



2024–2025 Kid Reporter Application

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Scholastic Kid Reporter. To be considered, you must be between the ages of 10-14 (born between September 1, 2010, and August 31, 2014), and complete and submit the following by mail:

- A photograph of yourself.
- A basic background information form (pages 2–3) that lets Scholastic Kids Press editors know more about you.
- Writing samples (page 4):
 - A typed news article
 - A typed personal essay
 - Two story ideas about your community.
- A Student Release Form provided by Scholastic (pages 5–8), which must be completed and signed by your parent/legal guardian. Any applications without a Student Release Form will NOT be considered.

When complete, mail all of these materials to:

Scholastic Kids Press
557 Broadway
New York, NY, USA 10012-3999

All applications must be received by June 1, 2024. No late or digital applications will be accepted.

Students who are selected to join the program will be notified in Fall 2024. Due to the large volume of applications Scholastic receives each year, **we will only contact students who are selected to join the program.**

Background Information

Please print out this form, and clearly write all responses below. Kid Reporter contact information (excluding city and country) will not be made publicly available.

Full Name:

Street Address:

City:

State:

Country:

Zip Code:

Your Date of Birth:

School Name:

Grade in School as of September 2024:

Home Phone Number (with country code if out of the U.S.):

Your E-mail Address:

Parent/Guardian(s) Name(s):

Parent/Guardian(s) Phone Number(s):

Parent/Guardian(s) E-mail Address(es):

How did you hear about Scholastic Kids Press?

Do you have siblings who are former Scholastic Kid Reporters or who are applying this year? If so, please list their names:

Do you write for any other news organizations?

Do you have a blog or, if you are old enough, are you on any social media platforms? If so, which one(s)?

Besides English, are you fluent in any other languages? If so, which one(s)?

**Which career are you most interested in, and why?
If you could interview anyone in the world, who would it be? Why?**

Writing Samples

All writing samples must be typed. No hand-written samples will be accepted. Please complete and submit all of the following:

- A 400-word news article that must include at least four quotes from at least two interviews that you have conducted—just like a real news article. Please choose one of the following topics to write about:
 - An issue specific to kids that deserves more attention.
 - A person or an organization making a difference in your community.

- Two ideas for stories in your community that you would like to work on as a Scholastic Kid Reporter.

- Answer the following question in a total of 250 words or less: Why do you want to join Scholastic Kids Press?

Student Release Form

I _____ am the parent/guardian of

_____ and for valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, do hereby give my consent for my son/daughter to volunteer as a student reporter in Scholastic Kids Press. In doing so, I acknowledge and agree that:

- I. While Scholastic Inc. ("Scholastic") will not financially compensate or reward my child for their service as a student reporter in Scholastic Kids Press, I understand that my child will gain valuable writing and critical-thinking skills and first-hand journalism experience by working with Scholastic editors on local and/or national news assignments.
- II. I understand that my child's participation in Scholastic Kids Press will entail researching and writing articles during the program year. I understand that the preparation of such articles may involve travel and/or on-site reporting, but whether or not my child undertakes any such travel and/or on-site reporting will always be at my discretion, and a parent or guardian or Scholastic representative will be present at all times. I understand that my child's participation is subject to the Scholastic Kid Reporter Guidelines (Exhibit A).
- III. My child or I may deliver to Scholastic photos and/or videos as part of the Application, and I understand and agree that Scholastic may use such photographs and/or videos, and/or quotes from the Application (collectively, "Photos"), either with or without their name and any biographical information and/or other materials supplied to Scholastic by my child in their application, in any and all media now known or hereafter developed for editorial, illustration, promotion, advertising, trade and other similar purposes in connection with its various books, magazines and publications and other activities or for general corporate or institutional marketing, without further notice or any compensation. Further, I understand that, subject to age requirements, my child may use various third-party social media outlets in their capacity as a Scholastic student reporter in consultation with Scholastic Kids Press editors. I consent to such participation and acknowledge that I am responsible for reviewing the terms of use and privacy policies of any such sites.
- IV. I understand that my child will be writing or otherwise producing or conducting articles, reports, stories, interviews, photos, videos and/or other materials related thereto while serving in Scholastic Kids Press (collectively, "Articles") on behalf of Scholastic. I understand and agree that all Articles will be deemed the exclusive property of Scholastic and may be used in connection with its various publications and other activities, without any further obligation to me or my child. I and my child hereby assign and transfer to Scholastic any and all rights, including without limitation copyright, in the Articles. Without limiting the foregoing, I understand that my child may use the Articles in their personal portfolio for school or job applications, and I and my child will not otherwise use or authorize others to use any of the Articles without Scholastic's prior written consent. Scholastic will consider reasonable requests from me and my child to authorize any other limited use of the Articles and, although such authorization will be at Scholastic's sole discretion, Scholastic will work in good faith with us in response to such requests. While I and my child hope that Photos and Articles will be used by Scholastic and Scholastic hopes to be able to use Articles as contemplated in this Release, I and my child understand that Photos and Articles may not be used, and Scholastic is not obligated to make any use of the rights granted herein.

- V. I represent and warrant that my child’s Articles are and will be original work to them, they are not and will not be produced by using any Artificial Intelligence or similar tools, including but not limited to ChatGPT, in whole or in part, and have not been previously published. I and my child hereby assign and transfer to Scholastic any and all rights, including without limitation copyright, in the Articles, and I represent and warrant that I and my child have all rights necessary to make the grant of rights in the Articles and Photos contained herein.

