

An aerial photograph of Nashville, Tennessee, showing the city skyline with various skyscrapers and buildings. The Tennessee River flows through the city, with several bridges crossing it. The image is taken from a high angle, providing a comprehensive view of the urban landscape.

FALL
2025

NASHVILLE

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL JOURNALISM CONVENTION



WHAT'S INSIDE

DATES

Wednesday, Nov. 12 through Sunday, Nov. 16

- Why should your child attend?
- What will we be doing in Nashville?
- Where will we be staying?
How will we be traveling?
- How much will it cost?
- How do we sign up?

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
fall.journalismconvention.org



BACKGROUND

The National High School Journalism Convention is a semiannual gathering of high school journalists and advisers co-sponsored by the Journalism Education Association and the National Scholastic Press Association. With typical attendance of more than 4,000 delegates, the JEA/NSPA convention is the largest gathering of student journalists in the country.

The JEA and NSPA partner to prepare hundreds of practical and professional learning sessions, from high-profile keynotes to specific, problem-solving breakouts and hands-on workshops. Other convention activities include an exhibit hall, JEA's on-site Write-off contests, NSPA's Best of Show contest, receptions, awards convocations, critiques and career roundtables.



WHY SHOULD YOUR CHILD ATTEND THIS CONVENTION?

Keynote and other featured speakers will include many of the nation's most respected journalists, writers, designers, artists, celebrated yearbook advisers and thinkers drawn from the professional and scholastic ranks.

The 300-plus sessions will be geared toward helping attendees utilize the latest technologies in tackling the most challenging, seemingly intractable issues facing young people today.

Practical sessions that will help your students take a big step forward in producing the best publications and student journalism possible.

- **Networking**
- **Hone 21st-century skills**
- **Hear from experts**
- **Receive feedback and gain recognition**
- **Provide life-changing experiences**
- **Improve student achievement**

WHY NASHVILLE?

Our journalism trip to Nashville will combine meaningful educational experiences with plenty of fun and adventure. Students will attend two full days of inspiring journalism sessions plus the key note speaker session at the national convention. In our downtime, we hope to explore some of the city's most iconic and historic attractions. From the Country Music Hall of Fame and the National Museum of African American Music to the Tennessee State Museum and Bicentennial Capitol Mall, students will gain a deeper understanding of American history, culture, and storytelling—all in the heart of "Music City."

Outside of the academic sessions, we hope to stroll about the city, taste some fabulous BBQ and explore the food halls of course all while balancing learning with excitement. A visit to the full-scale replica of the Parthenon at Centennial Park is a must. We wouldn't want to miss some of the legendary music venues like the Grand Ole Opry and Ryman Auditorium, and there is so much to do right inside the hotel itself such as SoundWaves, the resort's indoor water park. All these activities not only enrich the trip for your students but foster team bonding, spark creativity, and give students a taste of Nashville's vibrant spirit.

Each year we also like to fit in a college visit to check one more off your list! Vanderbilt is the most obvious choice, located in the heart of Nashville. It is one of the nation's leading research institutions and a beautiful, historic campus to explore. A guided tour will give students a firsthand look at college life, academics, and opportunities at a top-ranked university.

Staying at the Gaylord Opryland Resort, our students will enjoy the comfort and safety of a world-class property while being just minutes from major attractions. The mix of journalism education, cultural exploration, and group activities makes this trip a unique opportunity for students to learn, connect, and create memories together. It's not just a convention—it's a chance to experience the history, music, and energy of Nashville in an unforgettable way.



WHAT WE WILL BE DOING

WEDNESDAY

Leave from John Wayne Airport in the morning

Arrive in Nashville in the evening

Check into hotel

Light Dinner

THURSDAY

Breakfast

Potential time to explore city/Vanderbilt

Lunch

Check-in at convention

Dinner

Opening session/Keynote speaker

FRIDAY

Light breakfast

Convention sessions

City Tours and Excursions between sessions

Dinner

SATURDAY

Light breakfast

Convention sessions

City Tours and Excursions between sessions

Dinner

SUNDAY

Check out of hotel

Awards Ceremony

Mass

Lunch

Leave for airport and home to SNA





WHERE WILL WE BE STAYING?

**Gaylord Opryland
Resort & Convention Center**

2800 Opryland Dr
Nashville, TN



TRAVEL DETAILS

SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS

- Students will be arranged in quads with 3-4 students to a room
- Rooms have queen beds
- A curfew will be set every night and chaperone(s) will then conduct room checks

CHAPERONE POLICY

- One chaperone for every 10 students
- If male students attend, one male chaperone will must attend as well

OTHER TRANSPORTATION DETAILS

- Parent drop-off and pick-up at SNA required
- Flights will hopefully be one way. Cost includes round-trip airfare
- Public transportation to and from airport (and other city locations) depends on size of group
 - Bus/public transportation
 - Arranged shuttle
 - Uber/Lyft/taxi (*students are only allowed to take an Uber/Lyft/taxi if a chaperone is present in the car*)

ADDITIONAL POLICIES

Because no student can room alone, a minimum of two female students or two male students must attend for students of either gender to be allowed to participate in this overnight field trip.

In other words, if a girl is interested in attending, at least one additional girl must also choose to attend; if a boy is interested in attending, at least one other boy must also choose to attend.

However, if a student wants to attend but no other students of the same gender is interested, his/her parent/guardian may choose to accompany the student on the trip and must stay in the same room as their child at their own cost.

Please be aware that if only a small number of students is interested in attending, the costs of attending may be higher.



HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

\$2000 – \$2500

Includes travel to and from airport as well as around city, accommodations, registration, most meals and chaperone's costs



Not included: Checked baggage fee (approximately \$35 each way); official convention T-shirt/hoodie (about \$20-30); souvenirs, etc.

Above payment can be made by cash or check. Checks should be made out to Mater Dei High School with “Nashville trip: [student name]” in the memo.

In order to attend, no money can be owed to the school and deans must check student records.

The publications department may provide funds to assist with convention fee and meals (TBD).

Official cost depends on number of students + chaperones; will be determined by early October.

IMPORTANT DATES

MONDAY, SEPT. 15

RSVP by submitting completed
permission forms and \$200 deposit

After this date, new total will be calculated

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Scholarship application due (TBD)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3

Submit deposit (50% of total)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17

Remaining balance due

