

## **2017 Gannett Foundation/Madelyn P. Jennings Scholarship Program**

**For high school junior (grade 11/third year) students who will be completing or leaving high school in 2017 and entering college in the fall of 2017\***

### **The Gannett Foundation/Madelyn P. Jennings (GF/MPJ) Scholarship Program**

This scholarship program was established in honor of Madelyn P. Jennings, who served as Gannett's senior human resources executive for 15 years, for sons and daughters of Gannett Co., Inc. employees. The awards are in recognition of her strong interest in education and her dedication to the Gannett employees she served.

The annual competition is conducted through the National Merit Scholarship Program by National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), an independent, not-for-profit organization. NMSC's purposes are (1) to identify and honor exceptionally able high school students and (2) to provide a system of services for corporations, foundations, and other organizations that wish to sponsor college undergraduate scholarships for outstanding students who interest them. All aspects of the selection of winners and the administration of their awards are handled by NMSC.

### **Who is eligible?**

Only high school students who are sons and daughters of current, full-time employees of Gannett Co., Inc. or its subsidiaries can compete for these scholarships. Such students also must meet all requirements for participation in the National Merit Scholarship Program that are published in the *Official Student Guide to the PSAT/NMSQT*<sup>®</sup>, which is updated annually and distributed to students through their high schools.

To participate in the program, students must take the qualifying test, the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) during the proper high school year. In general, students who spend the usual four years in grades 9 through 12 must take the PSAT/NMSQT when they are in their third year (grade 11/junior year). A participant also must be a citizen of the United States, or be a U.S. lawful permanent resident (or have applied for permanent residence, the application for which has not been denied) and intend to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. The *Official Student Guide to the PSAT/NMSQT* explains these and other requirements for the competition, gives detailed information about the test (including sample questions and a complete practice test), and describes the scholarship programs NMSC administers.

\* Students who plan to leave high school a year (or more) early to enroll in college full time should refer to the *Official Student Guide to the PSAT/NMSQT* (or contact NMSC) about when to take the test.

### **How does a student enter the 2017 Gannett Foundation/Madelyn P. Jennings Scholarship Program?**

To enter the competition for the GF/MPJ Scholarships to be awarded in the spring of 2017:

1. A 2017 GF/MPJ Scholarship Program Entry Form must be completed and submitted by February 29, 2016. The Entry Form for the 2017 competition may be accessed at <https://programentry.nationalmerit.org/HKFNKTKT> or you may request a paper form from Collette Horton at [cnhorton@tegna.com](mailto:cnhorton@tegna.com) or (703) 854-6254.
2. The student must take the PSAT/NMSQT in the fall of 2015, on the date their school chooses for the administration, either Wednesday, October 14 or Wednesday, October 28, 2015. At the beginning of the 2015 - 2016 school year, the student should obtain a copy of the *2015 Official Student Guide to the PSAT/NMSQT* from the high school counselor and make arrangements with the school to take the PSAT/NMSQT in October.

### **Important information about the PSAT/NMSQT:**

- ◆ The 2015 PSAT/NMSQT is the qualifying test to enter the 2017 competition. Scores from prior PSAT/NMSQT administrations (2014 or earlier) cannot be used for participation in the 2017 program.
- ◆ The 2015 PSAT/NMSQT will be administered on Wednesday, October 14 or Wednesday, October 28.
- ◆ The 2017 Gannett Foundation/Madelyn P. Jennings Scholarship Program Entry Form can be submitted prior to the student taking the October 2015 PSAT/NMSQT and/or receiving his/her official score report.

- ◆ As a co-sponsor of the examination, NMSC receives all 2015 PSAT/NMSQT scores and information students provide on their answer sheets. Therefore, students do not need to report their PSAT/NMSQT scores to NMSC.
- ◆ For more information about the PSAT/NMSQT or the National Merit Scholarship Program, visit NMSC's Web site at [www.nationalmerit.org](http://www.nationalmerit.org)

**NOTE:** A student who does not take the 2015 PSAT/NMSQT because of illness, an emergency, or other extenuating circumstances (but meets all other participation requirements), may still be able to enter the 2017 competition. To request information about possible arrangements for alternate testing, the student must write directly to NMSC as soon as possible after the October 2015 PSAT/NMSQT administration but no later than March 1, 2016. The student should not delay; the earlier the student writes, the more options there are for scheduling test dates. The letter must be postmarked on or before March 1, 2016, for the request to be considered. Write to National Merit Scholarship Corporation, Attn: Scholarship Administration, 1560 Sherman Avenue, Suite 200, Evanston, Illinois 60201-4897; fax to (847) 866-5113; or e-mail to [scholarshipadmin@nmerit.net](mailto:scholarshipadmin@nmerit.net). NMSC will provide alternate entry materials that require the signature of a school official.

### **How are winners selected?**

All Gannett Foundation/Madelyn P. Jennings Scholarship winners in 2017 will be chosen from a group of candidates who (1) score high on the 2015 PSAT/NMSQT and (2) are notified by NMSC in the fall of 2016 that they may receive further consideration for a scholarship by meeting several academic and other requirements set by NMSC. Scores from the 2015 PSAT/NMSQT will be used by NMSC as an initial screen of applicants in the 2017 Gannett Foundation/Madelyn P. Jennings Scholarship Program. **Entrants who advance in the competition will be contacted by NMSC on or before December 31, 2016.** (*Only those entrants who advance in the competition will be notified and receive materials from NMSC.*) These students and their high school principals will complete applications that include biographical and academic information that must be filed with NMSC. Scholarship winners will be chosen on a competitive basis and without regard to family financial circumstances, gender, race, ethnic origin, or religious preference. An NMSC committee of professionals trained in selection will choose the winners by evaluating several factors about each eligible candidate; these include academic record throughout high school, significant activities and contributions to the school and community, test scores, the school's recommendation of the candidate, and the student's essay about personal characteristics, activities, plans, and goals. In most cases, winners will be notified by NMSC in March of 2017. All winners are notified directly prior to any public announcement that may be made about recipients.

### **What is the amount of the award?**

Each Gannett Foundation/Madelyn P. Jennings Scholarship stipend is a one-time award of \$3,000 to be sent to the winner's college as a single payment in the fall of 2017. Other scholarship aid or an approved change in college will not affect the amount of the award.

### **Are there requirements that scholarship winners must meet?**

Yes. The formal Gannett Foundation/Madelyn P. Jennings Scholarship offer that NMSC sends to each winner specifies terms for acceptance. A winner must enter college in the fall term following selection and must enroll as a full-time undergraduate in a college or university in the United States that holds accredited status with a regional accrediting commission on higher education. (Scholarship stipends are not payable for attendance at service academies, virtual universities, and certain institutions that are limited in their purposes or training.) Also, the winner must attend college during the day, enroll in a course of study leading to one of the traditional baccalaureate degrees, and remain in good academic and disciplinary standing.

### **Who handles scholarship procedures?**

All phases of the competition, including the selection of winners and payment of scholarship stipends are handled for the Gannett Foundation by National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

### **Questions may be addressed to:**

Collette Horton, Human Resources  
(703) 854-6254  
[cnhorton@tegn.com](mailto:cnhorton@tegn.com)

**OR**

National Merit Scholarship Corporation  
(847) 866-5100