

Iowa Thespian Festival: Applying for STO



Amber Schute, Troupe 69

Are you a strong leader? Do you have any new or innovative ideas for the Iowa Thespian Chapter Board? Are you a fearless promotor of theatre? Perhaps you should run to be a State Thespian Officer!

What is a State Thespian Officer?

State Thespian Officers (STO) are the student leaders of the Iowa Thespian Chapter Board. They represent all Thespians in the state of Iowa through their efforts on the Iowa Thespian Chapter Board. The STO are selected at the 2019 Festival, and members serve from January 2020 – January 2021. Some of the events and activities STO are responsible for include:

- Organizing and participating in the Iowa Junior Thespian Festival
- Attending the International Thespian Festival and participating in leadership workshops
- Conducting leadership workshops at the Iowa Thespian Leadership Day

- Organizing and implementing ideas for the State Thespian Festival
- Attending all Iowa Thespian Chapter Board meetings
- Communicating with Thespians through various outlets, including social media
- Seeing and supporting schools' shows
- Promoting the work of the International Thespian Society and Iowa Thespians

How do you run to be an STO candidate?

Before you run there are a few requirements you need to have. Each school is only allowed to have one STO candidate running. Make sure you communicate with your troupe director so they know what's going on. To be eligible to run for STO, you needed to attend Leadership Day. This is a requirement because you receive valuable leadership training and you interact with the current State Thespian Officers. The current STO utilizes this relationship-building event to help evaluate candidates in the selection process.

If you had an immovable conflict with Leadership Day, you will need to create a 3-4 minute video which highlights their leadership within their troupe. The video should be shared with the Chapter Director(s). This video should demonstrate your leadership experience (thus satisfying the first purpose of attendance at Leadership Day). The video will be shared with the STOs and STO Liaison. Then the candidate will have a 20-minute electronic conference call with the current STO. This relationship-building activity will satisfy the second purpose of the leadership day attendance requirement. It is important to know the video/conference call is not an alternate option to attending leadership day. It is only for those candidates that had an immovable conflict (i.e. a wedding, a performance that the candidate is directly involved in, etc.). To determine if a conflict is "immovable," you must first receive approval from your Troupe Director. If the Troupe Director approves you to run for STO and agrees the conflict was immovable, the candidate must contact the Chapter Director(s) for approval. The Chapter Director(s) will then have final approval on the "immovable" conflict.

How do you apply for an STO position?

STO candidates must complete an application form (found at <http://www.iowathespians.org/stoapp.html>) which includes...

- Resume
- Essays
- Contract
- Troupe Director Recommendation Form

All components must be completed and submitted by October 15 in order to be accepted.

At Festival, Candidates Must...

Attend the Student Leadership Lunch, an essential part of the selection process, following Friday morning's mainstage production. If a candidate has a conflict with the festival schedule, please contact Aaron Dean at adean@dbqschools.org for assistance.

Each will share a 4-5 minute presentation during festival for the selection committee. The presentation will include...

- Candidate's "Theatre Story"
- Leadership Experience
- Vision for Iowa Thespians, including potential theme for next year's festival

State Thespian Officer candidates should prepare a presentation board that highlights their theatre story. This presentation board may include photographs and/or images that helps the selection committee to get to know the candidate. The emphasis of the presentation board should be on the candidate's past leadership experience in their theatre background.

Students should remember to dress appropriately for their interview.

All candidates will be selected based upon their participation at the Leadership Day, as well as their completed application, presentation, interview, and participation throughout the weekend.

Selection Process

The selection committee will be a panel of 5.

- Chapter Director(s) - only 1 vote
- STO Liaison
- EdTA Rep
- ITO Rep
- STO Chair

The selection committee will gather initial feedback from current State Thespian Officers during the October board meeting. In addition, the committee will meet with current STOs during dinner on Friday night for final feedback. The selection committee will then meet during the Friday evening mainstage to discuss and vote on the candidates.

The committee will select the State Thespian Officers AND place them in an appropriate board position:

- Chair
- Vice Chair
- Membership
- Junior Thespians

- Communications
- Special Projects
- Advocacy

The selection committee will include the following in their decision making -

- Feedback from current STOs
- Presentation/Interview
- Application materials

Announcement

The board (including positions) will be announced electronically via the website on the Saturday morning of Festival. The new board will be introduced on stage during Closing Ceremonies.

Questions?

If you are confused with anything, need help, or have questions contact us! We have been through the whole process too!

How to Prep for Festival Checklist

[Casey Scott, Troupe 3994](#)

Tips and Tricks for a Time-Tastical, Totally Epic Thespian Festival!

