
SCHOLARSHIPS

Deadline: Friday, Feb. 28, 2026

SPJ Detroit annually awards grants up to \$2,500 to Michigan residents who are or will be a sophomore, junior or senior at a college or university with a demonstrated interest in journalism. The chapter's board of directors maintains the right to determine the number and size of scholarships depending on the availability of funds.

The scholarships may be used at any institution of higher education.

The awards honor the late Lawrence (Larry) A. Laurain, who was serving as president of the Detroit chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists at the time of his death in August 1985 of esophageal cancer. His journalism career spanned 17 years, including stints at the Royal Oak Daily Tribune, Macomb Daily and United Press International before becoming city editor of the Oakland Press.

Call for Entries - Applicants must intend to practice journalism, as evidenced by enrollment in journalism classes and by work from those classes or by clips published in student or professional publications. Financial need is considered.

No entry fee is required - Scholarship winners will be honored at the chapter's annual awards banquet.

Applications must include:

1. A resume.
2. **Portfolio.** At least three clips of any published or classroom-produced samples of the applicant's writing or other news-related reporting.
3. **Supporting documents.** At least one document, such as a letter of recommendation or other statement from a teacher, dean or adviser who is familiar with the applicant's work. The document must affirm the applicant's enrollment in a journalism class, academic status or purported interest in journalism.
4. **Personal narrative/essay.** A double-spaced, titled document that addresses any of the issues cited here:

An applicant's personal narrative should address any of the following points:

- Why do you want to be a journalist?
- What are your career goals after graduation?
- Describe your journalism-related activities and how they have advanced your journalist training.
- List your educational, campus and social activities with brief details of their influence on you.
- Describe the most important challenge facing journalists today.
- Identify the person in journalism you would most like to emulate and why?
- What would winning this award mean to you?

Questions? Call (734) 277-5922 or e-mail spjdetroit@gmail.com