

SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS

Greater Los Angeles Chapter

2009 SCHOLARSHIPS TO FUND PROJECTS/Application deadline April 30, 2009

Student journalists seeking funding for multimedia and pioneering storytelling projects should consider applying for the Greater Los Angeles Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists' 2009 scholarships.

The financial awards range up to \$1,000 each in these areas: ethnic minorities, broadcast journalism, investigative or political reporting, and general journalism.

Students are encouraged to consider innovative, entrepreneurial proposals, particularly in developing convergence projects for collegiate media. For example, the scholarship money might finance the acquisition of technology (laptops or video cameras) needed to create multimedia news stories. Preference for awarding the scholarships will go to proposals for non-traditional ideas.

On recommendation of the judges, these awards may be divided among two or more equally promising applicants. Scholarship funding is renewable, but renewal is not automatic. Previous winners who continue to meet eligibility requirements may apply to renew their awards. Renewal requests are considered along with all other scholarship applications and given no preference.

Primarily, awards are based on applicants' potential to succeed in news media careers. However, financial need is considered if all other qualifications of competing applicants are equal.

Applicants may apply for more than one scholarship by checking all of the appropriate boxes on the form, but no more than one scholarship will be awarded to any applicant. Multiple applications will be discarded.

In addition, applicants must:

- Provide proof of enrollment or acceptance as journalism major at a four-year college or university.
 - If your college does not have a journalism program, you must supply a letter from an SPJ member in good standing in your geographic area or an adviser to your student media program, verifying that you intend to pursue a career as a professional journalist and that you show strong potential as a journalist.
 - Students completing pre-journalism programs must provide proof they have been admitted to a journalism program.
 - Students must have completed at least the sophomore year in college, and have at least one semester to complete in a journalism program after the award of the scholarship.
 - Graduate students in journalism programs are eligible. However, students in fields, such as advertising, public relations or law, are not eligible.
- Reside in or be enrolled at a university or college in Los Angeles, Orange or Ventura counties.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

COVER SHEET (See next page)

Attach to the front of your application, which should contain resume, journalism work samples, and either a project proposal or an essay. Be sure your name is on all elements of your submission.

STANDARD RESUME

This document should contain a record of your school and/or professional journalism experience, including positions held, (reporter, city editor, etc.), dates you began and ended work for each position and a brief description of your duties (e.g., "feature editor, assigned and edited six to 10 features a week for a staff of four writers"), and a list of references with contact information.

- You may include additional information, including journalism honors/awards, scholarships or achievements in any field (art or athletics, for example).

JOURNALISM WORK SAMPLES

Students may submit their work in traditional formats, such as clips, tearsheets and prints, or via optical storage devices, such as CD or DVD. Send a self-addressed return envelope with sufficient postage if you want these items returned. *Do not send irreplaceable original material.*

- **Print:** Submit three samples of your best work. Photocopies are acceptable.
- **Online and multimedia:** Web page URLs are acceptable, but hard copy printouts of homepages would be helpful.
- **Broadcast:** Submit up to three short video and/or audio samples. Microcassettes acceptable.
- **Photojournalism:** Five or six samples are sufficient, but if you need to send more to show the breadth of your experience, you may do so.

Be sure that your submissions are clearly and accurately identified, with your name and other pertinent information, such as your university or college. You may describe any special circumstances under which the work was done – such as unusually tight deadlines or particularly adverse conditions.

CHOOSE ONLY ONE FORMAT FOR YOUR APPLICATION:

If you wish financial need to be considered, include documentation in a separate statement, explaining your need.

1) PROPOSED PROJECT

Describe your project, its purpose and expected outcome, and include a timeline. What is the potential significance of the work and/or its benefits to collegiate journalism? Outline relevant experience that demonstrates your ability to complete this project. How will this project help in your career goals?

2) ESSAY

Write 500 words to 700 words describing your career goals in detail: What specific kind of work do you hope to do in journalism when you graduate and later in your career? What are your expectations as a future practitioner? How will you accomplish your goals?

APPLICATION COVER SHEET

Society of Professional Journalists, Greater Los Angeles Chapter 2009 scholarships

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

Check each of the scholarships for which you are applying:

- Ken Inouye Scholarship** – ethnic minorities (\$500-\$1,000).
- Helen Johnson Scholarship** – broadcast journalists (\$500-\$1,000).
- Carl Greenberg Scholarship** – investigative or political reporting (\$1,000).
- Bill Farr Scholarship** – any qualified journalism major (\$500-\$1,000).

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

University or college _____

Major _____ Minor _____

Grade Point Average (GPA) _____ Journalism GPA _____

Degree sought: BA _____ MA _____ Ph.D. _____

Anticipated date of graduation _____

Date of birth _____

High school from which you graduated _____

City and state of your high school _____

Applications may be submitted either by regular mail or electronically, using universally readable e-mail attachments. However, electronic submissions MUST contain all required elements. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Deadline is midnight, Thursday, April 30, 2009.

Applications by mail:

SPJ-LA Scholarships
Attn: Linda Bowen, assistant professor
Department of Journalism
California State University, Northridge
18111 Nordhoff St. Mail drop 8311
Northridge, CA 91330-8311

Applications by e-mail:

jprofdesk@gmail.com