



2026–2027 Kid Reporter Application

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Scholastic Kid Reporter. To apply, you must be between 10 and 14 years old at the start of the 2026-2027 school year and enrolled in fifth through eighth grade. Typically, this includes those born between September 1, 2012, and August 31, 2016.

Your PRINTED application should include:

- Background information form (pages 2–4) that lets Scholastic Kids Press team members know more about you.
- Writing samples (page 5):
 - One typed news article
 - Two story ideas about your community
 - One typed personal essay
- Student release form (pages 6–7), which must be completed and signed by your parent/legal guardian. **Any applications without the signed student release form included with this application will NOT be considered.**

How to submit:

- Print all your materials and paperclip or staple them together in this order: 1) background information form, 2) writing samples, 3) signed student release form.
- When complete, please mail all of these materials to:

**Scholastic Kids Press
557 Broadway
New York, NY 10012**

All applications must be postmarked by May 15, 2026. No late or digital applications will be accepted.

As part of the application process, you may be invited to complete a virtual interview with a Scholastic Kids Press team member during the summer. Students who are selected to join the program should expect to be notified in September 2026. 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 name, school and city) will not be made publicly available.

Full Name:

Street Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Your Date of Birth:

School Name:

Grade in School as of September 2026:

Home Phone Number:

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 write for any other news organizations?

What after school activities are you involved in?

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

Have you used Google docs and/or Microsoft Word to write while using tracked changes? Which one or what other program(s)? (It's okay if not! This will help us know the best way to work with you while editing stories.)

What video calling platforms have you used and are you most comfortable with? (Google Meets, Microsoft Teams, Zoom, etc.)? Again, it's okay if you haven't but this way we'll know if you need training for any virtual interviews requiring video calls.

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

Which of the following topics are of most interest to you? (Select all that apply)

- Books (authors, illustrators, etc.)**
- Entertainment (movies, tv shows, etc.)**
- Education (events and activities happening in your classroom and school)**
- Community reading events (local bookstores, libraries, literary events and festivals in your town)**
- Profiling kids doing cool things**
- Talking about today's issues that are affecting kids' schools and literacy**

- Profiling adults who can be role models for kids through their careers or actions
- Other (please share):

Are you familiar with Scholastic? (For example: Have you ever gone to a Scholastic Book Fair? Ordered from Scholastic Book Clubs? Read a Scholastic magazine Or do you have a favorite Scholastic author or series? It's okay if you haven't, just tell us what you know!)

If you could interview any author or illustrator, who would it be? Why?

Do you have a reading role model? Who is it and why?

Are you comfortable: A) being on camera or B) recording video for your interviews? It's okay if you do not have experience with either.

How do you get your news and entertainment? Do you read the paper or online news sites, watch TV, social media outlets or YouTube? What are your favorite programs/channels on these platforms?

Writing Samples

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

Scholastic Kid Reporters write on topics ranging across interests, regularly connecting with literacy and always aiming to inspire other kids to be curious and engage in the world around them. The program is a unique way to support building media literacy skills and bringing a kids' perspective to local and national topics.

- Please write a 400-word news article on one of the following topics:
 - **AI in the classroom:** Have you seen technology like AI being used in your school? Are your school leaders setting clear rules for tools like ChatGPT? How do students and teachers feel about it? Do they find it helpful or confusing?
 - **Classroom libraries:** What makes for the perfect classroom library? Which books disappear first? How do teachers choose books that students love?
 - **When and where are kids reading:** Do students read more for fun outside the classroom, or mostly for assignments during school? Are national reports about declining reading rates reflected in what you see at your school? How do students' reading habits change throughout the school year? Which books or genres are most popular right now?
 - **What's making headlines in your hometown:** What's happening in your community that feels important or exciting? Is there an event at your school, a program at your library, or an activity at a community center that brings people together? Why do you think it matters to your community?

Please note, that your news article **must include between one to four quotes from at least two interviews that you have conducted**. You can interview teachers, librarians, classmates, or other members of your community. If you're accepted into the program, this article could become the first piece you'll refine and update in collaboration with your editor.

- What are two ideas for stories 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? If you're a returning Kid Reporter, tell us why you'd like to return and what you enjoy most about the program.

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 communications managers and 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; see pages 8-10**).
- 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 the Scholastic Kids Press team. 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, including without limitation the reposting of full stories or interviews on social media or non-Scholastic websites. Scholastic will consider reasonable requests from me and my child to authorize any other limited use of the Articles (e.g., posting short excerpts or clips) and, although such authorization will be at Scholastic’s sole discretion, Scholastic will work in good faith with us in response to such requests. Notwithstanding the foregoing, I understand that no such requests will be deemed agreed to without the express written permission of Scholastic. 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

Writing Guidelines

Just like a newsroom, stories will either begin with an assignment by a Scholastic Kids Press editor or Kid Reporters may pitch their ideas for approval. Kid Reporters will write a minimum of four stories during the program year. **A story must receive approval from the Scholastic Kids Press team before Kid Reporters reach out to any sources or schedule an interview with a source or make any commitment in connection with a story.** All story ideas will be directly tied to literacy, kids today, education or careers. A full version of the writing guidelines will be shared with Kid Reporters accepted into the program.

Dress Code

The dress code is casual. Scholastic provides each Kid Reporter with a Kids Press shirt. When on assignment, Kid Reporters must wear their official shirts with solid color (no patterns, words or logos) pants, long shorts or a skirt. Jeans are allowed but without holes or frayed edges. No hats or sunglasses. 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 recorder or smartphone with recording capabilities, they need to have someone with them to help take notes during interviews.

Photographs and Video Content

If Kid Reporters have access to a digital camera, still or video, they are encouraged to use it. Kid Reporters can email pictures and video 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/recorded video clips 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. No personal gain.
- Be honorable: Ask for help if needed, but never plagiarize or copy someone else’s work, even in part. Always cite your sources. Work that is AI produced, in whole or in part, is not acceptable.
- 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.