- Keep your Iowa Thespians bag with you
- Bring a water bottle (hydrate or die-drake)
- Keep your map of the UNI campus on you at all times
- Bring some extra money for the awesome events going on around festival like:
 - T-shirt grab
 - Poster auction
 - Broadway flea market
 - And more!
- If you are performing an individual event, remember your time and center. Make sure to practice, practice, practice!
- Be sure to use #IAThesFest19 when you post your awesome thespian moments at festival!

Letter to the Editor: End of An Era and the Beginning of Another

This goes out to all the kids who need to hear this: I am proud of you. To all the kids who have to bear the weight of heavy lives on their shoulders, you can do it. To those who do too much or only have high expectations, it is okay to say no. In our lives many things are expected to us whether that be emotionally, physically, mentally or otherwise. I am here to say that I have fallen in the same rut, the fear of ambiguity and the unknown. It terrifies many of us to start the future and for those who cannot wait for it to come sooner it is the thing that will set us free. The point is, it is okay to take time and find what is best for you. In the end your decisions will reflect upon yourself and only on yourself because you will need to live with the outcome.

In our adolescence many of us are shopping for our personality as we sometimes do not know who we are and how to get there. The secret is, that even in the light of success we are also figuring ourselves out, we too have fear. No one is ever truly certain about what the future will bring. Just know that there will always be great moments in your life as well as the bad ones. Trust that you will be alone in the world and learning to live with one's self so that we can start anew and grow in our age and wisdom.

My experience growing up has not been a difficult one and I sympathize with those who live different paths than I. You are not your situation, this is the beauty that theatre and the fine arts have taught me. That we can come from all walks of life and we can always find similarities in our differences. To learn and grow in ways few understand is the grace and love that the fine arts have gifted us. For this is all a gift, to be alive and free is a gift. Do not worry if you are not there yet or do not know how to get there, you will. I can say with certainty that you will always have people care about you and may we be those people.

Sincerely,

Julie Matta, Troupe 1038

Mad Libs: Tony Awards Edition!

Taylor Hammer, Troupe 38

The 2020 Tony Awards date has just been released and they will be held June 7th, 2020! It's time to start preparing your acceptance speech! Fill in the blanks to this mad lib to piece together your acceptance speech.

Thank you, ladies and _____(plural noun)! What an _____ (adjective) honor to be given this _____(object/noun) and standing in front of all of these _____(adjective) other actors and actresses. All those _____(period of time) of _____(adjective) work and _____(adjective) dedication has really paid off! First, I'd like to thank _____(person). Without their _____(noun) and _____(noun) this show would never have been produced. Second, I'd like to thank the _____(adjective) _____(noun) for making the magic of this show possible with their _____(adjective) talent. Also, I need to thank my _____(adjective) agent for all of his dedication and _____ing (verb) to make my dreams come true. Because if it wasn't for them, a kid from _____(place,noun) would never have made it to _____(place,noun) or to this stage. The _____(adjective) music is starting to play, so that must be my cue! For all of you _____(plural noun), this is for you!

STO Update

Joie Stoefen, Troupe 739

Hey all! Joie Stoefen here, back with more updates from the Iowa State Thespian Chapter Board. We have exciting things going on, and we cannot wait to share them with you!

School is officially in and we are heading into the fall... That means we are ONE MONTH away from Iowa Thespian Festival 2019! Your State Thespian Officers have been working extra hard, and cannot wait to see you! Festival will be full of so many amazing shows, workshops, and opportunities to make new friends (as well as lasting memories). We are currently working on making things for Iowa Thespians to buy and bid on at our Broadway Cares Flea Market and silent auction. IA ThesFest is the final project for our 18-19 officers-- we want to ensure that everyone has a fabulous time! The STOs are happy to answer any questions you may have about festival.

The STOs will be heading up to UNI on October 20th for festival preparation meeting. We will be reviewing over all of the things happening during festival.

If you want to learn more about what will be offered at festival, visit our Twitter and Instagram @iathespian_sto! We will also be posting regular updates, Showtune Sundays, and much more! We hope to see you soon at IA ThesFest 2019!

In Other News...

Shows This Month Come see Thespian productions this month from all across Iowa!

Wahlert High School, Troupe #3842 Little Shop of Horrors October 24, 25, 26

Clinton High School, Troupe #452 Mamma Mia October 31, November 1, 2, 3

Tell us about your shows! We have a form where anyone can send us information and posters for their troupe's productions. Find it at <https://tinyurl.com/iashowform> or posted to our Twitter and Instagram. Of course, you can still Direct Message us on social media about your shows or for any other information you need!

Contact us

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  Follow us on Twitter and Instagram @IA_ThespianSTO!

Visit us online at iowathespians.org



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