th. See below for specifics on how to audition or apply for one of these spots.

Students must submit a **deposit of \$100.00 by Sept. 29th.** The deposit is not refundable because registrations are final according to the organizers. **Final Payment for all participants is due December 2nd.** Once deposits are turned in for the conference, you will be notified of your official final cost by mid-October.

Drama Booster Conference Need Based Scholarships available. Students who have a financial need may apply for a conference scholarship that will cover either a partial or a full amount of the conference. Students must be active members of the Theatre Department.. To apply for the Drama Booster Scholarship students must write a letter to the Drama Booster about their involvement in theatre and how attending the Thespian Conference will help them succeed in theatre. They must also express financial need. Applicants should include their name, current theatre experience, and overall involvement in the program. Scholarship letters should be emailed to tabatha.babcock@lsr7.net by **September 19th.** This will allow them to make a decision before the deposits are due.

***Payment plans are also an option, but must be made in advance with Mrs. Babcock.**

Required Form: Students must turn in the completed **Medical Consent & Agreement Form** with/ deposits by September 29th.

CONFERENCE EVENTS:

(Conference events are only available to official Thespians. Exception = Actors in Page to Stage, Musical Works & Opening Number)

Opening/Closing Number - 2 Students from each school are selected by their sponsor to participate in a musical opening or closing conference number. Students interested should communicate with Mrs. Babcock. There will be a rehearsal scheduled the night before the conference and one during the conference. Students interested should let Mrs. Babcock know. Students will need to provide their ride to and from the Wednesday night rehearsal if the troupe isn't already at the conference.

THESPYS (Missouri Individual Events Showcase) – This is an opportunity to receive constructive feedback on prepared theatrical material.

***Each school may only send one entry per category**

***Each thespian member may participate in up to one performance IE and/or one technical IE**

Performers can choose from:

- Solo Musical, Duet Musical, Group Musical (3-16)
- Monologue, Duet Acting, Group Acting (3-10)
- Solo, Duet, or Group Musical Theatre Dance

Technicians can choose from:

- Scenic Design, Lighting Design, Sound Design, Costume Design, Costume Construction, Makeup Design, Stage Management, Theatre Marketing, Short Film

Performance events are limited to 5 minutes after the introduction; the exception is Monologue, which has a 3-minute total limit for two contrasting monologues. See the <https://bit.ly/ThespysGuide27> for specific guidelines on all events. Each student may only participate in one acting event and/or one technical event. Auditions are required to participate in the performance events. ***Performance auditions and Technical Presentations must be recorded and turned into Mrs. Babcock by September 19th to be considered for these events.**

Theatre Design Challenge: Each school participating in Technical Theatre Design can enter a team of 2 to 4 students to compete in a design competition for either Set Design, Costume Design, or Hair/Make-Up Design. Each team will have design elements that will need to be done in advance for a play selected for them; at the conference, the teams will have 2 hours to bring their designs to life using their supplies. If you are interested in being on the Set Design, Costume Design, or Hair/Makeup Design team, you will need to fill out an application. Mrs. Babcock will notify selected students by the end of September. See the application information below.

Page to Stage – Opportunities for Playwrights, Actors, Stage Managers, and Technical Directors. Playwrights may submit an original one-act play for the **Page to Stage** readings. Stage Managers and Technical Directors interested in stage managing this performance will need to apply. Scripts and stage manager applications must be submitted by **November 1st**. Actors will have an opportunity to audition for this show during the first workshop session. Actors will audition at the conference with a short monologue. See Mrs. Babcock for additional information. Go to www.mo-thespians.com/page-to-stage for more information.

Musical Works – Opportunities for Composers, Actors, and Stage Managers. Participants may submit the opening number to an original student-written musical for review for Musical Works. Selected student lyricists and composers will have the chance to workshop and stage their creations with professionals and student musical theatre actors at the Festival. Stage Managers interested in stage managing this performance will need to apply. Composition and stage manager applications must be submitted by **Nov. 1st**. Actors will audition at the conference with a non-acappella song. See Mrs. Babcock for additional information. Go to www.mo-thespians.com/musicalworks for more information.

