What is an STO?
STO stands for State Thespian Officer. The STO's are the student leaders and representatives for Kansas Thespians. It is their job to represent Kansas Thespians, the member troupes, student thespians, and adult leadership. They are also the student leadership that helps in the planning, managing, and hosting of the state festival during their year(s) of service. As the student representative, the STO will also serve as the communication link between the students and the adult state board; therefore, it is their job to serve as an advocate for the students.

Who can be an STO?
Any sophomore, or junior who is an inducted thespian and in good standing with their troupe and their school is eligible to run. The student must have a desire to be a strong leader and be prepared to work for the good of Kansas Thespians. They must also attend the Kansas Thespian Festival in order to be appointed.

What is the difference in Student State Board and Student Thespian Officers?
STO’s are the leadership of the Student State Board (SSB). SSB members represent their school in planning and working for the state festival. STO’s are members of the SSB with additional responsibilities, and are the student connection to the Adult State Board (ASB).

How many students become an STO?
Kansas Thespians has a five member STO board. The board consists of a Chairperson, three at-large members, and one vice chair-person. The Vice Chair will be a junior who will serve for two years and becomes the chair person for the next year. Four positions will be appointed during festival; the Vice-Chair Position and the three at large positions. The Vice Chairman must be a sophomore at the time of appointment, the three at large positions are often juniors at the time of appointment. A sophomore could be placed in an at large position with the understanding that at large positions are appointed on a yearly basis only.

How do I become an STO?
• Express your interest to your troupe director. You must have their recommendation.
  o Troupes can have one sophomore and one junior apply for STO. Only one member of a troupe can be appointed to the STO board.
  o The home troupe of the current Vice-Chair cannot have an STO applicant.
  o The placement of the Vice-Chair takes precedence over that of an At-Large Member.
• Be a part of the SSB for the festival in which you are applying.
  o Each troupe is allowed two students to be SSB members.
  o This is a requirement for all Juniors applying for an at-large member position.
    ▪ Sophomores who are applying for Vice-Chair should also try to be members of the SSB but this is not a requirement.
    ▪ If you were unable to attend the prior planning meeting and would still like to run for STO please contact the current STO’s at stos@kansasthespians.com
• Fill out an application and get all necessary signatures.
• It is recommended that you submit all paperwork digitally to stos@kansasthespians.org, tgalbreath@usd259.net and, dpenceon@olatheschools.org
• If you are unable to submit digitally you must have signatures and your application with you to hand in at the first Thursday night meeting. You will also need to have five copies of your application with you.

- Attend the SSB meeting on Thursday afternoon/night of festival. Declare your intention to run to the current STO’s and STO advisors. Meet with these people at the end of the meeting.
  - Serve as a part of the SSB for the current festival.
  - The SSB will serve as door guards, representatives to workshop presenters, and in other roles needed throughout the weekend.
  - Junior At-Large members will take on more
- Attend the workshop sponsored by the International Thespian Officer (ITO) and current STO’s concerning the role and position of ITO’s and STO’s.
- Prepare a 1 minute speech to give to the ASB concerning why you want to be an STO, and what you would bring to Kansas Thespians, the festival, and the position.
  - Give the speech during the 6th session of the festival at the ASB Meeting, and be prepared to answer questions.
- The ASB will select the STO’s for the next year with input from the current STO’s.
- Consider this process a long interview or audition with a practical aspect, rather than as an election. You are NOT campaigning for the position, but are interviewing for the position throughout the festival.
- The new STO’s will be announced during the time for awards and honors at the end of the festival weekend.

Who decides who will become a STO?
Those troupe directors present at the end of the festival ASB meeting will select the new STO’s. The current STO’s will also have a say in the selection.

I am now an STO! What do I have to do?
• Prepare positives and negatives regarding the festival and submit them to the Chapter Directors and STO Advisors. This should be submitted by the first of February.
• Attend the International Thespian Festival in Lincoln, Nebraska in June.
  - If your school/troupe is not attending, you will need to attend with another local school. Contact the STO Advisor for help with this if needed.
  - Part of your registration will be taken care of by Kansas Thespians. Your transportation to and from the National Festival will be your responsibility.
  - It is required to take part in the leadership class and workshops offered throughout the festival. This does take some of your workshop time at festival please keep that in mind.
    ▪ This is also recommended to those who were not selected as STO’s this year but would like to try again next year.
• There will also be required planning meetings held at ITF that you will have to attend as well.
• Attend the fall state board meeting held normally on the third week of August.
- These are required for STO’s.
- Transportation is your responsibility and you must have an adult with you. Kansas Thespians would prefer that this be your troupe director, but we will also accept a parent.
- Assist with the planning of the Festival.
- Stay in constant communication with fellow STO’s, the students and troupes under you, the ASB, Chapter Directors, and the STO advisors.
- This can be done through email, phone, social media, and text.
- STO’s must be able to meet deadlines, make sure the groups under them are meeting deadlines, and have good time management and communications skills.
- STO’s must be proactive and responsible.
- STO’s will be encouraged to travel to surrounding schools to see shows and support the thespian troupes close to them.
- STO’s must serve as an example of the ideal thespian.
- The Vice-Chair will repeat as an STO for the following year serving as Chair-Person the second year. The Vice-Chair must be a freshman or sophomore in the year they are selected. This position will need to fill out an application for their second year and meet with the Chapter Director and STO Advisors to be able to continue as Chair-Person.
- If you are an at large STO member as an sophomore and wish to be an STO again the following year, you must re-run.

