

The Washington Post



Young Journalists Development Program

The Washington Post Young Journalists Development Program Awards

Acknowledging significant achievements and contributions made by high school journalists, journalism advisors and media educators across the Washington area.

Nomination Packet and Forms

2012

About The Washington Post Young Journalists Development Program (YJDP) Awards

In its inaugural year, The Washington Post YJDP Awards will acknowledge significant achievements and contributions made by four high school journalists and journalism advisors across the Washington area. Organizers expect the awards program to continue to grow in scope over the years with the addition of new award categories.

The objectives of The Washington Post YJDP Awards are:

- To recognize excellence in high school journalism,
- To focus attention on quality scholastic journalism and exemplary journalism advisors, and
- To increase public awareness of the importance of quality high school journalism programs.

Frequently Asked Questions

The following tips may be helpful when considering making nominations for The Washington Post YJDP Awards. Descriptions for each award and the materials required for nomination are also provided below. Please refer to these descriptions before submitting a nomination.

Who is eligible?

All Washington area high school journalists and advisors are encouraged to apply and are eligible to be nominated.

Who may nominate?

Individual high school students, English teachers, and journalism advisors may make nominations.

How are awards selected?

The Washington Post Young Journalists Development Program verifies that all nominees are eligible and that their nomination information is complete. Nominations are then sorted and reviewed by a selection committee made up of Washington Post reporters, YJDP mentors and Washington area journalism advisors. Nominations are scored using a standardized rubric. Award recipients will be notified about one month before The Washington Post YJDP Awards ceremony. Please Note: If no nominees meet the criteria for a specific award, a recipient will not be selected.

What is the deadline for nominations?

Unless otherwise notified, in order to be considered by the selection committee, all nomination materials must be submitted electronically or postmarked on or before Friday, April 13 at 5 p.m.

When are awards presented?

All awards will be presented in the spring at The Washington Post YJDP Awards ceremony.

How are awards announced?

A press release announcing the selection of each award will be sent by The Washington Post to community news outlets and school high school administrators for each recipient. All award recipients will also be listed in the Community Relations section of [washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com/community-relations/young-journalists) at www.washingtonpost.com/community-relations/young-journalists.

What should I submit?

Necessary nomination materials vary. Please refer to individual award descriptions for submission requirements.

Where should I send nominations?

The Washington Post YJDP Awards nomination materials should be sent in their entirety to: Jaye Linnen, Community Relations at The Washington Post via mail: 1150 15th Street, NW, 7th Floor, Washington, DC 20071; fax: 202-334-4963; or email: yjdp@washpost.com.

Do I need to submit all required documents together?

Whether submitting via physical mail, fax or email, required nomination documents should not be submitted separately. In order for a nomination to be considered complete, all necessary materials must be submitted to The Washington Post YJDP Awards selection committee together. If you are making multiple nominations, they can be submitted together as long as they are clearly divided and contain all items required for the nomination for each specific award.

Where can I find a digital version of the nomination packet?

A PDF version of this nomination packet can be found at: www.washingtonpost.com/community-relations/young-journalists. In order to save these forms after you have completed them digitally, you must have the most current version of Adobe Acrobat Reader.

Who should I contact for additional information?

Questions about The Washington Post YJDP Awards can be directed to Jaye Linnen, YJDP Coordinator at 202-334-4917 or yjdp@washpost.com.

Award Descriptions and Nomination Instructions

Emerging Young Journalist presented to one high school sophomore who shows promise in journalism and whose work demonstrates the ability to be a future leader on his/her high school newspaper. The winning student will receive a coveted spot in the 2012 YJDP Digital Workshop and an opportunity to be paired with a member of the Post newsroom for mentoring throughout the 2012-2013 school year.

The nomination packet should include:

- A letter of recommendation from a journalism advisor or media educator
- A nomination letter from a junior or senior (leader) of his/her high school newspaper staff, outlining the younger student's contribution to the newspaper
- Two Writing Samples:
 - A 250-word essay by the student outlining his or her interest in journalism and journalism experience, either in school or outside it
 - A sample of your work (print or multimedia), preferably in journalism

Young Journalist Leadership presented to one high school junior or senior who has exhibited excellence in journalism and has made solid contributions to the growth of their school newspaper. The winning student will receive a personalized award. The nomination packet should include:

- A letter of recommendation from an advisor
- At least two examples of how the student has applied the lessons learned in YJDP supported workshops (or other journalism programs) to enhance their journalism skills and improve the quality of their school newspaper
- A 250-word essay on the importance of learning how to report in a variety of media

Advisor Awards: Anyone can nominate an advisor for these awards. Both winners will receive a personalized award and a secured spot in the 2012-13 Second Saturday's Advisor Workshop.

The two award categories include:

1. **Inspire**, presented to one journalism advisor (less than 5 years experience). Candidates must meet the following criteria:
 - Be a current high school journalism advisor
 - Has worked to further his/her knowledge of journalism as well as the knowledge of his/her students in the field of journalism
 - Be a participant in or attended high school journalism specific workshops (can be YJDP led or others) to further his/her knowledge and/or by taking classes to keep current with trends in journalism and further journalism skills
 - Be an active role model for journalism excellence
2. **Mentoring Excellence**, presented to one experienced journalism advisor (more than 5 years experience). Candidates must meet the following criteria:
 - Be a high school journalism advisor who is actively teaching journalism or working as an advisor/media educator in the year of the award
 - Be able to demonstrate his/her dedication to promoting and creating interest in high school journalism
 - Has inspired fellow journalism advisors, media educators and students
 - Be an active role model for journalism excellence

The nomination packet for both candidates should include:

- A letter of recommendation from the principal of his/her high school.
- A letter of recommendation from a colleague that can speak to his/her achievements and provide clear examples of how the candidate has met the criteria provided below.
- A letter of recommendation from a student under the teachers' supervision, preferably in a journalism course or related activity.

The Washington Post YJDP Awards Nomination Materials

This form may be filled out electronically when downloaded as a PDF at www.washingtonpost.com/community-relations/young-journalists. A separate form must be submitted for each nomination. Please type or print neatly.

PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION LEGIBLY:

I, _____, nominate _____,

Name of Nominator

Name of Nominee

for the following award: _____

Please print the exact award title as it appears in the Award Description

NOMINEE INFORMATION:

Full Name of Nominee: _____

First

M.I.

Last

High School Represented: _____

Sophomore / Junior / Senior / Advisor

School Address: _____

Street/P.O. Box

City

State

Zip

Home Address: _____

Street/P.O. Box

City

State

Zip

Home Telephone: _____ Mobile: _____

E-mail Address: _____

If your school has a student newspaper and/or news website, provide the name and url:

NOMINATOR INFORMATION

Full Name of Nominator: _____

First

M.I.

Last

High School/Organization Represented: _____

Address: _____

Street/P.O. Box

City

State

Zip

Telephone: _____ Mobile: _____

E-mail Address: _____

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

List specific examples of how the nominee has met each award criteria.

List high school journalism specific workshops the nominee has attended and/or facilitated (if applicable).

List high school journalism activities including offices held, committees, honors, service, etc:

List other leadership roles and accomplishments:

List membership in other journalism or professional organizations:

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