

2024-2025 Youngstown Press Club Scholastic Journalism Awards Rules

Welcome to the Youngstown Press Club Scholastic Journalism Awards!

These awards are to recognize excellence in scholastic journalism in the Mahoning and Shenango valleys. We hope that high school journalists will join others in the five-county area and submit their best work.

Please read through these rules before submitting your entries.

- All work must be created, written and designed entirely by students.
- Each school may submit up to three entries in a category, but there is a limit of one entry per category for individual students, except in the design/layout category; Students may be entered in the design/layout category multiple times. Each entry submitted must be by a different writer, photographer or artist.
- Most entries can be entered by using the Individual Award Entry Form. There are separate forms for Best News Publication or Website, Scholastic Journalist of the Year Award and Adviser of the Year Award.
- Entries can be published either in print or online. Clip and paste your entry on an 8 1/2" by 11" sheet of paper, fill out a copy of this form, and attach it to the entry. Pieces published online can be printed on an 8 1/2" by 11" sheet of paper. Include the original glossy photos or high-quality reproductions with photography entries.
- Digital entries that cannot be printed and mailed (for instance, broadcast entry clips) may be sent via email to Mark Sweetwood at markmsweetwood@gmail.com or Diane Laney Fitzpatrick at youngstownpressclub@gmail.com.
- Judging will be based on divisions that are determined by a number of factors (i.e., curricular, extracurricular, staffing, etc.). Please be sure to include this information on your registration form.
- There is a \$5 fee for each entry or a \$30 flat-fee for unlimited entries in all categories. Please make checks payable to "Youngstown Press Club." Payment must accompany the submission of entries.

Payment for contest fees may also be paid by credit card via Square at <https://square.link/u/ljo3qyRA>.

- Entries for the 2024-2025 competition must be postmarked by **Friday, March 21, 2025.**

Entries are to be mailed to:

The Youngstown Press Club

P.O. Box 2531

Youngstown, OH 44501

- Questions or more information needed? Contact:

Mark Sweetwood

YPC Scholastic Journalism Awards Contest Director

markmsweetwood@gmail.com

330-301-3019

or

Diane Laney Fitzpatrick

YPC Executive Director

youngstownpressclub@gmail.com

561-281-3145

Dear Colleague:

Below is a checklist for those entering the 2024-2025 Youngstown Press Club Scholastic Journalism Awards competition.

Have you:

- Printed out and carefully read all of the contest guidelines and entry forms?
- Completed the appropriate entry form for each of your submissions, making sure that all the information requested is provided?
- Attached a completed entry form to each submission?
- Written a check for entry fees? Fees are \$5 per entry or a \$30 flat-fee for unlimited entries in all categories.

Please make checks payable to “Youngstown Press Club.” If you are paying fees online at <https://square.link/u/ljo3qyRA>, please attach a note to your contest submissions letting us know you paid online.

Mail your contest entries to:

Youngstown Press Club
P.O. Box 2531
Youngstown, OH 44501

Questions or more information needed? Contact:

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2024-2025 Youngstown Press Club Scholastic Awards Categories

- **News article, Broadcast story or Website story.** Must be factual (no editorializing), accurate, well-organized and clearly written, with appropriate attribution.
- **Feature article, Broadcast story or Website story.** Must be engaging and clearly-written, capturing the essence of the topic or person with intriguing details and colorful questions.
- **Sports news article, Broadcast story or Website story.** Must follow general criteria for news articles; must go beyond game summary, follow standards for sports writing and avoid overuse of sports jargon.
- **Sports feature article, Broadcast story or Website story.** Must follow general criteria for feature articles with focus on an athlete, team or sports-related subject.
- **News Publication or Website.** Must be engaging and adhere to highest journalism standards to inform its audience. Will accept metrics like publication circulation and web traffic.
- **Editorial cartoon/News graphic.** Must either help to articulate a complex story or display a clear message regarding a social topic or event and be well-designed.
- **Editorial/Column/Opinion.** Thought-provoking writing that reflects the author's — or the publication's — thoughtful analysis and reflection on a topic. Work should also provide fair analysis with emphasis on good research and constructive criticism or advocacy.
- **Best Use of Social Media.** Must display proficiency in using social media platforms to break news or promote traffic to an online site, broadcast or print news publication.
- **Photography or video package.** A published, non-sports photo with appropriate contrast, balance, framing and composition; must capture the essence of an event or subject.
- **Layout/Design.** Must display exceptional and creative layout; judged on strength of visual impact (placement of articles, photos, and illustrations). Will accept printed and website designs.
- **Advertisement.** Must attract an audience to the service or product with outstanding writing and visual design.
- **Scholastic Journalist of the Year.** Students working for any high school publication, published either online or in print, are eligible.
- **Adviser of the Year.** Any member of a school community may nominate an adviser for this award meant to recognize the work of advisers. Typically, it is expected that students who work with the adviser will make a nomination. However, other members of the school community may wish to take part in the nominations.

