

**Troupe Constitution**

# Thespian Troupe 1903 Constitution

# Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# Article I: Name, Purpose, and Governance

**Section 1.** Name: This organization shall be called Troupe 1903. The troupe has been chartered by New Smyrna Beach High School. The charter affiliates it with the International Thespian Society (ITS).

**Section 2.** Purpose: The troupe is the honors component of the school’s theatre program. Its purpose shall be the advancement of standards of excellence in theatre. More specifically, the troupe will encourage students to attain a better mastery of the theatre arts and will reward those who achieve it with induction into the troupe. Thespians achieving honor ranks and scholar distinctions shall receive recognition of their exemplary accomplishments.

**Section 3.** Governance: This troupe constitution and its bylaws are two components of a hierarchy of documents that govern members of the International Thespian Society and its parent organization, the Educational Theatre Association (EdTA). The documents affecting troupes, in order of authority, are: the EdTA Code of Regulations, the membership policy, the troupe handbooks, the troupe constitution, and troupe bylaws. This constitution may not be altered in any way that conflicts with a superseding document or school policies and procedures.

**Article II: Organization and Officers**

**Section 1.** Membership: Membership is achieved by complying with all induction criteria as defined in the troupe handbook. The Thespian point system is the official guideline for awarding induction points. Any changes to induction criteria, including the Thespian point system, must be adopted as a troupe bylaw.

**Section 2.** Officers: The Thespian troupe shall have the following officers: president, vice president, historian, publicity manager, freshman ambassador and two technical directors. The director may add an additional position at any given time, with the majority vote from current officers. Duties shall be defined in the troupe’s bylaws.

**Section 3.** Board Selection: Interested individuals are required to attend Board Member Training (BMT) in the spring. Eligible members may apply for individual positions. Applications will be reviewed anonymously by the current president and vice president and will recommend a single candidate for each position. Director will have final decision on officer selection.

**Section 4.** Students wishing to apply for an officer position must meet the requirements described in the bylaws.

**Article III: Meetings and Participation**

**Section 1.** Meetings: Thespian troupe meetings shall be held monthly throughout the school year. Special meetings may be called by the troupe director, any officer, or by a quorum of Thespians.

**Section 2.** Quorum: A quorum shall be a majority of the troupe’s active membership.

**Section 3.** Denial of participation: Any Thespian who causes deliberate dissension or disruption of any production or business meeting may be denied participation in troupe activities by a vote of two-thirds of the troupe’s membership and the consent of the troupe director. Any member requesting reinstatement of participation rights may have them restored with the consent of the troupe director and two-thirds of the troupe’s membership. In extreme cases a Thespian’s status as a member in good standing of the local troupe may be suspended or withdrawn by the troupe director for just cause. Such decisions are subject to oversight by the school administration. This may affect any or all participation rights and benefits that require the troupe director’s authorization but will not affect membership and benefits that come directly from the ITS national office.

**Section 4.** Students who are not inducted into Troupe 1903 may still participate in all troupe activities, unless it has been labeled as a “thespians only” activity. Non-Inducted students may not vote on troupe matters.

**Article IV: Dues and Fees**

**Section 1.** Dues: There shall be no mandatory dues for Thespian induction except as provided by the EdTA Board of Directors.

**Section 2.** Fees: Students may be asked to pay fees for productions, festivals and fieldtrips. Each fee will be decided on by the director on a case by case basis.

## **Article V: Bylaws**

## **Section 1.** Purpose: Bylaws provide additional guidance for the governance and operations of the troupe. No bylaw may be in conflict with the EdTA Code of Regulations, membership policy, troupe handbook, troupe constitution, or school policy or procedures.

**Section 2.** Adoptions and amendments: The troupe director may adopt or amend bylaws as deemed appropriate. Bylaws may also be added or amended by approval of a simple majority of the troupe’s active membership and the consent of the troupe director.

**Article VI: Amendments**

**Section 1.** Exclusions: Article I may not be amended.

**Section 2.** Procedure: Articles other than Article I may be amended by approval of two-thirds of the troupe’s active membership with the consent of the troupe director. This constitution and its amendments shall be subject to change according to any or all requirements of the International Thespian Society.

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Troupe Director\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Troupe President\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# Thespian Troupe 1903 Bylaws

# Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Article 1: Attendance**

**Section 1.** A student arriving late to or leaving early from meetings or rehearsals without a reason considered valid by the troupe director will receive a demerit. Three such offenses will be counted as an absence from a meeting or rehearsal without excuse.

**Section 2.** Regular meetings will held on the first Thursday of each month during lunch.

**Section 3.** Irregular attendance indicates a lack of interest; therefore, any member absent three (3) meetings per school year without a written excuse submitted to an officer, or troupe director shall be automatically suspended from troupe activities. The troupe director has sole authority to reverse the suspension.

**Section 4.** Absences shall accumulate for only one school year at a time.

# Article 2: Thespian Points

**Section 1.** Induction points must be earned over the course of more than one production. In years when there is only one production, this requirement is waived.

