



Honoring excellence in school theatre

THE INTERNATIONAL THESPIAN SOCIETY

A division of the Educational Theatre Association

The Official Junior Thespian Point System

The International Thespian Society (ITS) is the honor society for middle and secondary school theatre students. Membership is granted for the performance of meritorious work in theatre arts that meets the Society's general guidelines. Middle school student induction eligibility requirements and procedures are detailed in the *Junior Thespian Troupe Handbook*.

Students meet one important induction requirement by earning Junior Thespian points. These are awarded based on the quality and quantity of work they perform in theatre and related disciplines. "Quality" may include the caliber of the work done and the educational value of the experience. The "Official Junior Thespian Point System" provides recommended guidelines for awarding points. Troupes may adopt changes to the point system to meet the unique needs of the school's theatre arts program and its students. Approved changes must be codified in the troupe constitution and bylaws and shared with all theatre students.

Troupe directors must notify theatre arts program participants that records of their activities will be maintained and that Junior Thespian membership may be conferred when qualifications have been met. The troupe director makes the final decision regarding the awarding of Junior Thespian points. The troupe secretary or clerk is often responsible for maintaining point records, which should be available for student review. Point record sheets are available for downloading in the member services section of EdTA's website.

The recommended Junior Thespian point awards listed on the next page provide the troupe director with a quick and easy way to award points for work commonly performed in most theatre programs. Numbers indicate the recommended maximum point awards for the duties listed. Troupe directors may award up to 2 additional points for any task performed with exceptional merit, and should use their discretion in awarding points—from 0 to the maximum—according to the quality of effort and work accomplished.

The following are general guidelines for the awarding of Junior Thespian points:

- Inductees must earn 10 Junior Thespian points, 5 of which should be awarded for work done at the school where he or she will be inducted.
- In general, 1 Junior Thespian point represents approximately 5 hours of excellent work. Troupe directors should use this formula in awarding points for categories not specifically listed in the recommended Junior Thespian point awards.
- A Junior Thespian moving to another affiliated middle or junior high school is entitled to transfer his or her membership. Transferring Junior Thespians bring a minimum of 10 Junior Thespian points with them to the new school. See the *Junior Thespian Troupe Handbook* for details.
- Induction points should be earned through participation in at least two productions, whether formally staged or informal class presentations.
- Induction points should be earned in at least two of the listed categories, for example, acting and production.
- Inducted Junior Thespians automatically begin their high school careers with half of the points needed for high school Thespian induction (normally 5 of the 10 induction points required). See the *Junior Thespian Troupe Handbook* for details.
- Students may earn up to 5 points toward induction through participation at the elementary school level; in community, children's, or professional theatre; or in other activities in the performing arts. They may earn additional points after induction at the troupe director's discretion and upon knowledge or verification of participation.
- Junior Thespian membership will be made available on an equitable basis to all students who qualify. No student will be elected into the Society. No student will be denied membership if he or she has accumulated the required 10 points and has fulfilled all membership requirements. Eligible students are invited to join the International Thespian Society as Junior Thespians. Induction invitation cards are available from the EdTA home office. Students should be informed of the cost of the one-time induction fee and date/site of the induction ceremony. No hazing of student candidates is permitted. Troupe directors induct students by submitting their names and induction fees to the EdTA home office. Induction ceremonies are local celebrations of induction. Ceremonies ranging from the very informal to formal are described in the "Ceremonies" document available on the EdTA website. See the *Junior Thespian Troupe Handbook* for details on the induction process.

Troupe directors can recognize exceptional Junior Thespians after induction by awarding Thespian stars for each additional 10 points earned. Detailed information is available in the *Junior Thespian Troupe Handbook*.

Recommended Junior Thespian Point Awards

The International Thespian Society recognizes that middle school theatre programs vary widely in scope and structure. The recommended Junior Thespian point awards listed below are provided for schools with curricular and/or extracurricular programs that offer a wide range of opportunities for their students. Often these include formally staged productions before a traditional audience. Some middle school theatre programs are less formal in nature and focus on class presentations, projects, and exercises rather than fully mounted productions. Troupes with this form of program may find it easier to award points on an hourly basis (1 point per 5 hours of excellent work) rather than use the recommended point awards provided below. Troupe directors with questions about the point system should contact the EdTA home office.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Position/work done</u>	<u>One-Act</u>	<u>Full Length</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Position/work done</u>	<u>One-Act</u>	<u>Full Length</u>	
Acting	Major role	3	6	Directing	Director	3	8	
	Minor role	2	4		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	
Production	Stage manager	3	6		Assistant orchestra or band director	2	5	
	Stage crew	2	4		Choreographer	3	6	
	Lighting technician	3	6		Assistant choreographer	3	5	
	Lighting crew	2	3		Writing	Original play (produced)	3	6
	Set designer	3	6			Orig. radio script (prod.)	4	5
	Set construction crew	3	5	Orig. TV script (prod.)		4	5	
	Costumer	3	6	Orig. play (unproduced)		1	2	
	Costume crew	2	5	Orig. radio script (unproduced)		.5	1.5	
	Properties manager	3	5	Orig. TV script (unprod.)	.5	1.5		
	Properties crew	2	3	Miscellaneous	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	Officers	President		6		
Rehearsal prompter	2	4		Vice president		4		
Pianist/accompanist	3	6		Secretary		5		
Musicians	2	3		Treasurer		4		
Business	Business manager	3		6	Clerk		4	
	Business crew	2		4	Website develop/maintenance		4	
	Publicity manager	3		5	Other		2	
	Publicity crew	2		3	Audience	Troupe directors may award points on an hourly basis for attending productions, or they may award .5 point for attending a production <i>and</i> writing a substantial critique or report demonstrating 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						

Junior Thespian Ratings Summary (see the <i>Junior Thespian Troupe Handbook</i> for details)		
Junior Thespian points earned	Junior Thespian rating	Honor may be signified by...
10	Junior Thespian	Junior Thespian induction. Membership certificate and induction pin awarded.
20–60	1- to 5-star Junior Thespian	I-guard and 1 to 5 stars are added to induction pin. 1 to 5 paper stars are added to membership certificate.
70+	6+-star Junior Thespian (optional)	Troupe directors may continue to award stars at 10-point increments.