

JEA Journalist of the Year Scholarship Form and Guidelines

About the Scholarships

Sister Rita Jeanne Scholarships, named for JEA's long-time treasurer, recognize some of the top high school journalists in the country. The contest begins at the state level.

The Iowa winner of the Journalist of the Year competition will receive the Les Benz Award from the Iowa High School Press Association and \$100. The winner also will receive a \$500 scholarship from the University of Iowa School of Journalism and Mass Communication upon attending the university and majoring in journalism. The state winner will be selected by March 15.

Winners from the state Journalist of the Year competition are sent to the national level. Portfolios are judged at the spring national JEA/NSPA convention, and winners are announced at the convention's concluding awards ceremony. Scholarship funds—\$5,000 for first place, and four \$2,000 scholarships—are released when a student enrolls in a college journalism program.

Applicant Qualifications:

- Be a graduating senior.
- Planning to study journalism in college and to pursue a journalism career.
- Have at least a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
- Have participated in high school journalism for at least two years.

Portfolios Must Include:

- The official entry form.
- A self-analytical evaluation of your "journalistic life," using your most creative form.
- An official copy of your transcript.
- Three or four letters of recommendation from your adviser, other teachers who know your leadership and journalistic abilities, and practitioners with whom you have worked. A letter from the principal is desirable, but not absolutely necessary.
- Samples of your work carefully selected to show your quality and diversity of reporting, writing, photography, design, etc.
- A self-addressed, padded, stamped envelope large enough to hold your portfolio if you want it returned.

Deadlines & Address

By February 15, mail your entire portfolio package to
JEA State Director Gary Lindsay
John F. Kennedy High School
4545 Wenig Rd. NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

The winning state entry will be selected and sent to JEA.

Preparing Your Portfolio

- Entry material should not exceed 35 sheets of 8-1/2-by-11-inch paper.
- The pages should be inserted into a ring notebook designed to hold 8-1/2-by-11-inch paper.
- Some ideas to help you get started on the self-analytical evaluation: How do you feel about journalism? How did you get started in journalism? What have you had to go through to achieve? What have you contributed to journalism? What are your journalism plans for the future? The evaluation should be long enough for the judges to reach a decision as to your creative qualifications and short enough not to be redundant (and boring).
- Samples of work should be carefully selected. Provide judges with a good cross section of your best work rather than everything ever produced. Date, name of publication and relevance should be on the page with each sample.
- Include samples showing one or more of the following characteristics. They should be grouped according to what they represent, and these groupings should be labeled.
 - Skilled and creative use of media content: Writing, production, photography, etc...
 - Inquiring mind and investigative persistence resulting in in-depth study of issues important to the local high school audience, high school students in general, or society.
 - Courageous and responsible handling of sensitive issues, local or societal, despite threat or imposition of censorship.
 - Variety of journalistic experience, each handled in a quality manner - newspaper, yearbook, broadcast, etc...
 - Sustained and commendable work with community media.
- At least one issue of your newspaper or magazine or photocopies of relevant spreads from your yearbook (not the entire book) should be enclosed so the judges can see the context of your work. Audio and/or video tapes should accompany an entry that focuses on broadcast work. They should be cued up to the work the judges should view or hear, and have the entrant's name on the tape case.
- Photocopies of letters, clippings and art are acceptable; however, original prints of photographs should accompany entries based on published pictures.
- JEA is not responsible for portfolios not accompanied by return envelopes nor for portfolios lost in transit whether by person or by mail.

Questions?

Call (913) 532-5532 or Diane Honda, JEA contest chair, at (209) 441-3649.

HIGH SCHOOL JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

Co-sponsored by Journalism Education Association and Its Iowa Affiliate, IHSPA
OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

By February 15, mail to:
JEA State Director Gary Lindsay
John F. Kennedy High School
4545 Wenig Rd. NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

PLEASE TYPE

Name _____

Street Address _____ Phone () _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Names _____

School _____

Street Address _____ Phone () _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Adviser _____ Principal _____

Hometown Media _____

Street Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

How long have you been involved in journalism? _____

Positions Held (specify type of media such as yearbook, newspaper, literary magazine, TV):

Publication Name/Type	Position	Length of Time (Beginning to End Dates)
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_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Has any of your work been cited by the press or electronic media? If so, when and what award? (Use separate sheet to explain.)

Do you plan to enroll this year in a university or college journalism degree program? _____

List colleges you are considering in order of preference; if you have been accepted, check the appropriate space; if you have decided on enrollment, list only that college and check the space:

College	Accepted and Considering	Definitely Will Attend
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_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

What aspect of journalism and mass communication is your career goal?

Entry Checklist

Entry form Official transcript Self-analytical evaluation of your "journalistic life"

3-4 letters of recommendation Portfolio in a 3-ring binder showing examples of your best published work

Self-addressed, large padded envelope with adequate postage