



TO: KSPA Member Schools
FROM: Jeff Browne, KSPA Executive Director
DATE: Dec. 16, 2011
RE: KSPA Regional Contests and Inclement Weather

The KSPA Board of Directors passed a new inclement weather policy for regional contests, making it easier for schools to compete in regionals if their district forces them to stay home because of bad weather.

The full policy (which is also attached to the email that included this letter) reinforces the organization's desire to make on-site regional contests a hallmark of the organization, but it also recognizes that occasional bad weather — bad enough to shut down a school and/or district — shouldn't limit student-journalists' ability to compete at regional contests. It also addresses concerns raised by several schools that, in the past four years, have been unable to compete on-site because of blizzards, ice storms and other weather-related travel problems.

Under the new policy, schools must make every attempt to attend the regional contest to which they are assigned. (Please see regional assignment document.) However, if a district official prohibits travel to a contest site because of snow and/or ice on the roads, the policy outlines a procedure by which students may compete at their school under strict guidelines. This policy covers only the on-site contests. If a school anticipates that bad weather may force it to bypass travel to its regional, the adviser is responsible for getting carry-in contest entries to the regional contest coordinator on the day of the contest. Please read the full policy for specific details.

Delayed Judging Necessary

Because contest coordinators at KU, KSU, PSU, WSU, ESU and FHSU can no longer guarantee that all schools will compete on the day of the contest, they will have to delay judging to accommodate any schools that can't make it to their site. Often, the most difficult part of contest coordination is finding enough judges to meet all at once, in one space. Further, coordinators have to arrange for the space and judges weeks, if not months, in advance. Thus, all judging will be done within two weeks of the end of the contests (possibly earlier), and not on the day of the contest.

The Board's action — deliberated at the Dec. 10 winter meeting at Wichita State University, then passed Tuesday via an electronic vote — had been an agenda item since August, when the Board first proposed it. Board members then discussed the policy with members at meetings during the KSPA Fall Conferences in Lawrence, Hays and Manhattan, and again with each other Saturday and through the weekend. Prior to this year, the board has discussed regional contest issues — weather-related and other — at every meeting for at least the past five years.

The 2012 KSPA regional contests are scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 23 (Wichita, Manhattan, Pittsburg, Emporia and Hays) and Friday, Feb. 24 (Lawrence). Please note that this policy does not extend to the state competition, slated for Saturday, May 5 in Lawrence.

The following pages contain information about the Regional Contest rules.



2012 Regional Contest Information and Rules

CONTESTS

Thursday, Feb. 23

Kansas State University
Kelly Furnas, Director
1A-2A, 3A-4A, 5A-6A contests
785-532-7822
Entry deadline: Friday, Jan. 27
Sub deadline: Tuesday, Feb. 21

Thursday, Feb. 23

Wichita State University
Amy DeVault, Director
1A-2A, 5A-6A contests
316-978-6052
Entry deadline: Friday, Jan. 27
Sub deadline: Tuesday, Feb. 21

Thursday, Feb. 23

Fort Hays State University
Marcella Marez, Director
1A-2A, 3A-4A contests
785-628-4337
Entry deadline: Friday, Jan. 27
Sub deadline: Tuesday, Feb. 21

Thursday, Feb. 23

Pittsburg State University
Gerard Attoun, Director
3A-4A contest
620-235-4809
Entry deadline: Friday, Jan. 27
Sub deadline: Tuesday, Feb. 21

Thursday, Feb. 23

Emporia State University
Max McCoy, Director
3A-4A, 5A-6A contests
620-341-5544
Entry deadline: Friday, Jan. 27
Sub deadline: Tuesday, Feb. 21

Friday, Feb. 24

University of Kansas
Jeff Browne, Director
3A-4A, 5A-6A contests
785-864-0605
Entry deadline: Monday, Jan. 30
Sub deadline: Wed., Feb. 22

This information and files needed to complete the carry-in contests have been posted online at <http://www.kspaonline.org>. Go to the "Regionals" tab. Click and you will find the page with registration information and links, as well as all the carry-in contest PDF files and photographs needed to complete the design categories.

Some regional contests (KSU, WSU, FHSU) will feature online registration; the others (PSU, ESU, KU) require a writable PDF that can be e-mailed or mailed. Please check with your regional contest coordinator if you aren't sure how to register for your contest.

Contest Divisions

KSPA competitions are divided into three classifications for competition: 1A and 2A schools will compete at the same sites, as will 3A and 4A schools, and 5A and 6A schools. In all, KSPA

A minimum of four schools must compete in each division at each regional to have a valid contest. The executive director is authorized by KSPA's executive committee to assign schools as necessary to equalize competition and to ensure that at least four schools compete in each division at each site. Please be sure to check with KSHSAA classification to confirm your school is entered in the correct division.

Carry-in Contests

Ten carry-in contests will be offered: Advertising, Headline Writing, Infographics, News Page Design, Photo Illustration, Yearbook Layout, Theme Development and Graphics, Student Life Photography, Academics Photography, and Sports Photography. The Video News Package contest will be at the state level only.



Carry-in contests must be hand-delivered to the contest site by 9 a.m. the day of the contest, or they may be mailed directly to the contest site as long as they are received by the day of the contest. **No faxes, please.** Advisers are encouraged to FedEx carry-in entries to avoid delays at the registration table and to ensure on-time arrival.

On-site contests

Nine on-site contests will be offered: Editing, Editorial Cartoon, Editorial Writing, Cutline Writing, Yearbook Sports Writing, Yearbook Copy Writing, Feature Writing, News Writing, and News Sports Writing. On-site rules and information are included at the end of this letter.