- VI. I understand that there is a possibility that if selected, my child will have the opportunity to be featured in or interviewed by outside media organizations. Without limiting anything contained herein, Scholastic may share any Articles and/or Photos either created by my child or featuring my child with these media organizations including without limitation newspapers, magazines, websites, social media platforms, and television and radio stations, whether in the form of press releases, electronic press kits or otherwise. Further, I understand that in connection with Scholastic’s press outreach for Scholastic Kids Press, Scholastic may arrange or facilitate interviews of my child with the media with my permission, while keeping me informed throughout the process.

- VII. I hereby release Scholastic and its affiliates and authorized representatives, as well as their officers, directors and employees (“Released Entities”), on behalf of me and my child, from any and all actions, suits, claims and demands of any kind whatsoever, which either of us, our heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, had, now have or hereafter may have, by reason of any matter related to Scholastic Kids Press and the activities described herein. Without limiting the foregoing, the Released Entities will not be held accountable for any accident or injury obtained while my child attends or travels to/from an event, function, or interview on behalf of Scholastic Kids Press.

- VIII. My child may be allowed to communicate with Scholastic directly via e-mail or other media.

- IX. I understand that Scholastic is not responsible for any child’s behavior in Scholastic Kids Press and that if my child breaks the Scholastic Kids Press Guidelines (attached hereto as Exhibit A, and which I have read and acknowledge), I understand that my child’s membership in Scholastic Kids Press may be terminated, provided Scholastic shall retain any and all rights in the Articles and Photos set forth herein.

I have read the above and agree with and give my consent to what it says

Signature of parent or guardian

Date

Print name

Address (Street, Town, State, Country, Zip Code)

Signature of child

Date

Print name

Student Release Form

EXHIBIT A: Kid Reporter Guidelines

Dress Code

The dress code is casual and neat. Scholastic provides each Kid Reporter with a Kids Press shirt. When on assignment, Kid Reporters must wear their official shirts with nice pants, preferably khakis or black pants, or a skirt. Kid Reporters should look neat, clean, and comfortable. No jeans, shorts, or hats with slogans or logos. Remember, Kid Reporters are not only representing themselves, but also representing their schools and Scholastic.

Supplies

Scholastic will provide press credentials, a notebook, and business cards. Kid Reporters should be prepared to take notes and record the interview. If Kid Reporters do not have a tape recorder or smartphone with recording capabilities, they need to have someone with them to help take notes during interviews.

Photographs

If Kid Reporters have access to a digital camera, still or video, they are encouraged to use it. Kid Reporters can email pictures to Scholastic to accompany their articles. They may also enlist a teacher or family member to help with taking pictures/video. Kid Reporters must be sure to take a variety of photographs and tell Scholastic who took the photographs and/or videos they submit.

Transportation

While it is not a requirement, Kid Reporters may travel for on-site reporting if their parents/guardians are comfortable with it and can accommodate it. It is up to Kid Reporters' parents/guardians or teachers to transport them to and from an event or interview. When necessary, Scholastic editors will work with Kid Reporters to obtain media credentials for them and parents/guardians. Safety is the top priority. Kid Reporters should never arrange to do any interviews alone and must have an adult with them at all times.

Talking to the Press

Kid Reporters may be interviewed by other members of the press about their experiences with Scholastic Kids Press. Someone from Scholastic will discuss how to answer questions about the program and your availability for media interviews throughout the year. In some cases, Kid Reporters' parents/guardians may need to arrange for transportation to and from such interviews. If Kid Reporters are approached by members of the press, they must inform Scholastic and provide the name and contact information for the journalist.

Kid Reporter Conduct

Scholastic Kid Reporters are important “ambassadors” of Scholastic and their schools, and they are expected to represent the company the best they can—whether it’s on location for an assignment, in an interview with media outlets, or on social media. This means they must:

- Be respectful: Always behave in a polite and professional way.
- Be on time: Punctuality shows respect for the person being interviewed.
- Be prepared: Do research and have questions ready.
- Stay on task: When interviewing someone, remember that you are there to gain information and insights for your article. Be professional, and keep the conversation focused on information you’re obtaining for your article.
- Be honorable: Ask for help if needed, but never plagiarize or copy someone else’s work, even in part. Always cite your sources.
- Be a team player: There are many Kid Reporters around the world. Occasionally, they may have the chance to help one another write a story or cover breaking news.

Social Media Policy

If Kid Reporters are under the age of 13:

- DON’T identify yourself as a Scholastic Kid Reporter on social media.
- DON’T share your Kid Reporter stories on social media.
- DON’T reach out to people you would like to interview through social media. Story ideas should be submitted to your editor for approval first.
- DON’T respond to requests for media to interview you that come through social media or any other way—please send all requests from the media to Scholastic.
- DON’T share information about stories you are working on that have not yet been published.
- DO have a discussion with your parent or guardian before creating accounts or doing anything on social media.
- DO encourage your parents or guardians to share your Kid Reporter stories with their followers.

If Kid Reporters are 13 years old or over:

- DO have a discussion with your parent or guardian before creating accounts or doing anything on social media.
- DON’T share information about stories you are working on that have not yet been published.
- DON’T reach out to people you would like to interview through social media. Story ideas should be submitted to your editor for approval first.
- DON’T respond to requests for media to interview you that come through social media or any other way—please send all requests to Scholastic.
- DON’T create fan pages using the Scholastic Kids Press brand (for example: a Facebook fan page for your work as a Kid Reporter).
- DO identify yourself as a Scholastic Kid Reporter on your social media accounts, if you wish.
- DO share your published stories with your followers, or share Scholastic social media posts about Kid Reporter stories, if you wish.
- DO encourage your parents or guardians to share your Kid Reporter stories with their followers.