

High School Journalist of the Year

Sister Rita Jeanne Scholarships

DEADLINE

Received by state contest director by Feb. 14.

MAIL TO

HS J of Y Entry
School of Journalism
1435 Jayhawk Blvd
Lawrence, KS 66045

About the Award

Sister Rita Jeanne Scholarships, named for JEA's treasurer, who served the organization for more than 40 years, recognize some of the top high school journalists in the country. The contest begins at the state level. Winning portfolios from state High School Journalist of the Year competitions are sent to the national level. Portfolios are judged at the spring JEA/NSPA National High School Journalism Convention.

Entry Criteria

The applicant must:

- Be a graduating high school senior.
- Be planning to study journalism or mass communications in college and to pursue a journalism or mass communications career.
- Have at least a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale.
- Have participated in high school journalism for at least two years.
- Submit a portfolio.
- Be a state winner.
- Be a student of a JEA member adviser.

Award Recognition

Winners are announced at the spring JEA/NSPA National High School Journalism Convention's concluding awards ceremony. Scholarships include \$5,000 for the top winner, and \$2,000 each for six runners-up. The Kansas winner receives a \$1,000 scholarship. Scholarship checks are sent to the college or university when the student enrolls in a journalism or mass communications program. A verification form must be completed and sent to JEA headquarters before payment can be made.

Portfolio Checklist

The applicant must include the following in a portfolio:

- The official entry form.
- A self-analytical evaluation of your "journalistic life," using your most creative form.
- An action photo of you doing something journalistic — interviewing someone, taking a photograph, designing a page, doing a broadcast standup or talking to your staff. Winners' photos may be published.
- 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, broadcast, online media, etc.
- A self-addressed, padded, stamped envelope large enough to hold your portfolio, if you want it returned.

High School Journalist of the Year

Sister Rita Jeanne Scholarships (continued)

Preparing Your Journalist of the Year Portfolio

• Entry material should not exceed 46 one-sided or 23 two-sided pages with application materials not to exceed an additional 10 pages as follows:

- national application (1-2 pages)
- transcript (1-2 pages). This should be opened and presented as part of the portfolio.
- personal photo (1 page)
- self-analytical essay (1+ pages)

• Plastic sheet protectors are acceptable. All letters should be opened and included as part of the 46 pages.

• The pages should be inserted into a three-ring binder designed to hold 8-1/2-by-11-inch paper.

• Here are some questions 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 contributed to journalism? What have you had to go through to achieve? 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. • 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.

- 1) Skilled and creative use of media content — writing, production, photography, etc.
- 2) Inquiring mind and investigative persistence resulting in in-depth study or studies of issues important to the local high school audience, high school students in general, or society.
- 3) Courageous and responsible handling of sensitive issues — local or societal — despite threat or imposition of censorship.
- 4) Variety of sustained and commendable journalistic experiences, each handled in a quality manner — newspaper, yearbook, magazine, broadcast, photography, Web design, other design work, community and other outside-of-school journalistic work, etc.

• 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. One audio or video tape should accompany an entry focusing on broadcast work. Time is limited to 15 minutes. The tape should be cued up to the work the judges should view or hear and should 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.

Deadlines

Mail your entire portfolio package to KSPA Headquarters so it is received by Feb. 14. Do not mail your entry to JEA Headquarters.

JUDGES' RUBRIC

The following categories will be given a score (1-4) based on quality, scope and impact.

- 1) Skilled and creative use of media.
- 2) Inquiring mind and investigative persistence.
- 3) Courageous and responsible handling of sensitive issues.
- 4) Variety of sustained and commendable journalistic experiences.

4 = Exemplary

3 = Excellent

2 = Fair

1 = Adequate

Quality — Does the material presented in this portfolio demonstrate superior quality of work in the category over an extended period of time?

Scope — Does the material presented in this portfolio demonstrate a wide range of quality work in the category over an extended period of time?

Impact — Does the material presented in this portfolio document the impact of this student's journalistic work in the category over an extended period of time?

High School Journalist of the Year

Application Form

Year _____

PORTFOLIO CHECKLIST

- The official application form.
- Self-analytical evaluation of your “journalistic life.”
- Official transcript.
- Action photo of you doing something journalistic.
- Three or four letters of recommendation.
- Samples of your work.
- A self-addressed, padded, stamped envelope large enough to hold your portfolio, if you want it returned.
- Verify your adviser is a current national JEA member. You will be disqualified at the national level if your adviser is not a member.
- Entire portfolio should be no more than 46 one-side or 23 two-sided pages. Broadcast tape, limited to 15 minutes, should be cued to the student’s best work.

DEADLINE

Received by state contest director by Feb. 14.

MAIL TO

HS J of Y Entry
School of Journalism
1435 Jayhawk Blvd.
Lawrence, KS 66045

Applicant’s Name _____

Home Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Home Phone _____

E-mail _____

Parent(s) or guardian(s) Name _____

School Name _____

School Address _____

School City, State, ZIP _____

School Phone _____

Adviser’s Name _____

Adviser’s Phone _____

E-mail _____

Hometown Newspaper _____

Newspaper Address _____

Newspaper City, State, ZIP _____

• How long have you been involved in journalism? _____

Media Names Staff Position From To

If you have more to add, please use a separate sheet of paper.

• Has any of your work been used by the professional media? _____

If yes, please explain _____

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

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

• List the colleges which you are considering attending in order of preference. If you have definitely decided which school you will attend, list only that college.

Verification: The examples submitted are the student’s original work.

Adviser’s Signature

Student’s Signature