

Kansas Scholastic Press Association

2008 State Contest Information and Rules

March 14, 2008

Dear Adviser:

In just a little over a month, you and your competing students will be joining us on the University of Kansas campus for the 38th Annual State Contest and business meeting. Your school is among the 118 Kansas high schools that had students place in regional journalism competitions last February. As a result of the students' success, 1140 entries have been recorded for competition Saturday, May 3 at the KSPA State Contest on the University of Kansas campus.

As director of the State Contest, in compliance with the Kansas State High School Activities Association rules, I am enclosing the following: the official entry form that indicates the names of students from your school eligible to participate as well as their official competition numbers and a registration form. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me at (785) 864-0605.

Entries

No substitutions are permitted at the state contest. Students who placed first, second, third or honorable mention at regionals are permitted to compete.

We ask your cooperation to examine the information at the top of the page of the entry form; check to make certain that all names of your winners are included and that all names are spelled correctly. If you find errors, please make the necessary corrections on the form provided. It will be helpful to us if you will return the entry form as quickly as possible, but the deadline is Friday, April 4.

The entry form also has contestant numbers beside each contestant's name. Contestants will compete by number. If a student identifies himself or herself or his or her school by name or location or uses the wrong number, the entry will be disqualified. Contestants will be given labels with their numbers printed on them. These labels should appear in the upper right hand corner of the student's entry. Advisers are cautioned to remove the school name from yearbook templates.

Carry-in contests

Nine carry-in contests will be offered: Advertising, Headline Writing, Infographics, Newspaper Design, Yearbook Layout, Theme Development and Graphics, Feature Photography, Sports Photography and Broadcast. Specific carry-in topics and instructions will be posted on the KSPA website by today. Schools competing in the broadcast competition should have their entry tapes postmarked by Friday, April 18.

Carry-in contests must be either hand-delivered by the close of registration on the contest date or be mailed directly to the contest site 48 hours before the contests begin. No faxes please. Carry-in entries may be mailed in advance but should reach headquarters no later than Monday, April 28. Due to the unpredictability of the U.S. Postal Office, we encourage advisers to use overnight mail service for contests submitted in advance of the April 28 deadline.

On-site contests

Nine on-site contests will be offered: Editing, Editorial Cartoon, Editorial Writing, Cutline Writing, Yearbook Sports Writing, Yearbook Copy Writing, Feature Writing, News Writing and Newspaper Sports Writing.

CONTEST CONTACT INFORMATION

Kansas Scholastic Press Assn.
1435 Jayhawk Blvd.
Lawrence, KS 66045
Office phone: (785) 864-0605
Office fax: (785) 864-5945

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

Friday, April 4
Please send your state entry form by this date. Confirm and/or correct all spelling of student names.

BROADCAST CONTEST POSTMARK DEADLINE

Friday, April 18

SPECIAL NEEDS DEADLINE

Monday, April 21

CARRY-IN MAILING DEADLINE

Monday, April 28
All carry-in contests mailed to KSPA should be received at headquarters by this date.

CONTEST REGISTRATION

8 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.

CONTEST OPENING ASSEMBLY

8:45 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.

ADVISER BRUNCH and BUSINESS MEETING

9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Transportation

If your group comes by bus, you may unload in front of the Kansas Union. The bus may be parked at the Lied Center (Lot 300) on west campus. The KU parking department's website <<http://www.parking.ku.edu>> offers a map that shows where Lot 300 is located. If you plan to arrive by car, the blue zones are metered until noon on Saturdays; the red and yellow zones are not metered at all. There is plenty of parking available in the new parking garage north of the Kansas Union.

Fees

The fee for each entry is \$10. A \$5 per school entry fee will also be assessed to cover the cost of postage to return entries following the competition. Although payment does not need to accompany the entry form, payment must be made prior to the time of competition. Checks should be made payable to Kansas Scholastic Press Association. Students will be expected to pay for their own lunch and housing if they elect to remain overnight. Affordable lunch options may be purchased in the Market in the Kansas Union.

Student Supervision

Students must remain on the premises where they are competing. Advisers must accompany students to the contest site.

Adviser Brunch and Business Meeting

At the adviser brunch, which will begin at 9:30 a.m., we will induct new members into the Kansas Scholastic Press Association Hall of Fame. Also, the Engel Award winner will be announced. The KSPA business meeting will follow. Advisers may attend the business meeting without attending the brunch in the Kansas Room.

Regulations

The director of the state contest is authorized to enforce the rules approved by the executive committee. If any adviser violates the rules, his or her students will be disqualified and the principal of the school involved will be notified. Advisers are prohibited from entering rooms where entries are being judged. Advisers are not to give advice or suggestions on carry-in contests. Student questions should be directed to the KSPA Executive Director.

Awards and Judging

Medals will be mailed to students who place first, second or third in the contest. Honorable Mentions will also be recognized with a certificate. Entries will be returned the week following contest with the exception of those entries that placed first. The first place entries will be saved for Simply Better, published on CD each fall.

A traveling sweepstakes trophy will be awarded to the school that scores the most points in each division: 6A, 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A and 1A. Scoring is based on five points for first, four points for second, three points for third and one point for honorable mention. A certificate in each division will be awarded to the sweepstakes' runners-up.

Judges will be university journalism faculty members, former high school advisers no longer employed by a school district and professional journalists. Judges are encouraged to make comments on the grading rubrics whenever time permits. Judges volunteer their services without pay and have no vested interest in high school journalism.

Students with Special Needs

Please be advised that handicapped persons will be given an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from all contests sponsored or sanctioned by KSPA and the University of Kansas, which acts as host for the KSPA contest. If you or any of your students need to be so accommodated, please let the contest director know what these accommodations are before Monday, April 21.

On-Site Contest Rules and Tips

Two entries per category per school are allowed.

Cutline Writing: Students will write cutlines for five photos provided at the contest site. Students may write in pen or pencil. Paper will be provided at the contest site. Students may use a dictionary, thesaurus and A.P. style manuals. The use of personal listening devices (i.e. iPods), recording devices, personal computers or electric typewriters during the contest is prohibited.

Writing Contests: (yearbook copy, yearbook sports, feature, news, sports and editorial writing contests) Students will write a story based on information provided on a fact sheet. Students may write in pen or pencil. Paper will be provided at the contest site. Students may use a dictionary, thesaurus and A.P. style manuals. The use of personal listening devices (i.e. iPods), recording devices, personal computers or electric typewriters during the contest is prohibited.

Editorial Cartoon: Students will design a cartoon relevant to the topic provided on the fact sheet. The final entry should be submitted in black ink. Do not place your signature or name anywhere on the entry. Paper will be provided at the contest site. The use of personal listening devices (i.e. iPods), recording devices, personal computers or electric typewriters during the contest is prohibited.

Editing: Students will edit a news story. Students should edit for A.P. style, accuracy, libel, attribution, correct paragraphing, grammar, spelling and redundancy. Correct copy editing symbols must be used. Students should edit in pencil. Students may use a dictionary, thesaurus and A.P. style manuals. The use of personal listening devices (i.e. iPods), recording devices, personal computers or electric typewriters during the contest is prohibited.

We look forward to having you and your students with us on May 3, and will do everything possible to make it a meaningful day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Hudnell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Executive Director