



PRESS THE ISSUE

APRIL 25-26, 2024

ARKANSAS SCHOLASTIC PRESS ASSOCIATION 📍 LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS



UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS

Fulbright College of Arts & Sciences
School of Journalism and Strategic Media

BY THE NUMBERS

5-year

master's program for juniors and seniors who want to get a head start on an advanced degree

\$100k

of scholarship assistance awarded to SJSM majors each year

no more than

20

students in each section of skills courses in writing, production or technology

25

full-time faculty

more than

850

students in SJSM majors

fully accredited in 2023 through a unanimous

19-0

vote by the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications

\$2.4

million state-of-the-art Sue Walk Burnett Center for Journalism and Student Media

50

high-definition video camcorders available for checkout

more than

250

students involved in student media

3

multimedia computer labs

2024 STATE CONVENTION

April 25-26 | Tentative Schedule

(Convention schedule is subject to change)

THURSDAY, APRIL 25

9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Convention check-in at the lower-level of the
Statehouse Convention Center (Marriott side)

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

College/Vendor Fair - *Gov. Hall IV*

10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Opening Pep Rally & Awards Ceremony I
Gov. Hall III

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Jostens Adviser Reception - *Room TBD*

11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Lunch Break

1:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Session I with various speakers
Print-Media & Computer Generated
Prompted Contests - *Gov. Hall II*

1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Broadcast Prompted Contests
Film Prompted Contests
Gov. Hall II

3:15 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Awards Ceremony II - *Gov. Hall III*

4:15 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Session II with various speakers

6 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Walsworth Awards Banquet - *Gov. Hall III*

9:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.

ASPA Business Meeting - *Caraway I-III*
Balfour Dance - *TBD*
Other Activities - *TBA*

FRIDAY, APRIL 26

9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

College/Vendor Fair - *Gov. Hall IV*

9:15 a.m. - 10 a.m.

Session III with various speakers

10:15 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Session IV with various speakers

11:15 a.m. - noon

Session V with various speakers

12:15 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Closing Ceremony - *Gov. Hall III*

STUDENT CONVENTION PLANNING GUIDE

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

THURSDAY - OPENING, CONTESTS & MORE

- Award ceremonies, intensive training sessions, vendor booths, student prompted contests.
- OPENING SESSION - 10:30 a.m. Pep rally *and awards ceremony I*
- LUNCH BREAK - 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.
- PROMPTED CONTESTS - 1:30-5:30 p.m. Closed registration. Review with On-Sites Director.
- SESSION I - 1:30-3:00 p.m. various speakers
- AWARDS CEREMONY II - 3:15-4:00 p.m.
- SESSION II - 4:15-5:00 p.m. various speakers
- WALSWORTH AWARDS BANQUET - 6 p.m. (seating)
- ASPA ADVISER BUSINESS MEETING - 9:30-10:30 p.m.
- DANCE & GAME NIGHT - 9:30-11:30 p.m.

FRIDAY - SESSIONS & CLOSING

- SESSION III - 9:15-10:00 a.m. various speakers
- SESSION IV - 10:15-11:00 a.m. various speakers
- SESSION V - 11:15 a.m. to noon various speakers
- Closing awards 12:15-1:30 p.m.

WHAT TO WEAR

- Wear your best school spirit garb on Thursday
- Pack a school-appropriate outfit for breakout sessions
- A business formal outfit for the awards banquet
- A more casual, yet school-appropriate outfit for the dance.
- For Friday, it's a tradition to wear the convention shirt to the closing session
- Jackets/hoodies for the hotel ballrooms

WHAT ELSE TO PACK

- Snacks for traveling and for your stay at the hotel. That way you can save money and keep your energy up for those afternoon sessions.
- A reusable water bottle
- Chargers for all of your devices
- Technology equipment, especially for those in contests, including cameras, video cameras, microphones, computers, memory cards, extra batteries, power cords, etc.
- Note taking supplies, including notebooks, pens/pencils.

RULES

In addition to all rules set forth by your adviser, school and school district, ASPA has the following rules for all participants of the convention:

- Students must keep their adviser informed of their whereabouts at all times, attend all sessions, meetings and activities as directed by their adviser and refrain from going anywhere alone.
- Students may not have members of the opposite sex in their hotel rooms.
- All students must be in their assigned hotel rooms by the 11:30 p.m. curfew
- School appropriate clothing and ASPA convention name tags are required at all times.
- Cheating on contests is prohibited. Contest entrants signify that only those names submitted to the Reviewr website had any part in the creation and editing of entries. No additional help, including from advisers, is allowed.
- Drones are not permitted at anytime during the convention.
- Students are prohibited from using the pools, fitness center and hot tubs.
- Possession and/or consumption of alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs, as well as possession of weapons, are strictly prohibited.
- Rudeness to hotel guests and employees, excessive noise in all hotel areas, destruction of property and entering "off limits" or employee only areas of the hotel is unacceptable and may lead to expulsion from the hotel and/or criminal prosecution by the hotel.

No student will be allowed to attend the convention or stay on hotel property if they and their parents have not filled out and turned in the ASPA 2024 State Convention Student Permission Form to their adviser.

The ASPA executive board reserves the right to immediately remove any student found in violation of these rules. If removed, they will be required to leave the property and will be responsible for all expenses associated with removal. Registration fees and hotel costs will not be reimbursed and school administrators will be notified by ASPA of the violation.

ADVISER CONVENTION PLANNING GUIDE

Welcome to the 2024 ASPA state convention. We are excited to have you join us at the Marriott Little Rock and Statehouse Convention Center. The Arkansas Scholastic Press Association and its executive board, district directors and student representatives from around the state have worked hard to build a quality program geared toward propelling today's scholastic journalists into this ever-changing media landscape. Now more than ever, we're looking for you to help make our state convention one of the best in the nation. Please make sure to review these guidelines with your students prior to joining us on April 25, 2024, and if you have any questions, feel free to reach out to us.

GENERAL INFO

- Set the tone for the convention at the very beginning. Your enthusiasm is contagious and pumped-up students will have a great time at convention.
- Start your paperwork early. It takes time to get permission to attend an overnight convention and to get checks processed.
- Book hotel rooms and send them your school's tax exempt certificate. Remember, you must stay at the Marriott Little Rock in order to attend.
- Arrange transportation to the convention and parking.
- Go over the Student Convention Planning Guide and Student Permission Form with your students. Be sure they understand the importance of behaving responsibly.
- Talk to your students about their goals for convention and stress the importance of attending sessions and competing in contests. Tell them to take notes and ask questions and encourage them to network with students from other schools.
- Meet with chaperone's so they understand their roles and responsibilities, as well as the rules and expectations for convention.

PACKING LIST

- ASPA Student Permission forms for every student attending. Any student missing a form will be sent home immediately at school or parental expense.
- A copy of your hotel reservation and your school's tax exempt certificate.
- A light jacket; meeting rooms are often very cold.
- Technology equipment, especially for those in contests, including cameras, video cameras, microphones, computers, memory cards, extra batteries, power cords, etc.
- A list of all of your students' cell phone numbers.

