



What is an STO?

A Georgia State Thespian Officer (STO) is an elected thespian to serve as a student leader for the Georgia Chapter Board. Throughout the year the STO board, containing exemplary student leaders across the state, have a variety of responsibilities focused on advocacy for the Arts and Georgia Thespians, fundraising for Georgia Thespian Conference Grants and Broadway Cares/Equity Fights Aids, engagement with current Thespians, and planning/executing/leading events for the Georgia Thespian Conference each year. In Georgia, we believe our students have a powerful voice and amazing student leadership abilities that we know are necessary for the success of our organization.

What is a Student Representative?

Every year schools can have up to two Student Representatives that will attend LeadCon 1 and LeadCon 2. These Student Representatives are responsible for taking the information from the STO and Georgia Thespian Conference Board back to their troupe. Also, they will be the ones casting their Troupe's vote for STOs. **The two designated Reps must be the same two students at both LeadCons to participate in the election.**

LeadCon 1:

LeadCon 1 will take place at Houston County High School in Warner Robins, GA on Saturday, September 12, 2026. At LeadCon 1 candidates will declare their candidacy and need to be prepared to answer questions from the current STO. Candidates are encouraged to bring two Student Representatives from their Troupe with them to both LeadCons as these are the students that will be casting the Troupe's vote for STOs.

LeadCon 2:

LeadCon 2 will take place at Houston County High School in Warner Robins, GA on Saturday, January 9, 2027. Candidates must attend in person and should be prepared to give a speech on their leadership qualities as well as answer questions from the current STO. Once all candidates have given their speeches Students Representatives in attendance will cast their votes through an electronic ballot for the 2027 - 2028 State Thespian Officers.

What is the application process to become a Georgia State Thespian Officer?

All of the following conditions must be met to complete the application process; failure to comply will result in the candidate being withdrawn from the ballot.

1. Attend LeadCon 1 and declare your candidacy.
2. After attending LeadCon 1, candidates must fill out and submit their applications online. Once submitted, a copy of their applications will be emailed to them. Candidates must secure the required signatures (self, parent or guardian, and Troupe Director). See application form for more details.
3. The completed application with signatures must be scanned and uploaded to the application platform.
4. The completed and signed form must be received NO LATER than December 9, 2026 at 5:00 PM. Your progress on your application will be available on the platform, so confirm all steps are completed prior to this date.
5. In order to remain on the ballot, candidates must be registered for (and must attend) the 2027 Georgia Thespian Conference.
6. Attend LeadCon 2 and should be prepared to give a speech on their leadership qualities as well as answer questions from the current STO. The election process will take place at the conclusion of all speeches at LeadCon 2.

If elected:

If you are elected as a 2027 - 2028 State Thespian Officer the following will be requirements of your position:

- Attend a brief meeting at the conclusion of the election at LeadCon 2 on Saturday, January 9, 2027.
- Be registered and attend the 2027 Georgia Thespian Conference.
- Be prepared to assist the 2026 - 2027 STOs at ThesCon.
 - These requirements will include: announcing conference shows, hosting events, attending an STO Leadership Workshop, assisting with running fundraisers.