**Section 2.** Thespian points will be awarded for theatre-related work done outside the school’s theatre program. To qualify for points, a copy of the program or other verification must be provided.

**Section 3**. Half of one Thespian point may be earned for attending non-school productions. To qualify, a ticket stub or a program must be provided as proof of attendance. Students may earn an additional half point by writing a performance critique, as seen appropriate by the director.

**Section 4.** Thespian points earned outside of the program will not count toward Thespian induction.

**Section 5.** No student may earn more than 10 thespian points for a single production.

**Section 6.** Thespian points for all positions and roles will be rewarded by time commitment, where 10 hours of work is equal to 1 point.

**Section 7.** The director has the ability to withhold thespian points from a production if the student’s behavior or productivity is brought into question.

**Article 3: Induction**

**Section 1.** An induction ceremony shall be held at least once each year. Additional ceremonies may be held as often as deemed necessary by the troupe director.

**Section 2.** Each inductee must provide his or her current mailing address and email address. Individual inductees are responsible for their own induction fees unless payment has been prearranged by a booster group, fundraising, or other source. The troupe will pay for additional honor items that are included in its officially adopted recognition system. Students may ask the troupe director to purchase honor items on their behalf that are not included in the troupe’s official system. Such items will be available at the troupe director’s discretion and at each student’s expense.

**Section 3.** The troupe director determines the time, place, schedule, and format of induction ceremonies.

**Section 4.** The troupe director and president conduct inductions. The principal, superintendent, and/or like officials will be offered a role in the ceremony whenever possible.

**Section 5.** Thespians wishing to become a mentor must be in good standing within the troupe. Mentor selection will be held at the director’s discretion.

**Section 6.** Students wishing to be inducted into Troupe 1903 must meet the following criteria:

1. Be involved with *at least* half of the troupe events and performances during the last 12 months
2. Maintain a 2.0 GPA
3. Earn at least 10 thespian points
4. Receive 1 acting credit and 1 technical credit

**Section 7.** The director may choose to induct a student if they feel the student has shown great dedication and leadership within the troupe, but do not otherwise meet the induction criteria.

# Article 4: Officers

**Section 1.** Duties: Troupe officer duties are defined below. The troupe director may assign other duties.

A. The presidentpresides at all meetings, appoints all standing and special committees, and directs and supervises troupe activities. The president will attend all ICC meetings.

B. The vice presidentpresides in the absence of the president when needed. The vice president oversees the collection and recording of money when necessary. The vice president will assume any leadership role when the director and president are not available.

C. The historian keeps record of minutes at meetings, schedules photo calls and recording of troupe productions and takes photos of troupe events during the school year. The historian may also share access to troupe social media accounts.

D. The publicity manager is in charge of fundraising, troupe sponsorships and advertising productions within the school and community. The publicity manager may share access to troupe social media accounts.

E. The technical directors will be assigned to two categories: costumes/props and construction/technology. The technical directors will be in charge of their specialty during each production and will oversee the heads of each department. Technical directors may also be asked to fulfill special requests between productions.

F. Freshman ambassador will encourage freshman to participate in troupe events. They will bring any issues from the freshman class to the attention of the director and fellow board members.

G. Other offices such as treasurer, secretary, Advocacy Works chair, and TOTS-EAT chair may be added at the troupe’s discretion. All officer positions must be listed in the troupe’s constitution.

**Section 2.** Requirements for all elected officers are as follows: each student must be an inducted member of the troupe for at least one school year (and at the time of application must be enrolled in grades 10 or 11), maintain a GPA of at least 3.0, completed application and 3 teacher recommendations, and attend all Board Training Camp Meetings during the school year.

**Section 3.** Officers shall be installed at the last social or program meeting of the school term.

**Section 4.** Officers will maintain good grades during the school year. Any officer who received an ‘F’ on a report card will be put on a probationary period of 1 quarter. If the grade is not raised by the following report card, the student will be removed from their position.

**Section 5.** If more than half of the current officers are on probation, the director and remaining officers may elect thespians to temporarily serve in those positions.

**Section 6.** The director may elect to leave a position vacant if there is not an eligible applicant.

**Article 5: Troupe Activities**

**Section 1.** The troupe is not a secret organization. All interested faculty, students, parents, Honorary Thespians, troupe alumni, and administrators are welcome at troupe events.

**Section 2.** The troupe shall sponsor at least one *good neighbor* program a year for the purpose of establishing good relationships with nearby Thespian and Junior Thespian troupes and other dramatic groups.

**Section 3.** The troupe shall cooperate with all other departments and clubs in the school in helping them with their programs in any way it can.

**Article 6: Conflict Resolution**

**Section 1.** In the event issues or conflicts arise between a Thespian and the troupe director that cannot be solved through communication between the two parties, the issue should be resolved by the school administration as indicated in the troupe handbook.

Adopted\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Troupe Director\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Troupe President\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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