ADVISER/CHAPERONE RESPONSIBILITIES

- All advisers and staffs must stay in the convention hotel, Marriott Little Rock.
- Each registered media program may bring no more than the 60 students that were all registered prior to the convention.
- Chaperone-to-student ratio should be no more than 10 students per chaperone and/or should meet your district's requirements.
- Teachers and chaperones who assume the responsibilities of accompanying students on an out-of-town trip should recognize they are assuming a 24-hour-a-day responsibility. Advisers must be in charge at all times. Advisers and chaperones should not make personal plans away from the hotel site.
- Advisers must ensure that students do not have members of the opposite sex in their hotel rooms and that all students must be in their assigned hotel rooms by the 11:30 p.m. curfew. Adviser should never retire until all students are checked in for the night.
- Advisers must accurately check on the students assigned to them at all times. At no time should students be "turned loose."
- Possession and/or consumption of alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs as well as possession of weapons are strictly prohibited.
- ASPA convention name tags are required at all times.
- If a student violates convention rules, the adviser is responsible for helping enforce the consequences, which may include sending the student home at parental expense the day of the infraction.

By signing this form, I agree to abide by the above responsibilities and have reviewed the rules listed on the Student Convention Planning Guide with my students. I understand that I am responsible for my students at all times during the convention.

ADVISER SIGNATURE

DATE

SCHOOL NAME

ADVISER NAME (PRINTED)

PHONE NUMBER THAT ADVISER CAN BE REACHED 24/7 DURING CONVENTION

2024 ASPA STATE CONVENTION STUDENT PERMISSION FORM

STUDENT LAST NAME	STUDENT FIRST NAME	STUDENT DATE OF BIRTH	SCHOOL NAME
PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN NAME		PARENT/GUARDIAN CELL PHONE NUMBER	PARENT/GUARDIAN WORK PHONE NUMBER
INSURANCE COMPANY NAME	POLICY NUMBER	GROUP NUMBER	INSURANCE COMPANY PHONE NUMBER
PRIMARY POLICY HOLDER NAME	PRIMARY POLICY HOLDER DATE OF BIRTH	CURRENT MEDICATIONS (IF ANY)	
ALLERGIES (IF ANY)	ANY MEDICAL CONDITIONS OR DISABILITIES OF WHICH FSPA SHOULD BE AWARE OF? PLEASE EXPLAIN.		
EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME	EMERGENCY CONTACT PHONE NUMBER	RELATIONSHIP TO STUDENT	

READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING

In consideration for my and/or my child's participation in ASPA State Convention (hereinafter referred to as "Program"), I hereby RELEASE, WAIVE, DISCHARGE AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE the Arkansas Scholastic Press Association ("ASPA"), its board of directors, volunteers, assigns, and host university, the University of Arkansas and the School of Journalism and Strategic Media, ("RELEASEES") from any and all liability, claims, demands, actions and causes of action whatsoever arising out of or related to any loss, damage, or injury, including death, that may be sustained by me and/or my child, or to any property belonging to me, WHETHER CAUSED BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES or otherwise, while participating in the Program, or while in, on or upon the premises where the Program is being conducted.

IDENTIFICATION AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RISK

I am fully aware of the risks and potential hazards connected with participating in the Program, including but not limited to, the risk of loss of personal property from theft, risks or injuries associated with Program, and other injuries that may not be foreseeable, and I hereby elect to voluntarily participate in the Program, and engage in such activity knowing that the activity may be hazardous to myself, my child and my property. Program participants will stay overnight in a hotel that has persons not involved with ASPA or the Program also staying on site. Living in and walking around hotel property involves risks, known and unknown, for all persons, including Program participants. I VOLUNTARILY ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY RISKS OF LOSS, PROPERTY DAMAGE OR PERSONAL INJURY, INCLUDING DEATH, that may be sustained by me or my child, or any loss or damage to property owned by me, as a result of my child being engaged in the Program, WHETHER CAUSED BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF RELEASEES or otherwise.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GOOD MENTAL AND PHYSICAL CONDITION

I further acknowledge that both myself and my child are in good mental and physical condition and I do not know of any medical or physical condition, or other reason, that myself and/or my child should not participate in the Program or which could interfere with my or my child's safety in such Program, or else I am willing to assume — and bear the cost of — all risks that may be created, directly or indirectly, by any such condition. My and/or my child's participation in any Program Activity is purely voluntary, and I elect to participate and/or have my child participate despite the risks and known or unknown dangers associated with Program Activities.

CONSENT TO MEDICAL TREATMENT

During the Program, I hereby give permission for Program staff to administer appropriate medical attention to myself and/or my child in the event of any accident, illness, or injury, including non-prescription medications or any prescribed medications my child brings to Program in original containers with dosage instructions. In the event of an emergency, 911 will be called, and I will be responsible for any and all costs of medical coverage and treatment provided not covered by my or my child's insurance.

CONSENT TO PHOTOGRAPHY/RECORDING

I further authorize ASPA to photograph and video and/or audio record myself and/or my child during the Program and use or distribute any picture or video/audio recording ("Materials") related to Program activities in which myself and/or my child are depicted. I also authorize use of these Materials for publication in promotional materials, on the ASPA website, and social media accounts.

PERSONAL CONDUCT AGREEMENT

While participating in the Program, attendees represent ASPA, their media programs and their schools. In addition to expectations set forth by the venue, my and/or my child's adviser, school and local school district, ASPA has established behavioral expectations ("Expectations") that must be observed by all participants.

Expectations for Program include, but are not limited to:

- Attend all sessions, meetings and activities as directed by my and/or my child's adviser
- Keep my and/or my child's adviser informed of my activities and whereabouts at all times
- Wear official ASPA name tags at all times during Program
- Wear school appropriate clothing at all time during Program
- No possession of any alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs or weapons
- Treat the venue, Program staff and volunteers and other participants with respect
- Do not be in hotel room of a member of the opposite sex

ASPA reserves the right to immediately terminate Program attendance of any participant found to have violated Expectations. They will be required to leave the property and will be responsible for all expenses associated with termination. Registration fees and venue costs will not be reimbursed and school administrators will be notified.

RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY

I HEREBY EXPRESSLY RECOGNIZE AND ASSUME ALL RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH MY AND/OR MY CHILD'S PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM AND VOLUNTARILY RELEASE, WAIVE, DISCHARGE, COVENANT NOT TO SUE AND HOLD HARMLESS THE RELEASEES. I AGREE TO INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS THE RELEASEES from any loss, liability, damage or costs, including court costs and attorneys' fees, that may incur due to my and/or my child's participation in the Program, WHETHER CAUSED BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF RELEASEES or otherwise. It is my express intent that this Participant Consent, Release and Waiver of Liability ("Waiver") shall bind the members of my family and spouse, if I am alive, and my heirs, assigns and personal representative, if I am deceased, and shall be deemed as a RELEASE, WAIVER, DISCHARGE AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE the above-named RELEASEES. I hereby further agree that this Waiver shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Arkansas.

IN SIGNING THIS WAIVER, I ACKNOWLEDGE AND REPRESENT THAT I have read the foregoing, understand it and sign it voluntarily as my own free act and deed; no oral representations, statements, or inducement, apart from the foregoing written agreement, have been made; I am at least eighteen (18) years of age and fully competent and I am the parent or guardian of the child participant, and I execute this Waiver for full, adequate and complete consideration, fully intending to be bound by same.

