

CODE of ETHICS

SPJ Code of Ethics

• PREAMBLE

Members of the Society of Professional Journalists believe that public enlightenment is the forerunner of justice and the foundation of democracy. Ethical journalism strives to ensure the free exchange of information that is accurate, fair and thorough. An ethical journalist acts with integrity.

The Society declares these four principles as the foundation of ethical journalism and encourages their use in its practice by all people in all media.

Code of Ethics Highlights

• SEEK TRUTH AND REPORT IT

Ethical journalism should be accurate and fair. Journalists should be honest and courageous in gathering, reporting and interpreting information.

• MINIMIZE HARM

Ethical journalism treats sources, subjects, colleagues and members of the public as human beings deserving of respect.

• ACT INDEPENDENTLY

The highest and primary obligation of ethical journalism is to serve the public.

• BE ACCOUNTABLE AND TRANSPARENT

Ethical journalism means taking responsibility for one's work and explaining one's decisions to the public.

For the full version of SPJ's Code of Ethics, visit spj.org/ethics.asp



SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS.
Eugene S. Pulliam National Journalism Center
3909 N. Meridian St., Suite 200, Indianapolis, IN 46208-4011
317.927.8000 | spj.org

SO WHY JOIN?

You become one of more than 7,000 journalists nationwide fighting for one cause:
Improving and Protecting Journalism.

SUPPORT

Investing in Excellence in Journalism



SIGMA DELTA CHI FOUNDATION

Donations to the Sigma Delta Chi Foundation support training and education for journalists and awards grants to the journalism community. The Foundation is a 501(C)3 charity and gifts are tax deductible.



LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

The Society of Professional Journalists collects and distributes contributions for aiding journalists in defending the freedom of speech and press guaranteed by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.



FIRST AMENDMENT FOREVER FUND

It isn't getting any easier to fight for press freedom. It's getting worse. The Forever Fund is a sustained war chest to guarantee someone is always fighting for press freedom. If we don't do it, who will?



PRESIDENT'S CLUB

Contributions support SPJ's general fund to promote the flow of information, protect free speech, foster excellence, encourage diversity and inspire the next generation of journalists.

What's your passion? Visit our website:
SPJ.ORG/DONATE

JOIN TODAY AT **SPJ.ORG**



SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS

Improving & Protecting Journalism
Since 1909

ABOUT YOU *(Please print)*

Name: _____

Title: _____

Company/School: _____

Work/School Address: _____

Work Phone: _____

Permanent Home Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Mobile Phone: _____

Please send mailings to my: work home

Email Address: _____

ONE YEAR MEMBERSHIP IN SPJ

- Professional Journalists & Educators **\$75**
- Students **\$37.50** (_____ Anticipated graduation date)
- Post Graduates **\$37.50** (Through 3 years after graduation)
- Retired Journalists **\$37.50**
- Lifetime Membership **\$1,000**
- Household (Spouse/Partner of current members) **\$37.50**
- Supporter **\$20**

LOCAL CHAPTER DUES

- I wish to pay my local chapter dues now.
- My local chapter is _____
- Local Dues \$ _____

PAYMENT METHOD

- Check enclosed (payable to SPJ)
- Bill my credit card: Visa MasterCard AmEx
- #: _____ Exp: _____
- Signature: _____

MAILING LIST

SPJ occasionally receives requests for mailing lists from other journalism groups and advertisers.

- Do not include my name on such lists

RETURN THIS APPLICATION TO:

Society of Professional Journalists
Eugene S. Pulliam National Journalism Center
3909 N. Meridian Street, Suite 200
Indianapolis, IN 46208

Phone: **317.927.8000 x 203**

Fax: **317.920.4789**

* Membership dues are non-refundable.
\$25 of membership dues are applied
toward a Quill subscription.

Professional Development

- With your SPJ membership, you have access to regional spring **conferences**, the annual Excellence in Journalism conference (more than 50 **professional development** sessions in three days!), chapters and communities, a chance to submit your best work for the Sigma Delta Chi awards or the Mark of Excellence **awards** for collegiate journalists, training on demand sessions, **weekly e-newsletters** tailored to fit your interests and a subscription to Quill, SPJ's magazine. You'll also have access to a **job bank** and **freelance directory** to help advance your career.

Journalism Advocacy

- SPJ gives you a voice on Capitol Hill and within the halls of your state legislature, and also works to help you understand Freedom of Information legislation and ways to access public records. Nationally and locally, SPJ is working hard to ensure a free flow of information that is vital to a democracy. **We fight and win battles for freedom of information and First Amendment rights.** We provide guidelines to ensure that journalists perform their work while adhering to ethical standards of behavior and decision-making. And we share resources to help journalists expand their source base to better reflect their community.

You may also join online at spj.org