

2009 Journalism Scholarships

Offering \$15,000 to students

Since 1974, the Sacramento Press Club has offered scholarships to students who are preparing for a journalism career. For 2009/10, we are offering four scholarships, and they continue to be among the largest journalism awards in Northern California. For details about the scholarships, eligibility requirements and how to apply, please click "read more" below.

We will select one student for each of the following scholarships:

\$6,000 in honor of the late Earl "Squire" Behrens, a former political editor of the San Francisco Chronicle who covered the state Capitol for a half-century.

\$4,000 in honor of Jean Stephens, the long-time Secretary-Treasurer of the Sacramento Press Club and a retired Sacramento City College journalism instructor who helped thousands of journalism students become professional journalists over a 30-year career.

\$2,500 in honor of Peter Schrag, former editorial-page editor and columnist with the Sacramento Bee, and author of several books. He is widely respected for his work as a political journalist, including his coverage of education issues and his lengthy analyses into California's initiative process.

\$2,500 in honor of Mike Boyd, a former reporter for KCRA-TV who was a commanding presence in Sacramento news for more than 30 years, from covering the assassination of Robert Kennedy to being credited with saving hundreds of lives with a series of reports on colo-rectal cancer.

ELIGIBILITY:

1. Applicants must be college students who will be juniors, seniors or graduate students in the 09/10 academic year.
2. Applicants must also have a connection to the Sacramento region. There are three ways to meet this criteria. Applicants only need to meet ONE of the following categories in order to qualify:
 - a. Students from the Sacramento region
 - b. Students enrolled in a Sacramento region college or university in the 09/10 academic year
 - c. Students who can show a demonstrated interest in covering news in the Sacramento region

WHAT WE NEED: Two copies of the following organized into packets that include everything you are submitting.

1. A letter of approximately 400 words explaining how you will pursue a journalism career and why. We would like to know what you have already done to prepare for your career, tell us about any related experience outside the classroom, and explain your motivation for such a career. The letter should also explain the financial need for the scholarship and how you meet the eligibility requirements.

2. A copy of your current transcript documenting the classes you have taken and your grades.

You do not need to pay for two official transcripts --you can make a copy.

3. Clips, photographs, tapes or other samples of work. Limited to five examples and must fit on an 8-1/2 by 11 inch sheet of paper, with no overlaps, for ease of copying. Please do not photocopy both sides of the paper. On-line journalists should submit the Internet address for their publication. Additional tear sheets or photos can be brought to the interviews if you are selected as a finalist. We can conduct interviews with finalists via speakerphone if you do not currently reside in the Sacramento region.

4. A phone number where we can reach you on short notice and during normal business hours. Also include your e-mail address.

5. A letter of recommendation from a teacher, academic advisor or supervisor.

WHAT WE LOOK FOR:

Career promise, academic record, journalistic achievement and economic need.

TIMETABLE:

Entry deadline is Wednesday, April 30, 2009, received by SPC by 5pm.

Interviews with finalists will be scheduled for mid-to-late May with a panel of judges selected from the members of the Sacramento Press Club. Scholarships will be awarded in June, and it's our hope (but not required) that the recipients will join us as our guests at the monthly Sacramento Press Club meeting.

ENTRIES SHOULD BE MAILED TO:

Sacramento Press Club 1000 Sagamore Way Sacramento, Ca. 95822

QUESTIONS?

scholarships@sacpressclub.org