PARTICIPANT SIGNATURE	DATE
PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN SIGNATURE	DATE
ADVISER AND PRINCIPAL APPROVAL	
I hereby certify that the participant named in this permission form is a student in good standing in our school and community. Therefore, without reservation, I approve their attendance at the Program.	
ADVISER SIGNATURE	DATE
ADVISER NAME (PRINTED)	
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR SIGNATURE	DATE
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR NAME (PRINTED)	

CONVENTION REGISTRATION.

Register for the 2024 Arkansas Scholastic Press Association State Convention in Little Rock, Arkansas on April 25 and 26th. This year's convention registration form is completely digital and can be found under the "2024 State Convention" menu on the ASPA website. **All registration must be done on Eventbrite.** However, a paper form is below if required by your school district in addition to Eventbrite. The convention will offer several workshop sessions from industry professionals and educators, prompted contests and award presentations, networking events and more.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

School Name: _____

Adviser's Name: _____

School Phone Number: _____

School Mailing Address: _____

City, State & Zip Code: _____

Adviser E-mail Address: _____

Adviser Cell Number: _____

• Marriott Little Rock, 3 Statehouse Plaza, Little Rock, AR 72201, (501) 906-4000, is the official convention hotel. We encourage all attendees to stay at the Marriott. It is your responsibility to book hotel rooms, which is not included in the convention registration fee.

• If you have any questions, call Renette McCargo at (479) 208-7121 or email rmccargo@arkansasscholasticpressassociation.org. You may also email Charli Thweatt, media@arkansasscholasticpressassociation.org.

PHOTOGRAPHY NOTICE: Be aware that by participating in ASPA's public forum, "The 2024 ASPA State Convention and Contests," you are automatically authorizing the Arkansas Scholastic Press Association (hereinafter "ASPA") and its employees, agents and assigns to use your name, photograph, voice and/or other likeness for purposes related to the mission of ASPA, including but not limited to publicity, marketing, websites, other electronic forms of media, and promotion of ASPA and its various programs.

CONVENTION FEES

PRICE:
\$75.00 per attendee
Feb. 06 - April 12

This fee includes awards, workshop sessions, on-site contests, a banquet and social events.

Number of Student's: _____

Number of Adviser's: _____

Number of Others: _____

Total Attending: (@ \$75 per person) _____

***Advanced payment is required.** Please pay all fees with one check. **Refunds cannot be issued.**

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: \$

If not paying online, send this form with payment and a typed list of all persons attending to:

ARKANSAS SCHOLASTIC PRESS ASSOCIATION
c/o Charli Thweatt
PO Box 1380
Forrest City, AR 72336

"Press the Issue" Convention T-Shirts

Option 1: Pre-order your "Press the Issue" convention t-shirt today! Simply fill out the order form via the ASPA website for those needing an invoice request, etc.

Option 2: Order and pay by card online! Simply visit the ASPA Store, select a size, complete the order form and submit your payment at checkout.

www.arkansasscholasticpressassociation.org/aspa-store

HOTEL. CONVENTION



MARRIOTT LITTLE ROCK

3 Statehouse Plaza, Little Rock, AR 72201

Bookings Over 4 Rooms Call:

(501) 906-4000

ROOM RATES:

\$149.00 per room, per night plus a 14.62% tax rate.

GROUP CODE:

ASPA ANNUAL MAR2024

RESERVATION & ROOMING LIST DEADLINE:

March 26, 2024

RESERVATION LINK:

www.arkansascholasticpressassociation.org/hotels-2024



Hotel reservation information will be found in your registration confirmation email provided by the hotel. You must register for the convention before you can reserve hotel rooms.

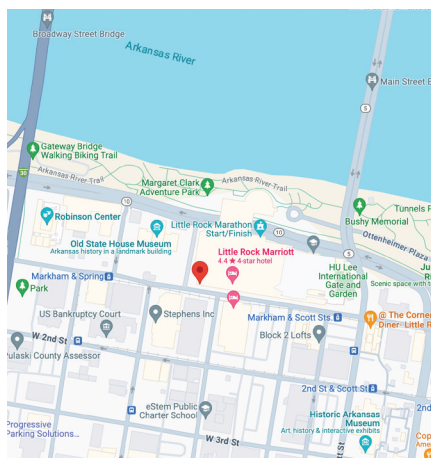
To take full advantage of the convention, members who live outside the Little Rock metro area are encouraged to stay at the sanctioned and officially designated ASPA convention hotel.

March 25, 2024 is the deadline for hotel reservations and rooming lists. Neither the hotel nor ASPA can guarantee availability after this deadline, and/or once the hotel group block has sold out. Please do not book more rooms than needed. If you cancel a room reservation, the hotels are not obligated to return those rooms to the convention block. This means other attendees would have to pay the hotels standard nightly rate per room OR result in ASPA not meeting the "group block"

which could affect the cost of this and future conventions.

Convention officials strongly recommend you make hotel reservations well in advance of the March 25 deadline. After this date, the hotel will release any unsold rooms under the group block to the general public at hotels standard nightly rates. As always, there are a limited number of rooms at each hotel. Once the main hotel is fully booked, alternative overflow hotels will have limited rooms at special rates for ASPA guests. However, ASPA cannot guarantee availability of overflow lodging.

NOTE: Bus parking must be approved with the Marriott Little Rock hotel and/or Little Rock Convention & Visitors Bureau prior to arrival. ASPA is not responsible for any parking or additional fees.



SCAN ME

Scan the QR code for booking and parking maps.





Arkansas Soul,
Soul Crew

YOUR TIME TO SHINE!

The Arkansas Soul, Soul Crew Program seeks to collaborate with collegiate BIPOC students to help share, produce, and support the voices of diverse populations across the state.



1. Create **TWO** pieces of content (written or visual) for the Arkansas Soul website
2. Receive \$500 to spend as you please!

Join Now!



www.argotsoul.com

OFFICER SCHOOLS

The majority of the work at convention is done by the advisers and staffs of the officer schools, and ASPA heavily encourages schools to run. Officer Schools are elected at the convention the year before they take office. If your school is interested in running for office, you, as the adviser, should email **Andrew Young** at **andrew.young@fayar.net** to discuss duties and campaigning procedures.

To simplify things, here's a quick list of requirements to think about before running:

- Your staff must have a current 2024+ ASPA membership.
- Your staff must attend the ASPA State Convention on April 25-26, 2024 in Little Rock, Arkansas.
- Your staff must attend the 2025 & 2026 state conventions in Little Rock, Arkansas.
- Your staff (or at least a portion of your staff members) will need to stay in the hotel the night of and the night before the convention to help prepare for the 2025 and 2026 conventions.

If your staff is interested, please fill out the information below and email this form by **March 24, 2024** to, Charli Thweatt at: media@arkansasscholasticpressassociation.org.

School Name: _____
Name(s) of Adviser(s): _____
Phone Number(s) of Adviser(s): _____
Signature(s) of Adviser(s): _____

Your School's Staff(s) willing to serve (circle all that apply):

☐ Broadcast ☐ Film/Video ☐ Literary Magazine ☐ Digital Newspaper ☐ Print Newspaper ☐ Yearbook

ASPA Office Sought:

☐ President ☐ Vice President ☐ Secretary ☐ Media School

While it is the duty of the board to decide each year what the exact duties of the officer schools are, generally some of the duties are as follows:

President—Creates the convention theme, designs programs, runs registration, announces some winners, etc.