Improvisation Olympix – Teams of 5 thespians will compete in various improvisation games against other teams. The six potential improvisation games and specific rules for each that will be used will be announced before the competition. Teams will compete in 3 different rooms and be judged by professional improvisers. The Improv Olympics Team will be chosen from the LSW Coffee Break Improv.

Missouri Technical Theatre Challenge - This is a competition designed to test your knowledge of basic skills that every technician should have. There will be 2 individual events (Lighting: Hanging and focusing and ellipsoidal reflector spotlight, and Sound: Hooking up a basic sound system) and 2 team events - 5 students per team (Stagecraft: building a flat, Costumes: quick change, and Scenery: folding a drop). There are tons of prizes available to benefit the entire theatre department. See the application information below.

Senior College and Thespian Scholarship Auditions

Now is the time to encourage your students to start searching for that perfect audition piece or to begin working on their technical portfolios. More than 25 colleges and universities will participate in the Missouri Thespian Conference auditions program. Missouri Thespians offers up to 11, \$1000 college scholarship opportunities to graduating seniors each year at our State Conference. Up to four are offered in performance, three in technical, three for theatre education, and one in theatre for life. Information about applying for scholarship auditions is available at <http://www.mo-thespians.com/scholarship-applicants>

Scholarship Auditions are open to current seniors. Each school may submit up to four applicants in Performance or Tech, one Theatre for Life, and one Theatre Educator. A student may not apply to more than one area. All applicants must be card-carrying members of the International Thespian Society and registered to attend the entire conference. Scholarship auditions will be held on Friday, and callback time will be available on Saturday. Students will be required to pay an approximately \$25.00 scholarship application fee that will not be covered by the district.

Junior College Auditions

Any junior thespian can apply for college auditions. These students will NOT perform live at the conference, but will submit a video audition that will be seen by over 25 college reps! The colleges will have Junior Callbacks on Friday at the conference. MST will select the top five performance applicants to audition live before the senior applicants. Students will be required to pay an approximately \$15.00 scholarship application fee that will not be covered by the district.

***To participate in conference events, you must be initiated as a thespian before November 1st.
Non-thespian members may still participate in workshops and attend the performances.**

COMPETITION APPLICATIONS/AUDITIONS

***All students interested in the Tech Challenge Team, Tech Design Team, competing with an IE, or applying for a scholarship will need to fill out the application. Performance spots & some tech spots will require an audition recording to be submitted with the application. <https://bit.ly/ThespianComp27> *Applications and audition videos are due by Sept. 19th.**

- **Acting IE's** will be required to submit a one-minute performance of the monologue, scene, song, or dance they wish to use for competition. *Acting scripts must be on the **APPROVED LIST** <https://thespys.secure-platform.com/a/page/approved-publishers>. Students will not be allowed to perform scripts that are not on this approved list. Acting scripts can not be changed once they have been approved. (Your selection does NOT need to be completely memorized or fully ready for performance.)
 - If you are interested in being on the Improv Team who competes at the Thespian Conference and you plan to audition for the Improv Team select Improv Team in the events that you are interested in.
- **Technical IEs** will be required to submit a two-minute preview of their technical presentation.

***Competition applications and audition videos are due Sept. 19th.**
<https://bit.ly/ThespianComp27>



Student Conduct Guidelines State Conference 2027

All delegates (and their legal guardians) should read the following conduct expectations for the Missouri State Thespians Conference. When in conflict, these guidelines supersede any additional rules made by troupe directors at the conference. No delegate will be allowed to attend the conference unless they have agreed to abide by the conference conduct guidelines. Failure to follow may result in a delegate being sent home immediately at their expense and/or a troupe not being allowed to attend future MoT state activities. **Your required signature on the Consent Form indicates you have read and understand all the following and your agreement to adhere to all guidelines.**

BADGES - Badges are required for safety/security reasons. All badges with Consent Forms must be worn by all delegates above the waist so as to be visible for all conference events/activities. Delegates who are not wearing their badge may be removed from the conference site or denied access to conference activities/events. Any adult may remove the badge of a student who is not following this code of conduct, and appropriate action will be taken to correct the problem which may include removal from the conference and/or notification of school officials.

