

Student Leadership Commitment Contract

Purpose

Student Leaders (State Thespians Officers and Ambassadors) exemplify and promote Texas Thespians over the course of their term.

- State Thespians Officers enhance and exhibit 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.
- Ambassadors promote public awareness of the value and impact of Theatre Education by educating, encouraging, and empowering students to use their own voice to advocate for their programs across Texas.

Expectations of Student Leaders & Troupe Sponsor

- To serve Texas Thespians for one year (February 14th - May 31st of the following year)
- Read the Texas Thespians Student Leadership Manual [Here](#)
- To attend various meetings, workshops and festivals throughout the year
- Attend the MANDATORY Student Leader Board Retreat in the Summer (July)
- Transportation costs and rooming arrangements are the responsibility of the student and school
- Must have the ability to stay in constant communication with fellow student board, the adult board, and Thespians in general via email, video conference and social media
- Must meet 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 their region
- Must serve as an example of the ideal Thespian
- Troupe directors must also work at Student Leaders-sponsored events (Thespian Store) during the Festival as they are assigned along with their festival duties.

Application and Selection

- The student will complete the Student Leadership Candidacy Application form through Submittable, linked in the "Become a Student Leader" icon.
- Upload the "[Student Leadership Commitment Form](#)"
- Important Dates & Details
 - **October 19th - 24th** - Applications will be reviewed and candidates will be scored.
 - An email will be sent out to directors and candidates if they advanced to the next round by October 25th
 - **October 26th** - Candidate Meeting at 7 pm via Google Meets - Link
 - Troupe Directors Attendance Required
 - Review Google Classroom Guidelines
 - Review Group Presentation Guidelines
 - Review Group Me Communication Guidelines

- Scheduling Interview via Google Meets (October 27th - November 8th)
 - **November 9th** - Group Presentation from 2 pm - 5 pm via Google Meets - Link
 - Candidates will present their Group Presentation
 - **November 9th - 11th** - Candidate's performance will be reviewed and scored
 - An email will be sent out to directors and candidates if student advances to the next round at festival by November 12th
- All candidates are required to participate in the following at Festival assignments:
 - Candidate Only Meeting
 - **Corpus Christi** November 14th or **Grapevine** November 19th
 - Attend at least one STO workshop and one Ambassador workshop
 - Personal Presentation in-person (from application) & Interview
- There is no general campaigning to become a Student Leader. After applications and qualifications are reviewed and jobs at the festival completed, a vote of the incoming officers will be taken by student leader sponsors during the festival.
- Applicants are evaluated based on their application, recommendations, video, presentation, and personal interactions during the interactive selection process.

Leadership/Teamwork

Student leaders 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 Student Leaders, Chapter Thespian Adult Leadership, Festival participants, and other members of Texas Thespians Organization.

Attendance

Student leaders are required to attend all Texas Thespians events and meetings. Students will be provided a tentative calendar after being selected. Any changes to this calendar will be given to students 30 days prior to the event.

Regular school attendance in all classes is expected.

Student leaders may not leave events early without pre-authorization from the Chapter Director or their designee.

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

Transportation and Housing for Texas Thespian Events

- Each member of the Student Leader Board is required to secure and provide all transportation to and from Texas Thespians sponsored events.
- Each member of the Student Leader Board 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 Student Leaders 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 Student Leader is expected to dress in a manner that is professional and appropriate to the event.

- Student Leaders will wear the assigned outfit for each event.
- Student Leaders are responsible for the caring of their sash.
- Student Leaders must be in 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

Student Leaders 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 festivals. The Student Leader will have their festival registration waived by the Texas Thespians upon registration by their Troupe Director in Submittable. Additionally, Texas Thespians will pay for Student Leadership Retreat for all Student Leaders

Eligibility

All Student Leader 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 Student Leader'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 Student Leader curfew

Texas Thespians Student Leadership Commitment Contract

By signing this document, I acknowledge receipt and that I have read the Student Leadership Commitment Contract and understand all that is included within. I will abide by all the expectations and guidelines listed in this document. If I do not, I risk removal from the candidacy process.

Candidate:

Printed Name	Signature	Date
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Parent/Guardian:

Printed Name	Signature	Date
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Troupe Director:

Printed Name	Signature	Date
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Principal:

Printed Name	Signature	Date
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