Vice President—Decorates for and seats students at the awards banquet, etc.

Secretary—Helps print certificates, hands out certificates, post on social media accounts, etc.

Media School—Creates slide shows, helps with AV equipment, assists speakers, etc.

2024 OFFICER SCHOOLS

Har-Ber High School
President School
Karla Sprague

Armored High School
Secretary School
Brittini Johnson

Little Rock Central High School
Vice President School
Beth Shull & Roy Vaughn

Fayetteville High School
Media School
John Gossett

DR. WILLIAM DAVID DOWNS JR. SCHOLARSHIP.

2024 SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION | DEADLINE: MARCH 24, 2024

The Arkansas Scholastic Press Association voted to rename the ASPA Scholarship to the Dr. William David Downs Jr. Scholarship to honor the former ASPA director and late Dr. William D. Downs Jr. This scholarship is a one-time, \$500 scholarship that will be awarded to a student who will attend a public or private college or university and major in journalism, broadcast or film. Other related fields of study may be awarded by the discretion of the scholarship committee.

The winner of the scholarship will be announced at the 2024 ASPA State Convention on April 25, 2024. A check for the scholarship will be sent directly to the college or university upon proof of enrollment by the student.

QUALIFICATIONS

- The applicant must be a high school senior enrolled in an Arkansas high school—public or private.
- The applicant must be an active member of an ASPA media staff at that school.
- The applicant must register and attend the 2024 ASPA State Convention on April 25th and 26th in Little Rock, Arkansas.
- A minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale is required.

REQUIREMENTS

- The applicant must submit a candidate packet, which should include the items listed below.
- Additional materials may NOT be included.
- All items should be placed in at least a 9" x 12" envelope and mailed on or before March 24, 2024.

CANDIDATE PACKET ITEMS

- An official Dr. William David Downs Jr. Scholarship Application form with the required signatures.
- An official high school transcript (must include the first semester of the student's senior year).
- An essay (500-750 words) explaining why the student feels he or she deserves and needs the scholarship, what the student's interests in journalism are, what the student's plans are for the future and any other information the student feels they should include.
- Three samples of the student's original work: photographs, copy, designs, etc.

The packet should be mailed and postmarked on or before March 24, 2024 to:

Arkansas Scholastic Press Association
C/o Renette McCargo
PO Box 1380
Forrest City, AR 72336

DR. WILLIAM DAVID DOWNS JR. SCHOLARSHIP.

2024 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION | DEADLINE: MARCH 24, 2024

Applicant's Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____

High School: _____

Type of Media (circle all applicable):

Broadcast
Film or Video
Literary Magazine
Digital/Print Newspaper
Yearbook

Number of Years on Staff: _____ **Staff Position(s):** _____

Future College: _____

Planned Major: _____

Annual Household Income: _____

I hereby state that all information contained in this Dr. William David Downs Jr. Scholarship Application Packet is true and accurate.

I am eligible for this award as described in the qualifications section of the information form. I created the enclosed application document independently using my own ideas, creativity and skills.

Applicant's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

I hereby state that the information contained in this packet is accurate to the best of my knowledge. This student is an active member of the publication staff at my school, and I do hereby recommend that this student be awarded the Dr. William David Downs Jr. Scholarship.

Adviser's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Counselor's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

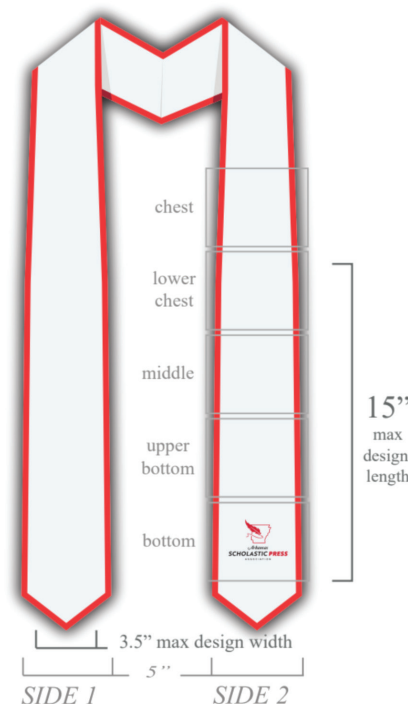
ASPA GRADUATE SCHOLAR.

2024 SCHOLAR INFORMATION | DEADLINE: MARCH 24, 2024

REQUIREMENTS

To qualify to be an Arkansas Scholastic Press Association Graduate Scholar, a student must meet ALL of the following requirements:

1. Be a graduating senior and serve on any ASPA member broadcast, film, video, literary magazine, digital newspaper, print newspaper and/or yearbook staff.
2. Have served on an ASPA-member staff for two years (the present year included) OR have served on an ASPA-member staff for one year AND taken one year of Journalism I or an equivalent course while in high school.
3. Have at least a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale.
4. Be registered for AND attend the 2024 ASPA Convention on April 25-26, 2024 in Little Rock, Arkansas. When the ASPA Graduate Scholars will be recognized.
5. Complete and mail the ASPA Graduate Scholar Application with payment on or before March 24, 2024. Items can be purchased via the ASPA Store. (Email the completed application to Charli Thweatt at media@arkansasscholasticpressassociation.org).



The ASPA Graduate Scholar Stoles feature the ASPA logo in black and red on a white satin stole with red trimming. **Stoles**

BENEFITS

The following benefits are bestowed upon all Arkansas Scholastic Press Association Graduate Scholars:

Recognition April 25, 2024, at the Arkansas Scholastic Press Association convention during the Walsworth Awards Banquet.

1. Inclusion in the ASPA Graduate Scholars' permanent registry, which may be viewed online.
2. A certificate—suitable for framing— recognizing the student as an official ASPA Graduate Scholar.
3. The choice of an ASPA Graduate Scholar stole or cord, which may be worn at graduation (if allowed by the student's school).



The 2024 ASPA Graduate Scholar Cords are two-toned in red and black to represent the ASPA logo colors. **Cords are \$12 each.**

Students may purchase both cords and stoles in the ASPA Store or by mail order.

ASPA GRADUATE SCHOLAR.

2024 SCHOLAR INFORMATION | DEADLINE: MARCH 24, 2024

STUDENT INFORMATION

Student's Name: _____

Adviser Name: _____

Name of School: _____

School Phone: _____

Type of Media:

- ☐ Broadcast
- ☐ Film & Video
- ☐ Literary Magazine
- ☐ Digital/Print Newspaper
- ☐ Yearbook

Number of Years on Staff: _____

Student's GPA*: _____

Circle at least one: ASPA Graduate Scholar STOLE ASPA Graduate Scholar CORD



STUDENT VERIFICATION

By signing below, I assure the Arkansas Scholastic Press Association that I meet all of the requirements listed above and all the information provided on this application is accurate.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

COUNSELOR VERIFICATION

By signing below, I assure the Arkansas Scholastic Press Association that the student meets all of the requirements listed above and all the information provided on this application is accurate.