**2024-2025 Youngstown Press Club
Scholastic Journalism Awards**

Individual Award Entry Form

Fee: \$5 per entry or \$30 flat-fee for unlimited entries in all categories

Individual Awards are open to pieces published in high school newspapers and news websites, either in print or online. Advisers: Photocopy this sheet and attach one completed form per entry. Be sure to provide all information requested below. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY

Contest name: _____

School name: _____

School's total enrollment: _____

Publication or Website name: _____

Student 1 _____

Student 2 _____

Student 3 _____

Student 4 _____

Date of publication: _____

Adviser: _____

Adviser's email address: _____

Is the media organization (Choose 1): Curricular? Extracurricular? Other?

Number of student staff: _____

Number of professional staff/advisers: _____

It is possible for no winners to be chosen in a category. In addition, the Youngstown Press Club requests a narrative outlining any unique problems faced in the publication of the piece, including time and staffing constraints, and prior review.

Entries for the 2024-2025 competition must be postmarked by **Friday, March 21, 2025.**

**2024-2025 Youngstown Press Club
Scholastic Journalism Awards**

Best News Publication or Website

FEE: \$5 per entry or \$30 flat-fee for unlimited entries in all categories

Submit three separate issues of your newspaper published after August 2024. If your school has fewer than three issues available by March 15, 2025, send what you have, being sure to note this in the form below.

This sheet goes directly to the judges and will give them a complete picture of your publication.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY

School name: _____

School's total enrollment: _____

Newspaper or Website name: _____

Adviser: _____

Adviser's email address: _____

Is the paper (Choose 1): Curricular? Extracurricular? Other?

Number of news student staff: _____

Number of newspaper professional staff/advisers: _____

Final editorial decisions are made by (Choose 1): Students? Adviser?

Circulation (Number of newspapers printed or website traffic): _____

Annual operating budget _____

How is your publication funded? _____

How often is your newspaper published? _____

List professional journalism-related credentials of adviser(s): _____

If you have any special production issues, please list them here: _____

Other comments for consideration (printing facilities, darkroom facilities, etc.):

It is possible for no winners to be chosen in a category. In addition, the Youngstown Press Club requests a narrative outlining any unique problems faced in the production of the newspaper, including prior review.

Entries for the 2024-2025 competition must be postmarked by **Friday, March 21, 2025.**

**2024-2025 Youngstown Press Club
Scholastic Journalism Awards**

Scholastic Journalist of the Year Award

NO ENTRY FEE REQUIRED

Students working for any high school publication, published either online or in print, are eligible.

Please use the checklist below to make sure you have submitted all materials necessary to compete for the High School Journalist of the Year Award.

- You must be a senior graduating in Spring 2025.
- You must submit three original, published pieces; please print and attach online pieces.
- You must write a 500-word essay explaining why you should be selected for this award.
- You must complete this student application form.
- You must turn in all of your materials to your adviser.
- Your adviser must sign this form and submit all materials by the stated deadline..

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY

Student's name: _____

Student's email address: _____

Intended college: _____

Intended major: _____

High school: _____

School's total enrollment: _____

High school phone number: _____

Principal's name: _____

Media adviser's name: _____

Your media adviser MUST sign this form below, certifying that all of the information provided is complete and accurate, and that you qualify for the High School Journalist of the Year Award based on the criteria listed above.

Adviser's signature: _____

Date: _____

Entries for the 2024-2055 competition must be postmarked by **Friday, March 21, 2025.**

**2024-2025 Youngstown Press Club
Scholastic Journalism Awards**

Adviser of the Year Award

NO ENTRY FEE REQUIRED

Any member of a school community may nominate an adviser for this special award. Typically, it is expected that students who work with the adviser will make a nomination. However, other members of the school community may wish to take part in the nominations. More than one adviser may be recognized. Please complete a separate form for each person nominated. This contest is open to advisers of all high-school media. Up to three letters supporting the adviser’s nomination may be submitted; please attach them to this form. Don’t forget the 500-word essay (see below).

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY

Adviser’s name: _____

Adviser’s email address: _____

School name: _____

School’s total enrollment: _____

Media organization name: _____

Is the media organization (Choose 1): Curricular? Extracurricular? Other?

Number of student staff: _____

Number of professional staff/advisers: _____

List professional journalism-related credentials of adviser: _____

Provide three reasons why this person deserves the Adviser of the Year Award.

Reason 1: _____

Reason 2: _____

Reason 3: _____

Attach a 500-word, typed essay to the form explaining why you feel this adviser deserves the Adviser of the Year Award. You may use the above reasons as your main points, adding any other information that you feel is relevant and should be considered by the judges.

Entries for the 2024-2055 competition must be postmarked by **Friday, March 21, 2025.**