

This could be you!

...with a \$2,000 college scholarship in journalism



Garden State Scholastic Press Association
New Jersey Press Foundation

2026 Bob Stevens Memorial Scholarship



APPLICATION

- Open to high school seniors who are graduating this year from a New Jersey school.
- Awarded to a journalism student showing dedication to their school newspaper or yearbook, though not necessarily planning on majoring in journalism in college.

Deadline: Applications must be emailed no later than Feb. 6, 2026

New Jersey Press Foundation
P.O. Box 358
Titusville, NJ 08560
(609) 406-0600 ext. 14 • www.njpressfoundation.org



Bob Stevens Memorial Scholarship

Must be emailed by:

Entry Information

February 6, 2026

Bob Stevens was a dedicated teacher at Highland Park High School for many years, where he served as the adviser to the *Highland Fling*, the student newspaper. He was one of the founding members of GSSPA, and served as the first president of the organization. After his death, GSSPA started this scholarship to honor his memory to help an aspiring journalist who is a student of a GSSPA member.

The scholarship check of \$2,000 will be issued after the winner provides the GSSPA with a copy of the first tuition payment to the college where the winner has enrolled.

Applications will be judged by a panel of independent judges, chosen from the many professional journalists employed in New Jersey.

The faculty adviser should choose one student journalist who best qualifies to meet the standards set forth under the headings of Qualifications and Criteria. Nominee and adviser then prepare a portfolio of the student's best work.

Qualifications

- Be a graduating high school senior.
- Have at GPA of at least a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
- Have participated in high school journalism for at least two years.
- The applicant's advisor must be a member of GSSPA.

Criteria

- Versatility – handles a variety of subject areas with equal ability.
- Responsibility – demonstrates thorough research and ethical reporting.
- Inquisitiveness – seeks and investigates topics of importance to the high school audience and the community.
- Skill – produces quality work adeptly and creatively.
- The applicant's advisor must be a member of GSSPA.

Mailing Information

Email all materials to: parbitell@njpa.org

Deadline: **Must be emailed by February 6, 2026**

Questions? **609-406-0600 opt. 2**

Entry Information

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ALL ENTRIES MUST BE EMAILED TO PARBITELL@NJPA.ORG

- Entry material must not exceed 36 pages. All letters and transcripts must be opened and included as part of the 36 pages.



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- Here are some ideas to help you get started on the self-analytical evaluation: *How do you feel about journalism? How did you get started in journalism? What have you had to go through to achieve? What have you contributed to journalism? What are your journalism plans for the future?* The evaluation should be long enough for the judges to reach a decision about your creative qualifications and short enough not to be redundant (and boring).
- Samples of your work should be carefully selected. Provide the judges with a good cross-section of your best work rather than everything you ever produced. Date, name of publication and relevance (see list below) should be on the page with each sample.
- Include samples showing one or more of the following characteristics. They should be grouped according to what they represent, and these groupings should be labeled.
 - a. Skilled and creative use of media content – writing, production, photography, etc.
 - b. Inquiring mind and investigative persistence resulting in in-depth study or studies of issues important to the local high school audience, high school students in general, and/or society.
 - c. Courageous and responsible handling of sensitive issues – local or societal – despite any threat or imposition of censorship.
 - d. Variety of journalistic experiences, each handled in a quality manner – newspaper, yearbook, broadcast, etc.
 - e. Sustained and commendable work with community media. • Send at least one example of relevant spreads from your yearbook (not the entire book), so the judges can see the context of your work. Audio and/or video should accompany an entry that focuses on broadcast work.
- Photocopies of letters, clippings, photos and art are acceptable; however, an original print of photograph should accompany entries based on published pictures.

Checklist

The applicant must include the following in their portfolio:

- The official entry form.
- A self-analytical evaluation of your “journalistic life,” using your most creative form.
- An action photo of you doing something journalistic – interviewing someone, taking a photo, designing a page, doing a broadcast standup or talking to your staff.
- Proof that you have participated in high school journalism for at least two years.
- Official high school transcript. Three or four letters of recommendation from your adviser, other teachers who know your leadership and journalistic abilities, and practitioners with whom you have worked. A letter from the principal is desirable, but not absolutely necessary.
- Samples of your work carefully selected to show the quality and diversity of your reporting, writing, photography, design, etc.



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Entry Information

February 6, 2026

Student's Name _____

Street _____

city _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail Address _____ Home Phone _____

Parent(s) or Guardian(s) Name _____

For how long have you been involved in journalism? _____

Publication Names	Positions	From	To
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Has any of your work been cited by the media? Yes – please use a separate sheet to explain No

What aspect of journalism and/or mass communication is your career goal? _____

list the colleges you are considering, in order of preference. if you have decided which college you will attend, list only that one.

_____ Accepted

_____ Accepted

_____ Accepted

_____ Accepted

Hometown Newspaper or Media Company

Name of Newspaper or Media Company _____

Street _____

_____ city

_____ State _____ Zip _____

High School Information

School _____

Street _____

city _____ State _____ Zip _____

Adviser's Name _____

School Phone _____ E-mail Address _____