All STO’s will be required to sign a contract of participation. If any rules outlined by the contract are not followed, the STO may be relieved of his or her position.
**Applicant Information:**

Name:______________________________________________________  Current Grade:___________

School:________________________________________________________ Troupe #:___________

School Address:________________________________________________________________________

Current office or leadership position in troupe (if not in a leadership position currently, list last held position; if a position has never been held, please list why):

_____________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

GPA _________  Applicant’s Cell Phone ________________________________

Applicant’s Email Address:_______________________________________________

Parent/Legal Guardian's Name(s):___________________________________________

Parent/Legal Guardian’s email:___________________________________________

Troupe Director’s Name:_______________________________________________

Troupe Director’s Email:_______________________________________________

**Application Questions:**

Detail your involvement in your Theatre Department and Thespian Troupe. You may attach a resume to answer this if applicable.

Why you would like to be an STO?
What ideas do you have for the Kanas Thespian Festival?

What is your leadership style and how will it affect you as an STO?
Contract

Please make sure you have read and understand all the information outlined below before signing this contract. All signatures indicate an understanding of and agreement to follow the expectations given. STO’s who violate the contract risk being replaced at any time.

1. The STO term lasts one year, from festival to festival.
   a. A student may run again, but will have to reapply.
   b. Vice-Chair needs to resign the contract and meet with the Chapter Director and STO advisors to be able to repeat as Chair-Person.

2. STO’s must attend all meetings required of them.
   a. Transportation to and from any meeting or event is the responsibility of the STO, their parent or guardian, or their troupe director.
   b. The required meetings are:
      i. Kansas Thespian Festival 2018 (January 4-6, 2018)
         1. Serve as a SSB member
         2. Attend the N.A.P.S. workshop offered by the ITO
         3. Attend the STO workshop offered by the current STO’s
         4. Attend the ASB meeting for STO selection (January 6)
      ii. International Thespian Festival in Lincoln Nebraska (June 25 – 30)
         1. Must attend as a part of a troupe.
         2. Must take part in the leadership courses.
         3. Must attend planning meetings as scheduled throughout the week.
      iii. August State Board Meeting (Typically the third week of August, 8/18/18?, location TBA)
      iv. Possible additional planning meetings or rehearsals during the fall.
      v. Wednesday night before festival to prepare for festival (Jan. 2)
      vi. Kansas Thespian Conference (January 3-5, 2019)
         1. Student State Board meeting (Jan. 3)
         2. ITO / STO workshops
         3. Adult State Board meeting (Jan. 5)
   c. An absence at any of the above for any reason could remove an STO from position.
      i. Concerns regarding this rule should be directed to the STO advisors.

3. STO’s are responsible for financial obligations not covered by Kansas Thespians.
   a. Provided financially by Kansas Thespians:
      i. Registration to state festival for the year of service
      ii. Partial registration to the International Thespian Festival
         1. This partial registration is more of a reimbursement and the check will be made out the the STO’s home troupe not to each individual STO.
      iii. Dinner and lodging Wednesday night – Saturday night
      iv. Lunch at state board meetings
   b. Provided financially by the STO:
      i. Remaining registration for the International Thespian Festival
      ii. All transportation
      iii. Remaining meals not covered
      iv. Specialty registration items for both state and international festivals (auditions, I.E.’s, etc.)
   c. If there is a financial concern, please communicate this concern to the STO Advisor. This should not stop you from applying.

4. Showcase and live up to the ideals of a thespian and set an example at all thespian activities.
5. Maintain your involvement in your local troupe, and maintain grades and good standing with your home school.
6. Keep open lines of communication with other STO’s, local troupes, STO Advisor, and chapter directors.
Signatures
I have read and understand the above expectations set forth and feel I can meet them. I understand that my failure to meet these requirements could result in my early removal from this position.

________________________________________________
Student's Signature        Date

As the parent/guardian of the student, I have read the above expectations, and feel I can support them if my child is appointed where necessary, and approve of their application for the position of Kansas Thespians State Thespian Officer.

________________________________________________
Parent/Guardian Signature        Date

As the principal and sponsor of the above named student, I have read the above expectations, feel I can support them if my student is appointed where necessary, and approve of their application for the position of the Kansas Thespians State Thespian Officer. In addition, I certify that the named student is a member in good standing for our school and Thespian Troupe.

________________________________________________
Principal's Signature        Date

_____________________________________
Troupe Sponsor's Signature        Date

Application Check List
Application
Questions
Contract
Prepared 1 minute speech for adult state board meeting.

Complete all of the above and if possible submit all paperwork digitally before December 31 to stos@kansasthespians.org, tgalbreath@usd259.net and dpenceon@olatheschools.org if you submit after December 31 please also print and bring 5 copies to festival with you.