

CSPA MEMBERSHIP

What does “Membership” in CSPA mean?

The CSPA offers three annual competitions: Medalist Critiques, Crown Awards and Gold Circle Awards. **Joining the CSPA is how a student publication, either print or digital, enters one or more of those competitions.**

Regular Member	Associate Member	Basic Member
Medalist Critique	NO MEDALIST CRITIQUE	NO MEDALIST CRITIQUE
Crown Awards	Crown Awards	NO CROWN AWARDS ENTRY
Gold Circle Awards	Gold Circle Awards	Gold Circle Awards

Medalist Critiques offer a detailed written analysis of your print or digital publication, with recommendations for improvements. The results are returned with one of three ratings: Gold Medalist, Silver Medalist or Bronze Medalist.

Crown Awards recognize overall excellence in either print or digital student publications, chosen by a panel of judges working as a team. Entries are compared against one another with similar age and experience levels such as high school yearbooks against other high school yearbooks, and so forth. There are NO written results returned to individual publications. A DVD is prepared and mailed to all members, depicting selected pages from the winners with commentary from the judges explaining their choices. The DVD is included for all CSPA members, regardless of type of membership.

Gold Circle Awards recognize individual achievement by students from any CSPA member in many categories. Each CSPA member can submit as many as 30 individual entries as part of their membership. Additional entries can be submitted at a special member rate. Certificates are awarded to First, Second or Third Place and up to three additional Certificates of Merit are given for honorable mention in each category. Gold Circle Award entries *require separate submission* by June 17th (print news and magazine entries) or by November 1st (all yearbook and digital entries).

Regular Membership provides entry for all three competitions. Associate Members compete in Crown Awards and Gold Circle Award, while Basic Members only participate in Gold Circle Awards. Fees are adjusted for each membership.

Follow this link for more details and specifics: <http://bit.ly/CH0cBD>

WHAT TO SEND WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP:

Print Newspapers, Digital or Hybrid News Media

PRINT

- 2 sets of 2012-2013 printed issues
- Each set should include up to six issues of your choice

DIGITAL (online)

- The publication's website URL*

HYBRID (print + online together)

- The publication's website URL*
- 2 sets of 2012-2013 printed issues

Magazines

PRINT

- 2 copies of the 2012-13 printed issues

DIGITAL

- The publication's website URL*

HYBRID (print + online together)

- The publication's website URL*
- 2 sets of 2012-2013 printed issues

Yearbooks

- 2 copies of the 2013 yearbook
- Spring delivery books need not include summer supplements.
- Yearbooks may be returned for an additional \$13.50 fee (per book).

** Digital media can only be judged if the links supplied to CSPA are working for the judges to access. Please use question 19 on the entry form to inform us if/when you expect your site to be offline.*

Associate Members:

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

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

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

To permit timely returns of Medalist critiques, it is essential to have all print and hybrid newspapers and magazines submitted in June. We have more adviser-judges available to complete an evaluation during summer. Despite the October 15th 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 website.

When are entries due for 2014 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 2012-2013 school year, it should be entered during Spring/Fall 2013 for the Crown Awards that will be announced in March 2014. The final submission deadline is October 15, 2013.

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. 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.