



Quick facts

- ▶ **Founded:** 1909 as Sigma Delta Chi fraternity
- ▶ **Location:** Eugene S. Pulliam National Journalism Center, 3909 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46208
- ▶ **Purpose:** To Improve & Protect Journalism
- ▶ **Membership:** About 10,000 members nationwide
- ▶ **Operating budget:** \$1.7 million annually

Mission

The **Society of Professional Journalists** is dedicated to the perpetuation of a free press as the cornerstone of our nation and our liberty. To ensure that the concept of self-government outlined by the United States Constitution remains a reality into future centuries, the American people must be well-informed in order to make decisions regarding their lives and their local and national communities. It is the role of journalists to provide this information in an accurate, comprehensive, timely and understandable manner.

It is the mission of the Society of Professional Journalists:

- ▶ To encourage a climate in which journalism can be practiced freely and fully
- ▶ To promote this flow of information
- ▶ To stimulate high standards and ethical behavior in the practice of journalism
- ▶ To foster excellence and to encourage diversity among journalists
- ▶ To inspire successive generations of talented individuals to become dedicated journalists
- ▶ Finally, the Society must maintain constant vigilance in protection of First Amendment guarantees of freedom of speech and of the press

History

- ▶ **Founded:** SPJ was founded in 1909 at DePauw University in Greencastle, Ind., as a journalistic fraternity known as Sigma Delta Chi. In 1988, the organization officially changed its name to the Society of Professional Journalists.
- ▶ **Membership:** SPJ is a professional organization that includes broadcast, print and online journalists, journalism educators and students interested in journalism as a career.
- ▶ **Tax-exempt status:** The Society is a not-for-profit organization exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)6 of the Internal Revenue Code.

SPJ Online

- ▶ Visit SPJ's Web site www.spj.org for Society programs, journalism events, contacts and an FOI resource center.
- ▶ Visitors can register online for professional development programs, renew an SPJ membership or join the Society.
- ▶ SPJ's exclusive online job bank connects members to nationwide employment, fellowship and internship opportunities in the journalism field.
- ▶ The Society's online discussion lists connect journalists around the world to discuss the latest journalism issues.