CAMPUS - Delegates are expected to remain on campus during all conference events unless approved or accompanied by their school sponsored adult.

CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE - No student may attend the MoT Conference without a troupe director, co-sponsor, or school district designated sponsor. Non-registered people may not attend conference events or activities. Delegates are expected to participate in all-conference events (ie General Sessions/Main Stage Performances). Students are not permitted to leave the conference site (hotel/convention center) without approval from an adult designated as a chaperone from their school.

CURFEW /HOTEL - All troupes are expected to abide by the curfew stated in the conference program. "Lights out" is expected thirty minutes after curfew. Access to hotel rooms during the conference and rooming policy lies within each school district/troupe director. Responsibility for the consequences of damages and/or misconduct of troupes and their individual members lies with the troupe director and/or the school district.

DRUG USE - Missouri Thespians activities are drug free. This includes the use or possession of any tobacco products or smoking devices (including e-cigs, personal vaporizers, electronic nicotine delivery system), alcohol, illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, inhalants, and unlawful use of prescription drugs. MoT reserves the right to inspect the premises of any of our activities for these substances and devices. Students found with these items will be sent home immediately with an appropriate legal guardian, and police will be notified of illegal materials (including alcohol and illegal drugs).

LATE NIGHT ACTIVITY ETIQUETTE - Costuming for any event should be appropriate and may not include anything which completely obstructs the face (full masks, helmets, etc) or does not appropriately cover the body (bare midriffs, tight/low cut pants/tops). The following are prohibited: food/drink, inappropriate use of furniture, offensive language, or any movement that includes sexually explicit, suggestive, or dangerous motion.

LIABILITY - The host for all conference facilities, and the Missouri Thespians is not responsible for the theft, loss or damage of personal effects, money or valuables.

MEAL PLAN - Delegates/their guardians understand that the meal plan is provided as a convenience and in no way is a requirement. Ingredients will be posted in an effort for students with mild food allergies to make an educated decision in what they choose to consume. Students with special or specific food concerns (including severe food allergies) should make sure they view the meal plan (posted the MoT website) BEFORE purchasing the plan. No special accommodations will be made to the plan including but not limited to: the removal of cooked ingredients, providing special meals beyond accommodations previously arranged for by MoT, or providing special spaces (ie nut free tables). Students who need special accommodations should bring their own food to the conference.

PROHIBITED MATERIALS/ PRACTICES - Students are not allowed to bring fireworks, weapons, candles, skates, skate/razor or hoverboards, sports equipment, incense, drones, water pistols, toy guns/weapons or any other kind of dangerous or perceived dangerous materials to the conference. In addition, Troupes are prohibited from selling merchandise while at the conference.

PROPERTY DAMAGE - Delegates are not allowed to remove any item that is not their own personal belongings from the conference site/hotel. Delegates are responsible for any damages caused through their negligence and will be billed for any damage fee.

REMINDERS - Delegates are reminded to secure all personal items at all times and to be aware of their surroundings. Going off-campus should only occur under supervision and/or notification of the adult in charge of them. If delegates have medical insurance they should carry this card (or a copy of) on their person at all times throughout the conference.

SAFETY PROTOCOLS - It is expected that all delegates will follow current health safety guidelines in the local area of the conference site(s). This may include (but is not limited to) masking, sanitization, and social distancing.

THEATER ETIQUETTE - Delegates are expected to be a good audience member. The following are prohibited: food/drink in the theater, feet on the seats, hats, improper language, vocal or physical distractions, use of cell phones, exits/entrances into the house during a performance, flash photography or recording devices. Each troupe must sit in their assigned seating. Delegates who do not follow these guidelines may have their badge pulled by an adult delegate and/or permanently removed from future performances. Numerous complaints about a troupe's continued poor theatre etiquette will result in a troupe's ban from participating in future MoT activities.

