

# COLUMBIA SCHOLASTIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

## What can CSPA do for you?

### Medalist Critique

- Newspapers, magazines, yearbooks and online media submit complete issues to the Association's judges.
- The judges read and review the publications assigning points based on the Association's criteria/standards and providing constructive comments and suggestions for improvement.
- Based on the individual critiques, publications are awarded either a Gold, Silver or Bronze certificate.

### Gold Circle Awards

- This award program recognizes superior work by individual student journalists.
- Publications can submit entries for 205 different categories ranging from sports feature to informational graphics.
- Entries are judged and awarded either First Place, Second Place, Third Place or Certificate of Merit.

### Crown Awards

- The highest recognition a publication can receive, this award honors overall excellence.
- A panel of judges review all entries within the publication category evaluating content, design/presentation, coverage, photography, writing and editing.
- Although there is no written evaluation, judges award exemplary publications either a Gold Crown or Silver Crown.
- Sections from the winning publications (with comments from the judges) are scanned and compiled onto a DVD.

### DEADLINES

Newspapers, magazines & Spring  
delivery yearbooks **June 15, 2011**

Fall delivery yearbooks & online news  
media **October 17, 2011**

## M E M B E R S H I P O P T I O N S

### CSPA Regular Membership \$199\*

- Medalist Critique
- Crown Judging
- 50 free Gold Circle entries
- Adviser Association Membership
- Special Edition Crown Awards DVD

### CSPA Associate Membership \$169\*

- NO Medalist Critique
- Crown Judging
- 50 free Gold Circle entries
- Adviser Association Membership
- Special Edition Crown Awards DVD

### CSPA Basic Membership \$149\*

- NO Medalist Critique and NO Crown Judging
- 50 free Gold Circle entries
- Special Edition Crown Awards DVD

**\*One membership per publication**

# MEMBERSHIP FAQ

## What do I need to send to CSPA for Regular Membership?

### NEWSPAPERS & NEWSMAGAZINES

#### PRINT

- 2 sets of 2010-2011 issues
- Each set should include up to six issues of your choice

#### ONLINE

- The publication's Web site URL

#### HYBRID

- The publication's Web site URL
- 2 sets of 2010-2011 issues

### COLLEGE NEWSPAPERS

#### PRINT

- 2 sets of 2010-2011 issues
- Each set should include 10 issues of your choice
- Fall and spring semesters are two separate memberships

#### ONLINE

- The publication's Web site URL

#### HYBRID

- The publication's Web site URL
- 2 sets of 2010-2011 issues

### MAGAZINES

- 2 copies of all 2010-2011 issues

### YEARBOOKS

- 2 copies of the 2011 yearbook
- Spring delivery books need not include summer supplements.
- Yearbooks may be returned for an additional \$13.50 fee.

Associate Members: Submit only 1 set of your publication as you do not receive a critique judging.

**Why is the newspaper & magazine deadline (June 15th) earlier than the yearbook and online deadline (October 17th)?**

To permit timely returns of Medalist critiques, it is essential to have all newspapers and magazines submitted in June. We have more adviser-judges available to complete an evaluation at this time. *Despite the October 17th deadline*, we encourage yearbooks to submit their edition as soon as they are printed.

**How do we get our publication evaluated by the CSPA?**

*Only Regular Members receive a written evaluation (critique) of their publication.*

**If we don't want an evaluation/critique this year, can we still be CSPA members?**

Associate and Basic Memberships are CSPA members, yet neither receive evaluation/critique of their publication and/or Web site.

**We read about your 2011 Crown Awards. When are entries due for 2012 CSPA's Crown Awards?**

CSPA dates its awards by the year in which they are given. If your newspaper, magazine or yearbook was published during the 2010-2011 school year, it should be entered during Spring/Fall 2011 for the Crown Awards that will be announced in March 2012. The final submission deadline is October 17, 2011.

**How is the judging for Crowns different from the Medalist Critique?**

Crown Awards are judged at Columbia by panels of invited judges working in groups to review all entries. The Crown process is more of a "holistic" approach to judging the entire publication, as an informed reader would do. No written evaluations are provided.

The Medalist Critique process is a detailed "dissection" of the publication, and the completed results are returned to the school. The judge's commentary is written alongside the printed judging standards.

## NEW for this year!

News media can be critiqued as print only, digital only or as a hybrid (print/digital).