



LEADERSHIP TIPS

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

VOLUNTEER TO ENGAGE IN SPJ AND EXPAND YOUR NETWORK

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.

Here are a few things you can do:

- Learn valuable skills and meet great people by volunteering for the regional conference.
- Find story ideas and get inspired by helping to judge national awards.
- Network with journalists at your regional conference or through informal networking opportunities.
- Volunteer to serve on the regional conference planning team.
- Offer to manage the website or write articles for the newsletter.

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:

- Participate as a presenter or panelist at the annual convention or suggest a webinar.
- Offer to help with advocacy through letter campaigns or annual lawmaker visits in Washington, D.C.
- Contribute case studies to the Ethics section of SPJ.org.
- Participate in national committee work.
- Run for national office.

GET ENGAGED IN SPJ – VOLUNTEER!

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

YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER NEEDS YOU!

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

- 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 company/campus.
- 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 a chapter officer such as treasurer.
- Mentor high school journalists.
- Organize a job fair for journalism students in your area.
- Offer to plan a program.
- Be a chapter web administrator.
- Write chapter press releases.

SPJ LEADERSHIP ROLES

Board of Directors: The board of directors is composed of a president, president-elect (renamed vice president after the 2022 elections), secretary-treasurer, and six directors-at-large. The board of directors must have at least one public meeting annually and are responsible for keeping SPJ financially solvent. They determine the boundaries of the regions, assign duties to committees, and encourage professional chapters to host activities.

Regional Coordinators: A Regional Coordinator (RC) is an elected leader by members of their region and oversees one of SPJ's 12 regions. RCs support and help create new chapters in their areas and connect members within the region. They are also responsible for appointing someone to serve as an administrator of the regional Mark of Excellence (MOE) collegiate journalism contest.

Chapter Leaders: Chapter leaders oversee leading the professional and student SPJ chapters. Each chapter is led by a group of elected officers, including a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. These elected officials must file an annual report that includes a review of the chapter's finances and are encouraged to send representatives to the regional conference or national convention. They should also assemble at least three programs throughout the year and engage the broader journalism community in the chapter's region.

Committees: There are a total of 11 committees that all serve a different purpose. SPJ's active committees include Awards & Honors, Bylaws, Diversity & Inclusion, Professional Standards & Ethics, Finance, Freedom of Information, Journalism Education, Legal Defense Fund, Membership, Nominations, and Resolutions. Members of SPJ can join these committees to get more involved with the Society and pursue their journalism passion.

Communities: There are two SPJ communities – Freelance and International – and are open to members. The Freelance Community is SPJ's largest and most active community, hosting events and programs throughout the year for members. The International Community is an extension of SPJ that brings together journalists globally and encourages the practice of free journalism worldwide. Both communities provide resources to help journalists improve their skills and receive support from colleagues. The Freelance community has a leadership structure akin to that of chapters with a chair/president, vice chair, secretary, membership coordinator, events coordinator, resources coordinator, and two at-large board members.

For more information visit www.spj.org. Questions? Contact: membership@spj.org