



INTERNATIONAL THESPIAN SOCIETY

HONORING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT IN THEATRE

Official Junior Thespian Point System

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

This Junior Thespian point system establishes guidelines for logging the quality and quantity of student work. *Quality* may include the caliber of the work and the educational value of the experience. Troupes may adopt changes to the point system to meet their unique circumstances. Changes are recorded in the troupe's constitution. Troupe directors must notify students of all induction requirements and provide access to their point records. Only the troupe director may award points, but a troupe secretary or clerk is often responsible for maintaining point records. Point record sheets are available for download at schooltheatre.org/troupedocs.

Recommended Junior Thespian Point Awards

The chart on the following page provides a quick and easy way to calculate points. Numbers indicate the recommended maximum point awards for the duties listed. Troupe directors should use their discretion in awarding points—from zero to the maximum—according to the caliber of effort and work, and they may award up to two additional points for any task performed with exceptional merit.

Guidelines for awarding of Junior Thespian points

- The minimum eligibility requirement for Junior Thespian induction is fifty hours of quality work in theatre arts and related disciplines.
- One Junior Thespian point represents approximately five hours of quality work. Use this formula to award points for duties that aren't listed. Performing arts schools and others with mandatory participation may choose to change that to ten hours or more to avoid point *inflation* and maintain the honorary nature of induction in that setting.
- Inductees must earn ten points, five of which should be for work done at the school where they will be inducted.
- Junior Thespians moving to other affiliated middle or junior high schools are entitled to transfer their memberships. Transferring Junior Thespians bring a minimum of ten 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 five of the ten induction points required). See the *Junior Thespian Troupe Handbook* for details.
- Students may earn up to five 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 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; and peers may not have a role in awarding points or deciding induction eligibility.

Recognizing Junior Thespian achievement after induction

Troupe directors can recognize exceptional Junior Thespians after induction by awarding Junior Thespian stars. The *Junior Thespian Rating Summary* chart on the following page outlines the basic system.

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 (one point per five hours of excellent work) rather than use the recommended point awards provided below.

<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	Advocacy	Participation in advocacy event		1/day	
Rehearsal prompter	2	4	Local advocacy work			.1/hr.		
Pianist/accompanist	3	6	Officers		President		6	
Musicians	2	3			Vice president, treasurer, or web editor		4	
Business	Business manager	3			6	Secretary/clerk		5
	Business crew	2		4	State Thespian Officer (STO)		8	
	Publicity manager	3	5	Audience	Troupe directors may award points on an hourly basis for attending productions, or they may award one half point for attending a production <i>and</i> writing a substantial critique or report that demonstrates the educational value of the experience.			
	Publicity crew	2	3					
	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 Rating 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 card, certificate, and induction pin awarded.
20–60	1- to 5-star Junior Thespian	One to five paper stars are added to membership certificate. One to five Junior Thespian point star pins awarded.
70+	6+-star Junior Thespian (optional)	Troupe directors may continue to award stars at ten point increments.