Entries

Advisers are urged to complete their entry blanks as quickly as possible and to return them to the director of the contest site where their students will complete. Contest locations and directors are listed below.

Kansas State University Wichita State University Fort Hays State University

Kelly Furnas

School of Journalism

Kedzie Hall 103

Manhattan, KS 66506

785-532-7822

furnas@ksu.edu

Amy DeVault

Elliott School of Comm.

Campus Box 31

Wichita, KS 67260

316-978-6052

amy.devault@wichita.edu

Marcella Marez

Comm. Studies Dept.

Malloy Hall 201C

Hays, KS 67601

785-628-4337

mmarez@fhsu.edu

Pittsburg State University

Gerard Attoun

1701 S. Broadway

220 Whitesitt

Pittsburg, KS 66762

620-235-4809

gattoun@pittstate.edu

Emporia State University

Max McCoy

1200 Commercial

Campus Box 4045

Emporia, KS

620-341-5544

mmccoy2@emporia.edu

University of Kansas

Jeff Browne

317 Stauffer-Flint

1435 Jayhawk Blvd.

Lawrence, KS

785-864-7625

jeffbrowne@ku.edu

Each school may enter two entries in each contest. Each student may enter up to five contests; however, no more than two contests entered may be on-site. In the Theme Development and Graphics competition, schools may elect to have two teams of two individuals per team, two individuals, or one team and one individual compete. The broadcast competition will take place only at the state level.

Contestants will compete by number. If a student identifies him/herself or his/her school by name or location, or uses the wrong number, the entry will be disqualified. Contestants will be given labels with their numbers printed on them. These labels should appear in the upper right-hand corner of the student's entry.

Substitutions

If an adviser needs to make emergency substitutions, there will be a limit of two changes per school. No category changes may be made. The director of the regional contest must be notified



of substitutions at least **48 hours prior to the contest**, or **9 a.m.** two days before the competition.

Fees

The fee for each entry remains \$10, and a \$10 per school entry fee will also be assessed to cover the cost of postage to return entries following the competition. Although it is better if payment can accompany the form, rather than delay submission of the entry form itself, please forward it and send the payment to the site in a later mailing. Payment must be made, however, prior to the time of the competition. Checks should be made payable to **KSPA or Kansas Scholastic Press Association** regardless of the site where the school competes.

Student Supervision

Students must remain on the contest premises where they are competing throughout the day. Advisers must accompany students to the contest site. At the regional level, KSPA will not provide any scheduled activities for carry-in entrants. As a result, unless these students are also competing on the site, they need not attend the contest.

Lunch

In addition to the entry fee, each student will be responsible for his/her lunch. Food service is available on each campus and will be explained by the host school when the entry is acknowledged.

Check In

Upon receipt of your entry, the director of the contest site where your students will compete will send you additional information on parking, food facilities, location of registration, and contests.

Regulations

The director of each regional contest is authorized to enforce the rules approved by the KSPA executive committee. If any adviser violates the rules, his/her students will be disqualified and the principal of the school involved will be notified. Advisers are prohibited from entering the rooms where entries are being judged.

Advisers are not to give advice or suggestions on carry-in contests. Student questions should be directed to the KSPA executive director.

Awards and Judging

Certificates will be awarded in regional contests to the first-, second- and third-place winners as well as to three honorable mentions. Award winners are then eligible to compete in the state competition Saturday, May 5, at the University of Kansas.

Judges will be journalism faculty, former high school advisers no longer employed by a school district, graduate students and professional journalists. Whenever possible, critique forms will be provided with each entry. Judges are encouraged to make comments on all entries. Judges volunteer their services without pay.



Students with Special Needs

Please be advised that handicapped persons will be given an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from all contests sponsored by KSPA and the cooperating institutions that act as hosts. If you or any of your students need to be so accommodated, please let the appropriate contest director know what these accommodations are before Monday, Jan. 23, 2012.

On-site Contest Rules and Tips

Two entries per category per school are allowed.

- 1. Cutline Writing:** Students will write cutlines for five photos provided at the contest site. Students may write in pen or pencil. Paper will be provided at the contest site. Students may use dictionary, thesaurus and AP Stylebooks. Personal listening devices, recording devices and personal computers are prohibited during the contest.
- 2. Writing Contests:** (Yearbook copy, yearbook sports, feature, news, sports and editorial writing contests). Students will write a story based on information provided on a fact sheet. Students may write in pen or pencil. Paper will be provided. Students may use dictionary, thesaurus and AP Stylebooks. Personal listening devices, recording devices and personal computers are prohibited during the contest.
- 3. Editorial Contest:** Students will design a cartoon relevant to the topic provided on the fact sheet. The final entry should be submitted in black ink. Don not place your signature anywhere on the entry. Paper will be provided. Students may use dictionary, thesaurus and AP Stylebooks. Personal listening devices, recording devices and personal computers are prohibited during the contest.
- 4. Editing:** Students will edit a news story. Students should edit for AP style, accuracy, libel, attribution, correct paragraphing, grammar, spelling and redundancy. Correct copy editing symbols must be used. Students should edit in pencil. Students may use dictionary, thesaurus and AP style manuals. Personal listening devices, recording devices and personal computers are prohibited during the contest.

Inclement weather Policy is attached to the email that included this letter

KSPA sincerely appreciates your support of the organization and our activities. The on-the-spot contests organized for the regional and state are special, in that most state organizations do not offer this kind of learning activity. Last year, approximately 2,200 young journalists competed at six regional sites. We anticipate having your school's students among those who will compete this year.

Sincerely,

Jeff Browne, KSPA Executive Director