Counselor's Name: _____ Date: _____

Counselor's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Mail this form with online payment or a check for (\$12/cords, \$40/stoles) made payable to "Arkansas Scholastic Press Association" to:

ARKANSAS SCHOLASTIC PRESS ASSOCIATION
c/o Charli Thweatt
PO Box 1380
Forrest City, AR 72336

This application must be postmarked on or before March 24, 2024.



LINK THE FUTURE. HAPPY STORY.

ASPA PROMPTED CONTESTS.

2024 STATE CONVENTION | APRIL 25 | LITTLE ROCK, ARK

Previously referred to as on-site contests, the 2024 prompted contest registration opens February 22 at 4:00 a.m. Central and closes April 7 at 11:59 p.m. Central. Advisers must have an active 2024+ ASPA Membership for each publication whose staff members they wish to register. ASPA executives reserve the right to ban, disqualify and/or recall any plagiarized or illegal entries; including but not limited to any AI-generated or AI-assisted entries submitted as student work. Review the following guide for contest descriptions and judging criteria. For other questions about the 2024 prompted competitions, please e-mail our on-sites director, Meag Abo at: mabo@bryantschools.org. For additional information and to register for on-sites, please visit: www.arkansasscholasticpressassociation.org/onsites

IMPORTANT DETAILS:

1). There are no fees for prompted competitions. 2). Students must be registered ONLINE by the deadline and can only be registered for one (1) category. Only one (1) student per ASPA-registered staff. 3). Student changes or substitutions are NOT permitted once registration has been submitted. 4). **Students are responsible for all supplies needed to complete the assignment including: laptops, tablets, cameras, microphones, lighting, batteries, charging cables, etc.** 5). Internet and wifi compatible devices and access are required for all computer-generated categories. The venue will provide limited-access wifi, however, ASPA cannot guarantee this service will properly work with personal devices OR the volume of individuals using the venues internet services. 6). Refer to the ASPA website for other important details and instructions.

PROMPTED CONTEST CATEGORIES

COMPUTER-GENERATED CONTESTS:

- Literary Magazine Layout Design
- Literary Magazine Theme Development
- Newspaper Advertising Design
- Newspaper Infographic Design
- Newspaper Layout Design
- Social Media Production
- Yearbook Advertising Design
- Yearbook Academics Layout
- Yearbook Clubs Layout
- Yearbook Sports Layout
- Yearbook Student Life Layout
- Yearbook Special Coverage Layout
- Yearbook Theme Development
- Social Media Production

***Students must be able to save files as a PDF and upload to Reviewr. Advisers will receive a link to digital materials 48 hours prior to convention which should be downloaded before competition.**

****Students in social media production will need access to Instagram. They must use the exact hashtag provided on the prompt given at registration, post their social media post prior to the indicated deadline and ensure that the post is public.**

PAPER-BASED CONTESTS:

- Literary Magazine Essay
- Literary Magazine Layout Design

- Literary Magazine Personal Narrative
- Literary Magazine Poetry
- Literary Magazine Short Story
- Literary Magazine Theme Development
- Newspaper Advertising Design
- Newspaper Editorial Writing
- Newspaper Feature Writing
- Newspaper Infographic Design
- Newspaper Interviewing/Reporting
- Newspaper Layout Design
- Newspaper News Writing
- Newspaper Review Writing
- Newspaper Sports Writing
- Social Media Marketing Plan
- Yearbook Advertising Design
- Yearbook Academic Copy
- Yearbook People Copy
- Yearbook Sports Copy
- Yearbook Student Life Copy
- Yearbook Design Layout
- Yearbook Special Coverage Layout
- Yearbook Theme Development
- Headlines/Captions/Copyediting
- Editorial Cartooning
- Marketing Plan

BROADCAST & FILM CONTESTS:

- Broadcast Reporting
- Broadcast Commercial/Promo
- Broadcast Feature Story (Carry-In)
- Broadcast News Challenge (Carry-In)
- Broadcast Sports Challenge (Carry-In)

- Convention Recap
- Movie Trailer (Carry-In)
- Music Video (Carry-In)
- Short Film (Carry-In)
- Silent Film

***Students must be able to upload to Reviewr.**

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTESTS:

- Artistic Photography (Carry-In)
- Journalistic Photography (Carry-In)
- Photo Story (Carry-In)
- Sports Photography (Carry-In)
- Thematic Photo Series (Carry-In)
- Artistic Photography
- Enterprise Shooting

******“Carry-in” indicates a category in which advisers will receive prompts prior to convention to distribute to their students. Students should upload all carry-in contests prior to convention via Reviewr. Students may not participate in a carry-in category and another category in the same year.**

ALLOWED MATERIALS FOR ALL CONTESTS:

- Dictionary
- Thesaurus
- AP Stylebook

COMPUTER-GENERATED

CONTESTANT RESPONSIBILITIES: Contestants must bring their own laptop devices compatible with internet and/or wifi connections, and power cords. Contestants should supply their own computers that can independently run on battery power. ASPA is aware that not all staffs have laptops available to them, therefore, a limited number of electrical outlets will be available on a first-come-first served basis. ***Extension cords, power strips, etc. are not supplied by ASPA and are, therefore, the responsibility of the contestants.***

The venue will supply limited-access internet and wifi to contestants in the computer-generated contests. Contestants may use traditional programs (InDesign) or online design programs (Canva, Studio Works, etc.). Contestants may NOT use any pre-designed elements, including but not limited to any AI-generated or AI-assisted entries. Any contestants caught plagiarising or using unallowed materials will be disqualified and permanently banned from all ASPA sponsored contests and/or events. In the event of an internet outage at the venue during prompted contests, please have a flash drive available.

LITERARY MAGAZINE LAYOUT DESIGN • Contestants will use provided material to create a double-page magazine layout. Judges will look for clean layout relating to selected copy; impact, action or emotion in design; instructions adhered to; positioning of copy, title, art, photos and captions in relation to each other; use of current trends.

LITERARY MAGAZINE THEME DEVELOPMENT • Contestants will use provided material and prompt to create a theme package. Judges will look for elements that reflect the visual and verbal representation of the theme and graphics that add to the theme to create an effective and visually appealing theme package.

NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING DESIGN • Contestants will use provided information to create two ads. Judges will look for typography and artistic details that fit the topic or content and follow current design trends; appropriate business, event or organizational identification.

INFOGRAPHIC DESIGN • Contestants will use provided material to create an infographic design. Judges will look for entries that properly attribute information; visually make a point; use appropriate format/design; typography fits topic or content; artistic details fit topic or content; follow current design trends.

NEWSPAPER LAYOUT DESIGN • Contestants will use provided material to create a newspaper design. Judges will look for clean layout; creativity; effective positioning of the elements; effective selection, scaling and cropping of photos; effective font choices and sizes; varied headline sizes; a clear focal point; text flow easy to follow; evidence of consideration for readers; consistent use of styles; creative graphics; a sense of personality or style.

SOCIAL MEDIA PRODUCTION • Contestants must have access to a social media profile and will create a social media post promoting ASPA.

YEARBOOK ADVERTISING DESIGN • Contestants will use provided information to create two ads. Judges will look for typography and artistic details that fit the topic or content and follow current design trends; appropriate business, event or organizational identification.

