



## Get Engaged in SPJ — Volunteer!

As an organization of volunteers, SPJ relies heavily on the expertise, talent, energy, passion and enthusiasm of its nearly 10,000 members. Like most volunteer-driven organizations, you get out of SPJ what you put into SPJ. Here are a number of ways — and levels — in which you can engage as a volunteer.

### Your Local Chapter Needs You!

The needs for volunteers are many at the local level. Here are just a few:

- ▶ Volunteer to make membership calls to new/renewing members.
- ▶ Find story ideas and get inspired by helping to judge awards competitions.
- ▶ Help select students for scholarship awards.
- ▶ Set up partnerships with SPJ student chapters at local colleges.
- ▶ Help SPJ evangelize by being an ambassador in your newsroom.
- ▶ Suggest fundraising opportunities—and run them!
- ▶ Publish the chapter newsletter.
- ▶ Run for an open board seat.
- ▶ Offer to sit on a committee.
- ▶ Offer to serve as chapter administrator or treasurer.
- ▶ Mentor high school journalists.
- ▶ Organize a job fair for journalism students in your area.
- ▶ Offer to plan a program.
- ▶ Be a chapter Webmaster.
- ▶ Write chapter press releases.

### Regional Work Can Expand Your Network

SPJ is divided into 12 regions, each comprised of several states and a mix of professional and campus chapters. Work at this level exposes you to journalists in nearby states and gives you a larger platform for impacting the profession.

- ▶ Learn valuable skills and meet great people by volunteering for the regional conference.
- ▶ Find story ideas and get inspired by helping to judge awards competitions from other regions.
- ▶ Network with journalists from a several-state region at your regional conference or through informal networking opportunities.
- ▶ Offer to run the Regional Web site.
- ▶ Share chapter ideas with the rest of the region by serving as regional communication chair.
- ▶ Consider running for a two-year Regional Director seat (elected at the national convention) on the National Board of Directors.

### Jump-start Your Exposure at the National Level

As the largest and most broad-based journalism organization in the country, SPJ is an active voice in the journalism industry. Join the chorus through some of these important opportunities.

- ▶ Offer your professional expertise on the publication advisory committee.
- ▶ Participate as a panelist at the annual convention and national journalism conference.
- ▶ Suggest and plan a program at the annual convention and national journalism conference.
- ▶ Offer to help with advocacy through letter campaigns or annual lawmaker visits in Washington, D.C.
- ▶ Help obtain items for the annual Legal Defense Fund Auction and Fundraiser.
- ▶ Contribute case studies to the Ethics section of SPJ.org.
- ▶ Participate in national committee work.
- ▶ Run for national office.

For more information  
visit [www.spj.org](http://www.spj.org).

Questions?  
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