- All incoming STO will be given a schedule for ThesCon, created by the STO Liaison, they will need to follow to ensure all commitments are met. This schedule will not interfere with any students performing in Conference Shows, Thespys, College or Scholarship Auditions, Tech Challenge, Improv, or any other event where an incoming STO is performing. Students will not be guaranteed to attend performance based events to watch other Thespians perform.
- Attend a virtual meeting with a parent or guardian, their troupe director, the STO Liaison, and State Chapter Director before the end of the 2027 - 2028 school year to discuss upcoming events and STO expectations.
- Attend State Thespian Officer Leadership Retreat in the summer of 2027.
- Attend the Georgia Thespian Board Retreat in early August 2027 (location TBD).
- Attend LeadCon 1 in September 2027.
- Attend LeadCon 2 in January 2028.
- Arrive to the 2028 Georgia Thespian Conference the day prior to help set up and prepare for the conference.
- Attend the 2028 Georgia Junior Thespian Conference.
- Georgia Thespians is not responsible for transportation to any events but will provide housing for students at all required meeting dates.
- Maintain open communication with the STO Liaison.
- Be prepared for monthly virtual meetings and regular tasks and projects throughout the term.
- Sign and agree to the Georgia State Thespian Officer Contract.
 - Please see the current STO Term Contract on the next page as an *example* for the contract terms you would be agreeing to if elected. Dates and information are subject to change, but the time commitment will be the same.
 - There are no excused absences from any event if elected. All events are required by all elected STO.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Georgia State Thespian Officer Liaison:

Shelby English

shelby.english@gathespians.org



Welcome to leadership on the state level! Much will be asked of you, but in return you will gain many skills, memorable experiences, and lifelong friends. Your duties as a State Thespian Officer must be a priority over the next year. This means you need to be aware of the conflicts so you can schedule around your Georgia Thespian Duties. (Let directors know for rehearsal conflicts, vacations, when you schedule SAT/ACT dates, college visits, etc.) If you keep an accurate calendar and check for conflicts you should not have any issues. Before you go any further, mark your calendar now for the following dates:

REQUIRED DATES:

STO Leadership Training **Columbus, GA** **July 13th - 16th, 2026**

GA Thespians covers meals and lodging. Starts at 1:00 pm Monday and ends at 11:30 am on Thursday.

Georgia Thespian Board Retreat **Location TBA** **July 31st - August 2nd, 2026**

GA Thespians covers meals and lodging. Starts at 1:00 p.m. on Friday. As soon as locations are finalized we will update you for travel/planning purposes.

STO Meeting / LeadCon **Warner Robins, GA** **September 11th - 12th, 2026**

Arrive on Friday for STO meetings, September 11th starting at 3:00 pm. GA Thespians covers lodging.

STO Meeting / LeadCon 2 **Warner Robins, GA** **January 8th - 9th, 2027**

Arrive on Friday for STO meetings, January 8th starting at 3:00 pm. GA Thespians covers lodging.

ThesCon 2027 **Columbus, GA** **February 3rd - 6th 2027**

Arrive the evening before the first day of ThesCon, which is February 3rd. GA Thespians will cover your registration cost and lodging at the conference hotel.

Junior ThesCon 2027 **Milledgeville, GA** **February 20th, 2027**

More information will be given later in the Fall. This is a one day event.

Keep in Mind:

- Your Troupe Director is responsible for STO conference registration with your troupe.
- If your troupe is not registered, you may not attend, and you will no longer serve as an STO.
- Parents are responsible for transportation to and from all meetings and events.
- Concerning lodging, GA Thespians will assign at least 2 students per room.



BOARD MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES & EXPECTATIONS

- Attend all scheduled meetings.
- Complete tasks in a timely manner and come to meetings with materials prepared to share.
- Follow through with all tasks because others are depending on you.
- Represent yourself as an ambassador of the Chapter no matter where you are, including online.
- Respect all ideas, even if you disagree.
- Respect other board members and troupe leaders as you resolve issues.
- Be on time (or communicate with the appropriate person) and stay to the end of the event.
- Refrain from using electronics at meetings, unless it is part of the current work.
- Respond in a timely manner to phone calls, text, or emails.

Failure to fulfill your duties and responsibilities as a Georgia State Thespian Officer will result in your removal from the board by the Georgia Thespians Chapter Director.

Your signature signifies that you have read, understood, and agree to all provisions of the GA State Thespian Officer Contract.

State Thespian Officer
(Print)

State Thespian Officer
(Signature)

Date

Parent or Guardian (Print)

Parent or Guardian
(Signature)

Date

Troupe Director (Print)

Troupe Director (Signature)

Date