YEARBOOK: ACADEMICS LAYOUT, CLUBS LAYOUT, SPORTS LAYOUT, STUDENT-LIFE LAYOUT, SPECIAL COVERAGE LAYOUT • Contestants will use provided material to create a double-page layout appropriate to a specific section of the yearbook. Judges will look for adhering to instructions; using a dominant photo; effective positioning of headlines, copy blocks, and captions; incorporation of theme; using current design trends; adhering to design rules; using effective fonts and point sizes for copy, headlines and captions; adhering to visual hierarchy and guiding reader through the spread; effectively balancing photos and copy blocks; using graphics that add to design; effective cropping of photos; including essential layout elements such as page numbers and folio design.

YEARBOOK THEME DEVELOPMENT • Contestants will use provided information to create a yearbook theme packet to include a cover, a front end-sheet and an opener or divider spread. Judges will look for elements that reflect visual and verbal representation of the theme; spine includes school name, city and state, volume, year, publication name; cover includes theme, publication name, year; graphics add to theme, effective cropping of photos (if used); creative and visually attractive.

PAPER-BASED

CONTESTANT RESPONSIBILITIES: Computers are not allowed for these contests. Contestants must bring their own supplies, including pens, paper, pencil, rules, markers, scissors, glue, dictionaries, AP stylebooks, etc. Magazines may be brought and cut to use photos, graphics and type to represent copy. This is suggested, but it is not required. Writing assignments must be completed on standard-sized paper with pencil or black ink. Layout/design assignments should be hand drawn to represent your ideas. Font, type size, color and other details may be indicated.

LITERARY MAGAZINE ESSAY • Contestants will receive a prompt to use in writing a three to five page essay. Judges will look for originality and creativity, concise writing, word choice and few convention errors.

LITERARY MAGAZINE LAYOUT DESIGN • Contestants will use provided material to create a double-page magazine layout. Judges will look for clean layout and design relating to selected copy; impact, action or emotion in design; instructions adhered to; positioning of copy, title, art, photos and captions in relation to each other; use of current graphic trends.

LITERARY MAGAZINE PERSONAL NARRATIVE • Contestants will receive a prompt to use in writing a three to five page personal narrative. Judges will look for originality and creativity, concise writing, word choice and few convention errors. Judges will consider use of concrete language, figurative language and imagery; the use of literary devices (simile, metaphor, repetition); voice; and development of tone and mood to create an emotional impact.

LITERARY MAGAZINE POETRY • Contestants will be given a prompt to use in creating a poem of 6-20 lines. Judges will look for originality and creativity, concise writing and word choice. Judges will consider use of concrete language, figurative language and imagery; the use of literary devices (simile, metaphor, repetition); cadence; verb tense; and development of tone and mood to create an emotional impact. Few convention errors.

LITERARY MAGAZINE SHORT STORY • Contestants will receive a prompt to use in writing a three to five page fictional short story. Judges will look for originality and creativity, concise writing, word choice and few convention errors. Judges will consider use of concrete language, figurative language and imagery; the use of literary devices (simile, metaphor, repetition); voice; and development of tone and mood to create an emotional impact.

LITERARY MAGAZINE THEME DEVELOPMENT • Contestants will use provided material and prompt to create a theme package. Judges will look for elements that reflect the visual and verbal representation of the theme and graphics that add to the theme to create an effective and visually appealing theme package.

NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING DESIGN • Contestants will use provided information to create two ads. Judges will look for typography and artistic details that fit the topic or content and follow current design trends; appropriate business, event or organizational identification.

NEWSPAPER EDITORIAL WRITING • Contestants will write a 350-500 word editorial that expresses a point of view on a provided prompt. Judges will look for a persuasive lead that quickly reaches assertion, a single manageable proposition, editorial format, clear purpose, opposing arguments refuted, fully developed arguments; facts support lead assertion, strong conclusion, few convention errors, consistent use of journalistic style.

NEWSPAPER FEATURE WRITING • Contestants will use provided information to complete a three to five page story. Judges will look for an informative lead that hooks readers; use of facts rather than generalizations; good use of detail, quotes, attribution, description and transitions; concise writing; few convention errors; consistent use of journalistic style; accuracy, completeness and elimination of extraneous material.

INFOGRAPHIC DESIGN • Contestants will use provided material to create an infographic design. Judges will look for entries that properly attribute information; visually make a point; use appropriate format/design; typography fits topic or content; artistic details fit topic or content; follow current design trends.

NEWSPAPER INTERVIEWING/REPORTING • Contestants will interview an individual press conference style. Questions will need to be written prior to the interview, and afterwards, students will write a feature story. Judges will look for thorough questioning that reflects knowledge of the story topic; a story which reflects active listening skills and the ability to develop follow-up questions on the spot.

NEWSPAPER LAYOUT DESIGN • Contestants will use provided material to create a newspaper design. Judges will look for clean layout; creativity; effective positioning of the elements; effective selection, scaling and cropping of photos; effective font choices and sizes; varied headline sizes; a clear focal point; text flow easy to follow; evidence of consideration for readers; consistent use of styles; creative graphics; a sense of personality or style.

NEWSPAPER NEWS WRITING • Contestants will use provided information to write a three to five page story. Judges will look for an informative and engaging lead; use of facts, avoids generalizations; good use of detail, attributed quotes, transitions; concise writing; few convention errors; consistent use of AP style; accuracy, completeness.

NEWSPAPER REVIEW WRITING • Contestants will write a three to five page review of provided material. Judges will look for a persuasive lead that quickly reaches assertion and/or attention-grabbing lead; clear expression of opinions; opinions supported by colorful, specific details; strengths and weaknesses clearly noted; few convention errors; consistent use of journalistic style; accuracy, completeness, and word choice.

NEWSPAPER SPORTS WRITING • Contestants will use provided information to complete a three to five page story. Judges will look for an informative lead that hooks readers; use of facts rather than generalizations; good use of detail, quotes, attribution, description and transitions; concise writing; few convention errors; consistent use of journalistic style; accuracy, completeness.

MARKETING PLAN • Contestants will design and write marketing materials for sales or contest promotion (including, but not limited to, yearbook sales, subscription sales, or story/website promotion). Judges will look for attractive graphics that include all necessary information and effective marketing copy.

YEARBOOK ADVERTISING DESIGN • Contestants will use provided information to create two ads. Judges will look for typography and artistic details that fit the topic or content and follow current design trends.

YEARBOOK ACADEMIC COPY, PEOPLE COPY, SPORTS COPY, STUDENT-LIFE COPY • Contestants will use provided information to create a 300-500 word story appropriate to a specific section of the yearbook. Judges will look for good judgment in fact and quote selections; well-written active-verb copy that appeals to the reader; interesting lead; quotations used correctly and effectively; colorful details; good use of transitions; avoids cliché; original angle; headline intriguing and inviting, knowledge of AP style; contains few convention errors.

YEARBOOK DESIGN LAYOUT • Contestants will create a yearbook design. Judges will look for clean layout; creativity; effective positioning of the elements; effective selection, scaling and cropping of photos; effective font choices and sizes; varied headline sizes; a clear focal point; text flow easy to follow; evidence of consideration for readers; consistent use of styles; creative graphics; a sense of personality or style.

