

South Carolina Journalist of the Year

To enter: Email portfolio materials to SCSPA Director Nina Brook nmbrook@mailbox.sc.edu

Deadline: February 1

Include: Completed application

Transcript

Three letters of recommendation

Portfolio URL

Qualifications

- Graduating high school senior
- At least a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale
- Be a student member of SCSPA

PREPARE YOUR PORTFOLIO

I. APPLICATION MATERIAL

A. Application: A PDF of the application form can be found on the SCSPA website (scspa.sc.edu) under Awards and Scholarships.

- On the application, you choose FOUR of SIX categories in which your portfolio will be judged. All applicants will be evaluated on their essays, letters of recommendation and resumes.

B. Photo: 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. Write a cutline/caption to use with the photo. *Winners' photos may be used in SCSPA publications.*

C. Transcript: Official high school transcript or a counselor's statement including journalism classes taken, grades and current GPA.

D. Letters of recommendation: Three letters of recommendation from people who know your leadership and journalistic abilities. (No letter should exceed two pages in length)

E. Personal resume

F. Self-analytical essay: Students should write with passion and make an impact on the judges. This this essay functions as the applicant's one-on-one interview with the judges. Essay should not exceed two pages in length.

II. ONLINE PORTFOLIO

Candidates should create an online portfolio for examples of their work. Students will provide a URL for this site (such as a student-created WordPress site), or they will upload a PDF portfolio.

- If students choose to create the portfolio as a PDF, it must be one file under 50 MB.
- If students create the portfolio as a website, it must be all at one URL and should be a link to a live, published site, not a link to a Google Drive or Dropbox account.
- A site like Issuu is simple for students to upload work and the result is similar to a digital book. Sites like WordPress take a little more time to create but can be more tailored to the student's personal taste.
- No personal information should be included in your online portfolio.
- Work examples are part of presentation where candidates can showcase their progress over time as a student journalist.
- Applicants can choose any platform they wish to present their work examples.
- Broadcast/video samples should be no longer than 15 minutes in length.
- Each work example for the portfolio must be labeled with the applicable category, evidence of usage/publication of example, awards/contests entered and an explanation/reasoning for each example.
 - *Explanation/reasoning – includes the applicant's explanation about the specific assignment. Include any difficulties encountered with the assignment and special circumstances affecting it. Explanation should be 25-50 words in length, easy to read and should explain why this entry is important and was chosen for the portfolio.*

The applicant's personality should be evident in the entry. The student should choose a design/concept for the portfolio.

Go to the SCSPA website for links to video tutorials and the SCSPA rubric. The rubric will help you organize your work.