WORKSHOP ETIQUETTE - Being a polite and active participant in conference workshops is the responsibility of all delegates. The following are prohibited within workshop sessions: food/drink in the workshop space, inappropriate use of furniture, improper language, and distractions for the speakers/other workshop participants. The following are use/policies that are up to the workshop instructor: any use of cell phones, entrances/exits into the workshop after it has begun, photography or recording devices.

Thank you for helping keep our conference safe and fun for everyone involved. If you have questions about any of these please see your troupe director and/or conference officials.



2027 Missouri Thespians Events Medical Consent and Agreement Form

Missouri Thespians require that this form be completed in full for *all* delegates attending Missouri Thespian activities and signed by a legal guardian. The delegate's name should reflect their registration. **Forms must be completed and hard copies received by _____. No registration or event fees will be refunded after registration closes November 1.**

Please type or print legibly in black or blue ink. Type of Delegate: ☐ Student ☐ Adult

Legal LAST NAME	Legal FIRST NAME	MIDDLE INITIAL	PHONE NUMBER (10-digit)
Conference Badge LAST NAME	Conference Badge FIRST NAME	THESPIAN # (N/A IF NOT A THESPIAN)	T-SHIRT SIZE (adult)
SCHOOL NAME AND DISTRICT			TROUPE #
NAME OF TROUPE DIRECTOR/SCHOOL APPROVED CHAPERONE ATTENDING EVENT (Chaperone must be 21 years or older)			TROUPE DIRECTOR PLEASE MAKE SURE WE HAVE A PHONE # FOR YOU ON SITE.
NAME OF PARENT/GUARDIAN/NEXT OF KIN (First and last name)	RELATIONSHIP	PHONE NUMBER (10-digit)	
SECONDARY EMERGENCY CONTACT (First and last name)	RELATIONSHIP	PHONE NUMBER (10-digit)	
ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY CONTACT (First and last name)	RELATIONSHIP	PHONE NUMBER (10-digit)	

Health Care Information Please provide the information below for emergency situations - put N/A if not applicable. Circle: CARRY ON PERSON if insurance card will be carried by delegate	
ALLERGIES TO FOOD AND/OR MEDICATIONS (IF NONE, please indicate. Attach additional paper if space is not sufficient below.)	
MEDICATIONS CURRENTLY BEING TAKEN (IF NONE, please indicate. Attach additional paper if space is not sufficient below.)	
PAST ILLNESSES OR INFORMATION NECESSARY IN AN EMERGENCY (IF NONE, please indicate. Attach additional paper if space is not sufficient.)	
Additional Health Care info (as necessary)	
PRIMARY PHYSICIAN	Phone #
Health Insurance Company Name	Policy Holder Name

Print Delegate Name in box

LAST NAME	BADGE NAME (LEGAL IN PARENTHESIS IF DIFFERENT)	SCHOOL NAME
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I. RELEASE & INDEMNIFICATION

The undersigned hereby releases and agrees to indemnify, save and hold harmless the Educational Theatre Association, its programs, Chapter and other Group Affiliates, and all respective officers, employees, agents and representatives of the aforementioned entities (each an "Organizer" and collectively the "Organizers") from and against any and all claims, demands, causes of actions, losses, liabilities, judgments, damages, costs and expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees) resulting from the Delegate listed above participating in Missouri Thespian activities. The undersigned shall give each Organizer prompt written notice of any claim or facts or circumstances that might give rise to any claim for indemnification. The undersigned further agrees to be responsible for Delegate while traveling to and from Missouri Thespian activities including any expenses incurred by the Delegate, caused by the Delegate and/or any personal injuries which may occur to the Delegate. The undersigned authorizes the Delegate to be released to the Troupe Director or Chaperone listed on Page 1 of this form. Finally the undersigned recognizes that registration refunds will only be given in the event the conference is cancelled and the cancellation insurance is activated by our insurance company.