YEARBOOK SPECIAL COVERAGE LAYOUT • Contestants will create a double-page layout appropriate to a specific section of the yearbook. Judges will look for adhering to instructions; use of a dominant photo; effective positioning of headlines, copy blocks, and captions; incorporation of theme; using current design trends; adhering to design rules; using effective fonts and point sizes for copy, headlines and captions; adhering to visual hierarchy and guiding reader through the spread; effectively balancing photos and copy blocks; using graphics effectively; effective cropping of photos; including essential layout elements such as folio design.

YEARBOOK THEME DEVELOPMENT • Contestants will use provided information to create a yearbook theme packet to include a cover, a front end-sheet and an opener or divider spread. Judges will look for elements that reflect visual and verbal representation of the theme; spine includes school name, city and state, volume, year, publication name; cover includes theme, publication name, year; graphics add to theme, effective cropping of photos (if used); creative and visually attractive.

BROADCAST & FILM

CONTESTANT RESPONSIBILITIES: Contestants must bring their own laptop devices compatible with internet and/or wifi connections, and power cords. Contestants should supply their own computers that can independently run on battery power. ASPA is aware that not all staffs have laptops available to them, therefore, a limited number of electrical outlets will be available on a first-come-first served basis. ***Extension cords, power strips, etc. are not supplied by ASPA and are, therefore, the responsibility of the contestants.***

The venue will supply limited-access internet and wifi to contestants in the computer-generated contests. Contestants may use traditional programs (InDesign) or online design programs (Canva, Studio Works, etc.). Contestants may NOT use any pre-designed elements, including but not limited to any AI-generated or AI-assisted entries. Any contestants caught plagiarising or using unallowed materials will be disqualified and permanently banned from all ASPA sponsored contests and/or events. In the event of an internet outage at the venue during prompted contests, please have a flash drive available.

BROADCAST REPORTING • Contestants will choose at least three press releases from a provided list and write a script, deciding which stories to prioritize, then present it in a one-take, one-shot performance during the contest period. Entries should be no shorter than 2:30 and no longer than 3 minutes. Judges will look for strong, conversational scripts, order of stories presented, storytelling, transitions, and professionalism. Lighting and audio are a concern and will be taken into account by judges. ***(One team of two students per school).***

BROADCAST COMMERCIAL/PROMOTIONAL ANNOUNCEMENT • Contestants will produce a promotional video from a given prompt during the contest period. Videos should be no shorter than 30 seconds and no longer than one minute. Teams may use video, stills, graphics, effects, ambient sound, etc. but may only use royalty-free music. Judges will pay careful attention to the pacing and impact of the visuals. The delivery of a good concept, presentation of a strong theme, and use of effects (photographic and electronic), will all factor strongly in the judging of this category. The overall impact of the piece will be the major focus in the judging process. ***(One team of two students per school).***

BROADCAST FEATURE STORY • Contestants will produce a feature package about a given prompt during the contest period. Segments should be no shorter than 90 seconds and no longer than 120 seconds. Judges will pay careful attention to the pacing and impact of the storytelling aspects, audio, and visuals. The overall impact of the piece will be the major focus in the judging process. ***(One team of four students per school).***

BROADCAST NEWS CHALLENGE (Carry-in) • Contestants will produce a news package about a given prompt during the contest period. Segments should be no shorter than 90 seconds and no longer than 120 seconds. Judges will pay careful attention to the pacing and impact of the storytelling aspects, audio, and visuals. The overall impact of the piece will be the major focus in the judging process. ***(One team of four students per school).***

BROADCAST SPORTS CHALLENGE (Carry-in) • Contestants will produce a sports package about a given prompt during the contest period. Segments should be no shorter than 90 seconds and no longer than 120 seconds. Judges will pay careful attention to the pacing and impact of the storytelling aspects, audio, and visuals. The overall impact of the piece will be the major focus in the judging process. ***(One team of four students per school).***

CONVENTION RECAP • Contestants will produce a film package about a given prompt during the contest period. Segments should be no shorter than 90 seconds and no longer and 120 seconds. Judges will pay careful attention to the pacing and impact of the storytelling aspects, audio, and visuals. ***(One team of two students per school).***

MOVIE TRAILER (Carry-in) • Contestants will produce a promotional trailer for a provided film prompt during the contest period. Trailers should be no shorter than 30 seconds and no longer than one minute. Entries may use video, stills, graphics, effects, ambient sound, etc. but may only use royalty-free music. Judges will pay careful attention to

The delivery of a good concept, presentation of a strong theme, and use of effects (photographic and electronic), will all factor strongly in the judging of this category. **(One team of four students per school).**

MUSIC VIDEO (Carry-in) • Contestants will produce a music video for a provided song. Students may not shorten or alter the song in any way, but may add up to one minute of narrative before the music video begins. Judges will pay careful attention to the pacing and impact of the visuals. The delivery of a good concept, presentation of a strong theme, and use of effects (photographic and electronic), will all factor strongly in the judging of this category. **(One team of four students per school).**

SHORT FILM (Carry-in) • Contestants will produce a short film that incorporates a given theme and prop during the contest period. Films should be no shorter than three minutes and no longer than five minutes. Entries may use video, stills, graphics, effects, ambient sound, etc. but may only use royalty-free music. Judges will pay careful attention to the pacing and impact of the visuals. The delivery of a good concept, presentation of a strong theme, and use of effects (photographic and electronic), will all factor strongly in the judging of this category. **(One team of four students per school).**

PHOTOGRAPHY

NOTE: Contestants participating must be able to upload their images to Reviewr and provide their own technology. All images are preferred to be in high-resolution or at minimum 72 dpi with an 8x10 photo size.

ARTISTIC PHOTOGRAPHY (Carry-In) • Contestants will submit three artistic images taken during a single event during the 2022-2023 school year. Photos for this category should not be journalistic. Judges will look for artistic value, imaginative subject matter with clear message, technical quality and excellence; photo composition; visual impact; simplicity; cropping; lighting.

ARTISTIC PHOTOGRAPHY • Contestants will submit three artistic images taken during a single event at the 2023 ASPA State Convention. Photos for this category should not be journalistic. Judges will look for artistic value, imaginative subject matter with clear message, technical quality and excellence; photo composition; visual impact; simplicity; cropping; lighting.

JOURNALISTIC PHOTOGRAPHY (Carry-In) • Contestants will submit three journalistic images taken during a single event during the 2022-2023 school year. Photos for this category should be candid and should not be posed or abstract. Judges will look for storytelling moments; technical quality and excellence; photo composition; visual impact; simplicity; cropping; lighting.

PHOTO STORY (Carry-In) • Contestants will turn in a series of five images taken during a single event during the 2022-2023 school year that give better insight into an event or topic. Photos for this category should be journalistic candid and should not be abstract or posed. Judges will look for storytelling moments; technical quality and excellence; photo composition; visual impact; simplicity; cropping; lighting.

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHY (Carry-In) • Contestants will submit three sports images taken during a single event during the 2022-2023 school year. Judges will look for storytelling moments; technical quality and excellence; photo composition; visual impact; simplicity; cropping; lighting.

THEMATIC PHOTO SERIES (Carry-In) • Contestants will take and turn in five images that demonstrate a provided theme in any way they choose. Judges will look for artistic value; imaginative subject matter; technical quality and excellence; photo composition; visual impact; simplicity; cropping; lighting.

