

GUY P. GANNETT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Renewal Consideration Guidelines

Gannett Scholars are encouraged to apply for renewal consideration throughout their post-secondary and graduate education. As recipients progress through school, the selection committee expects to see a significant increase in demonstrated intent to pursue a career in journalism. Your personal letter, writing exercise, work samples, and recommendation letter are critically important components of your application. Please follow the submission guidelines carefully.

All applications and required information sent separately must be postmarked by May 1. Incomplete applications or those postmarked after this date will not be processed.

Name: _____

Post-secondary school for which aid is requested: _____

Upcoming year in school (circle): Undergraduate 1 2 3 4 Graduate 5 6 7 8

Mailing address at home:

Street address or P.O. number _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____ County: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____ E-mail: _____

Mailing address at college:

Street address or P.O. number: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____ E-mail: _____

Personal Letter: Please write the Gannett Committee summarizing your progress in terms of journalism-related experiences, leadership positions you have assumed and academic success. There is no required minimum word count, but your letter must be typed, and should not exceed two pages double-spaced. Please remember that grammar, spelling, and punctuation count.

Letter of Recommendation:

Please submit a recommendation letter specific to the Gannett Scholarship from a current teacher or employer detailing your accomplishments and commitment to journalism. The letter must be current (dated after January 1, 2010), on official letterhead, contain your first and last name, and be signed by the writer, who must identify his/her relationship to you (not a family member). E-mail letters are not acceptable.

Writing Exercise: Please refer to Writing Exercise page of this application.

Work Samples: Please send three samples of your best recent, published work (preferably within current academic year) related to journalism. Samples should be clearly marked with your name and the date of publication. For one of the work samples, please send the final article as well as the original piece before it was edited by your supervisor or editor. Blogs will be accepted if affiliated with a parent organization. Personal blogs are not acceptable work samples.

PROPER FORMAT: Improperly formatted work samples will not be forwarded to the committee.

Examples of print media:

- byline printed article or online clipping (published format)...and “camera ready” meaning they are copied on 8 ½ x 11 white paper, enlarged if necessary for easy reading. We will not reformat your submissions.
- byline photo with explanation of purpose of the shot. Include the article, formatted properly, in which it appeared.

Examples of broadcast media: 8 copies (CD or DVD) clearly labeled with your name, TV/radio broadcast date, and transcript of each piece. Please review each copy to ensure that it has recorded your work and can be opened.

These samples will not be returned.

Required Information: (do not staple, please)

Please submit the information requested below printed on one side only (not front and back). *Remember, all applications and required information sent separately must be postmarked by May 1. Incomplete applications or those postmarked after this date will not be processed.*

- This completed application form
- Copy of your most recent school transcript showing GPA to date. A printout from the internet is not acceptable. We prefer that you include your transcript with your application.
- Copy of your complete Federal Student Aid Report (SAR), which must include your expected family contribution (EFC) and your family’s adjusted gross income (AG). Do not send the FAFSA.
- Personal letter
- Writing exercise
- Work samples – current and properly formatted
- A signed, current letter of recommendation as outlined above
- A copy of your college financial aid offer (please send when available)

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that all of the required items are submitted on or before the application deadline. Incomplete applications or those postmarked after May 1 will not be processed. All information received from applicants will be held in confidence.

I certify that all information on this form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that I may be asked to provide proof of information stated on this form, including a copy of my parents’ and/or my prior year’s U.S. Income Tax return.

Signature of Applicant: _____

Guy P. Gannett Scholarship Fund – Writing Exercise (page 1)

The committee expects to receive a professional story written in AP Style (www.apstylebook.com). Enclosed is a “Black List” compiled by the committee to assist you. This story is a critical component of your application. Write it thoughtfully.

Instructions: Based on the following information, write a news story that could be published in a newspaper or web news site. You are not required to use all of this information. Strive for accuracy, clarity, structure, and AP style.

The North American Institute for the Study of Bio-diversity has released a study called, “Can the Snipe Be Saved.”

The findings include:

- The population of the Maine snipe has declined 90 percent between 1998 and 2008.
- In 1998, there were 10 snipe in Maine.
- The decline of the Maine snipe is due to the degradation of its habitat, the dark corners of newspaper printing plants where it subsists on accumulated piles of newsprint dust, an organic material.
- The study was paid for by the Maine Organization for the Protection of the Snipe.
- While other types of snipe exist elsewhere in North America, the *Snipeus Curmudgeonous Mainiacus* is extant in Maine only.
- P. Horace Trattwell, chief mammal biologist for the institute said, “It’s quite simple, really. The decline of the printed editions of the newspaper has had the unintended consequence of nearly eliminating the population of the Maine snipe.”
- In response to a reporter’s question, Trattwell said the Institute had no recommendation to give MOPS on how to reverse this trend. “A simple knowledge of the mammal reproduction is all you need to know conclude the situation is hopeless.”

The acting president of the Maine Newspaper Association, Gina Papadopoulos, said, “It’s true: We’re printing fewer papers, and I guess that means less newsprint dust. In fact, I haven’t seen a snipe in our printing plant in years. We had to call off our annual snipe hunt initiation for the newsroom interns some years back. It was quite sad. The best we can do now is badger them about what to say when their mothers tell them, “I love you.”

J. Alfred Prufrock III, the current editor of the Pine Tree State Times-Globe-Herald, recalled the time when he was young newspaper intern and the city editor sent him on a snipe hunt.

“In those days, it was pretty easy. After the presses had stopped for the night, but before dawn, you went out there with a flashlight and a burlap bag. One intern would shine the light in a dark corner and that scared ‘em and then they’d scamper out of there and right into the bag the other intern was holding open. I guess that’s as past now as glue pots and copy paper.”

THE BLACK LIST

Do not use...

A. ...as the main verb in a news lead:

1. met
2. announced
3. spoke
4. held
5. attended
6. led
7. presented
8. considered
9. addressed
10. discussed

B. ...in any context:

1. centered around
2. finalize
3. prioritize
4. impacted (impact as a verb)
5. when asked

C. ...without evidence:

1. thinks
2. believes
3. feels
4. hopes

FATAL ERRORS

1. Fact
2. Name or title
3. Spelling
4. Grammar
5. Style
6. Editorializing
7. Lack of attribution

FOULS

8. Typo
9. Sentence structure
10. Language usage
11. Inappropriate emphasis in the lead
12. Omission of basic information in the lead
13. Incomplete coverage
14. Unbalanced coverage