II. RULES AND REGULATIONS

The undersigned agrees that the Delegate shall abide by all Missouri Thespian Conduct Code security rules and regulations. The undersigned understands that, if the Delegate violates security rules and regulations, the Delegate may be returned home, and the undersigned (or parents and/or legal guardians) may be financially responsible for all necessary costs incurred while sending Delegate home and no refunds will be granted. The Delegate must wear a copy of this form in their badge holder at all times during conference events.

III. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RELEASE

The undersigned hereby assigns to the Educational Theatre Association all copyrights and other intellectual property rights in artwork, text, music, software, video, choreography and other types of work ("Works") created by the undersigned specifically for the undersigned's participation in the events or activities of the Organizers. The undersigned waives all rights in such Works under the Visual Artists Rights Act of 1990 and agrees to sign all further documents or instruments necessary to vest in the Educational Theatre Association all rights, title and interest in the aforementioned Works and intellectual property. The intellectual property rights hereby assigned to the Educational Theatre Association and waived by the undersigned do not include rights of the undersigned in works that pre-exist the undersigned's participation in the events or activities of the Organizers.

IV. PHOTO/VIDEO RELEASE

The undersigned irrevocably consents to being photographed or being recorded by means of video or audio tape recording by the Organizers, or a designated representative of the Organizers. These photographs and/or recordings can be used, without compensation to undersigned and/or the Delegate, in any public display, publication or media, or website, or in any manner or form, and at any time by the Organizers in promotion of the mission to promote the theatrical arts in education. The undersigned releases the Organizers, and their employees, agents, representatives, associates, Board of Director members, and consultants from any liability in connection with the use of such photographic, video and/or audio materials.

V. AUTHORIZATION of EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT

The undersigned hereby gives permission and consents to Organizers to provide routine first aid, supervise the self-administration of over-the-counter and prescription medications and to seek emergency medical assistance and/or treatment on behalf of the Delegate in the event that said medical emergency assistance and/or treatment occurs while the Delegate is attending or participating in the Missouri Thespian activities. In the event that reasonable attempts to contact the individuals listed above are unsuccessful, the undersigned hereby authorizes and consents to (1) the administration of any emergency treatment deemed necessary by the physician listed above or, if unavailable, such another licensed physician/healthcare provider as may be available and (2) the transfer of the Delegate to the nearest hospital/other medical facility for emergency medical evaluation, care and treatment. The indemnification expressly covers any claims related to the actions by the Missouri Thespian activities and its Organizers in (1) providing such emergency first aid or supervision and (2) seeking such medical evaluation, emergency care and treatment, and in providing any information reasonably requested by such emergency medical providers for purposes of providing or billing for services. I consent to the use or disclosure of protected health information by the Missouri Thespians, its Organizers, and/or any third party health care provider for the purpose of analyzing, diagnosing, and providing emergency medical treatment to the stated Delegate, obtaining payment for health care services rendered or to be rendered, or to conduct emergency health care operations. A copy of this consent is as valid as the original. I authorize my insurance benefits to be paid directly to the Missouri Thespians, its Organizers, or any third party health care provider as necessary. I assume full financial responsibility for and agree to pay for all services rendered. I understand I have a right to receive a copy of this consent upon request, and to revoke this consent in writing at any time except to the extent that the Organizers, or another third party health care provider, has taken action in reliance on this consent. This authorization is valid one year from the date signed or through the term of coverage of the policy, and during the required period to process the claims.

VI. YOUTH ACTIVITY SAFETY POLICY

Missouri Thespians has implemented a Youth Activity Safety Policy to provide a safe environment for youths participating in activities, clinics, and conferences. This policy will help to protect participating youths from potential misconduct incidents and help provide a safe, educational, and enjoyable activity/program experience.

The Delegate and the Delegate's parent and/or legal guardian have read, understand and agree to be bound by the above provisions, as evidenced by their signatures below:

PRINTED NAME OF LEGAL GUARDIAN/MEDICAL POLICY HOLDER

PRINTED NAME OF DELEGATE

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SIGNATURE OF ABOVE PERSON

DATE

SIGNATURE OF ABOVE PERSON

DATE