ENTERPRISE SHOOTING • Contestants will turn in no more than 24 images during the contest period. Photos for this category should be journalistic candid and should not be abstract or posed. Judges will look for imaginative subject matter with clear message, technical quality and excellence; photo composition; visual impact; simplicity; cropping; lighting and variety.

ARKANSAS JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

THE BASICS

Who

Any high school journalism student, whose adviser is a member of the Journalism Education Association, is eligible to apply.

What

JOY celebrates the work of one high school student per state. State winners are then allowed to compete for the title of national JOY.

When

The Arkansas deadline is February 27. Arkansas's winner will be notified to submit their national portfolio.

Why

Your hard work in high school journalism deserves recognition. You deserve to be recognized for the long hours, the crazy deadlines and the camera that was attached to your side throughout high school.

How

JOY entrants will create a website outlining their work in 11 categories. Once complete, students will submit their website at <https://forms.gle/A2p3cRVPX692hpuc7>

THE PRIZES

\$3,000

The national JOY will win a \$3,000 scholarship.

\$850

Up to 8 runners-up will each win a \$850 scholarship.

JUDGED CATEGORIES

Personal Narrative

Write a self-reflective essay where you'll explain your growth as a journalist. Special attention should be placed on how your scholastic media experience has shaped your current success and future goals as well as showcasing your "voice" as a writer. Finally, this is also a place to outline any journalistic obstacles you've faced and how you solved them.

Organization and Documentation

Judges will look for a portfolio that is organized and easy to navigate. You should include concise reflections that clearly explain why you included each artifact. Judges will also be looking for recommendation letters (including one from your media adviser) that directly address your accomplishments in scholastic media. Finally, you need to include a professional resume that highlights your scholastic media experiences.

Reporting and Writing

Judges are looking for pieces that exemplify excellence. What's excellence? You should focus on work that was meaningful, impactful, included multiple reliable sources and took a while to complete. We're looking for those pieces you were especially proud to publish after working really hard on it. The larger a variety of work you include (news, feature, sports, opinion, etc) the better.

Editing, Leadership and Team Building

We want to see examples that demonstrate your ability to lead...even if you're not an "official editor" on staff. Artifacts could include work you've edited (that shows your feedback) for other staff members, although we're looking less for "add a comma here" and more for commentary that helps the writer grow. You could also include "how tos" or style guides you created for your peers, or your own previous work where you reflect on what you would do differently.

Web and Social Media

You should aim to show examples where you used social media for telling timely, engaging stories. You also should strive to show how you used the specific social media platform's strengths to tell the story in the best way possible (for example, featuring photo galleries on Instagram but telling the same story via short interviews on Snapchat).

Design

Highlight your understanding of the elements of design (contrast, dominance, alignment, etc). Show off your originality and all of the cool things you designed over the years. The best portfolios will show excellent design work beyond just print (for example: websites, social media posts, videos, etc).

Broadcast Journalism

Show your video packages, anchoring, commentaries, documentaries and/or event coverage. Examples should show your ability to edit text, audio, video, graphics, and any other elements that tell the story. You are welcome to include some PSAs, commercials and/or film, but the focus should be on journalistic work.

Photojournalism

Show your best photographs that demonstrate good exposure, composition and color balance. Make sure you're featuring storytelling moments and include captions that give all the essential facts and context.

Laws, Ethics and News Literacy

Through artifacts and reflection, show that you understand the legal and ethical aspects of good journalism and the importance of both you and your staff excelling in those areas. You should also show any ways that you've worked to improve news literacy on your campus or in your community.

Marketing and Audience Engagement

Explain your branding, marketing, sales, fund-raising, distribution and/or social media strategy. Show your knowledge of different ways to fund your publication and the ways you check to see how well you are reaching your audience.

Commitment to Diversity

Show evidence of your commitment to telling stories and engaging with all stakeholders in your school...especially the underrepresented. This commitment can be told via the stories you tell, the sources you use and/or practices you engage in to create a diverse staff. Diversity will look different at every school as the student populations of every school are different, but you every staff should search for ways to diversify their publication.

ALL-STATE JOURNALISM

For too long, journalism students haven't gotten the credit they deserve. Journalism students across the state put in the work and the hours to produce amazing publications that help to tell the story of their school. We want to honor that work.

JEA is proud to begin the search for this year's Arkansas Journalist of the Year and All-State Journalism team. Membership for the All-State Journalism team will be selected from the top 10-20% of JOY applicants.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Do I really need to have evidence of all 8 categories?

A: Absolutely not. Many winners haven't had entries for all 8 categories. The more areas you have quality content for the higher your score, but you can still win without all 8 categories.

Q: Where can I find more information?

A: You can always check out the JOY portion of the JEA website at jea.org/wp/home/awards-honors/journalist-of-the-year/. You can also email journalismteach@gmail.com.

Q: What's JEA?

A: The Journalism Education Association supports free and responsible scholastic journalism. We host curriculum, an online listserv, a variety of scholastic journalism resources, co-host two national journalism conferences a year and host a summer advisers' academy.

Q: What if my adviser isn't a member of JEA?

A: Talk to them about the benefits of joining. JEA is the largest group advocating for scholastic journalism on the national level, the resources are phenomenal, it provides a national professional learning community for teachers that are typically the only ones in their school teaching this content, AND their membership allows you to compete.

Q: Is there scholarship money for winning the Arkansas JOY?

A: Winning at the state level is required before you can compete for the national JOY. Unfortunately, there is no monetary award at the state level, but it is the first step in winning the title of national JOY and \$3,000.

Q: Do you have to be a senior to enter?

A: Yes. This contest is meant to showcase your best work from your time in journalism. That means you need to be able to pull content from as many years as possible to compete with the best chance of winning.

Q: Do you have to be an editor to have a chance to win?

A: No! Some of the best staff leaders I've ever had didn't have an official title. If you try to help your peers do a better job, you're a leader no matter what your title is.

Q: I don't know how to create a webpage, what do I do?

A: You are welcome to create your webpage using whatever platform you choose, but JEA has created a tutorial for doing so with wordpress. You can find it at <http://jea.org/wp/home/awards-honors/journalist-of-the-year/setting-up-a-wordpress-online-portfolio/>. From my personal experience, a lot of my own students have found WIX far easier to use.

Q: Are there example portfolios I can see?

A: You are welcome to browse previous winners, with one warning. This year the rubric was simplified and a new category was added, so their work won't match current expectations exactly. They're still a great place to start though. You can find the 2018 National JOY portfolio here: <https://christinefortjtoday.wordpress.com/>. You can find the 2017 National JOY portfolio here: <https://meghanbobrowsky.wordpress.com/>. You can find the 2016 National JOY portfolio here: <https://kellenbrowning.wordpress.com/>.

Q: Can I see the rubric?

A: Definitely! You can find the national and state rubric here: <http://jea.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/JEA-JOY-Rubric-rev-fall-2020.pdf>

[illegible]

[illegible]

ASFA

PRESS THE ISSUE: APPLYING TRUTH, IGNITING CHANGE

ARKANSAS SCHOLASTIC PRESS ASSOCIATION STATE CONVENTION APRIL 25-26, 2024

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS