

GUY P. GANNETT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Renewal Application

Gannett Scholars are encouraged to apply for renewal consideration throughout their post-secondary and graduate education. As recipients progress through school, the selection committee expects to see a significant increase in demonstrated intent to pursue a career in journalism. Your personal letter, writing exercise, work samples, and recommendation letter are critically important components of your application. Please follow the submission guidelines carefully.

All applications and required information sent separately must be postmarked by May 1. Incomplete applications or those postmarked after this date will not be processed.

Name: _____

Post-secondary school for which aid is requested: _____

Upcoming year in school (circle): Undergraduate 1 2 3 4 Graduate 5 6 7 8

Mailing address at home:

Street address or P.O. number _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____ County: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____ E-mail: _____

Mailing address at college:

Street address or P.O. number: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____ E-mail: _____

Personal Letter: Please write the Gannett Committee summarizing your progress in terms of journalism-related experiences, leadership positions you have assumed and academic success. There is no required minimum word count, but your letter must be in business letter format, typed, and should not exceed two pages double-spaced.

Letter of Recommendation:

Please submit a recommendation letter specific to the Gannett Scholarship from a current teacher or employer detailing your accomplishments and commitment to journalism. The letter must be current (dated after January 1, 2012), on official letterhead, contain your first and last name, and be signed by the writer, who must identify his/her relationship to you (not a family member). E-mail letters are not acceptable.

Writing Exercise: Please refer to Writing Exercise page of this application.

Work Samples: Please send three samples of your best recent, published work (preferably within current academic year) related to journalism. Samples should be clearly marked with your name and the date of publication. For one of the work samples, please send the final article as well as the original piece before it was edited by your supervisor or editor. Blogs will be accepted if affiliated with a parent organization. Personal blogs are not acceptable work samples.

PROPER FORMAT: Improperly formatted work samples will not be forwarded to the committee.

Examples of print media:

- byline printed article or online clipping (published format)...and “camera ready” meaning they are copied on 8 ½ x 11 white paper, enlarged if necessary for easy reading. We will not reformat your submissions.
- byline photo with explanation of purpose of the shot. Include the article, formatted properly, in which it appeared.

Examples of broadcast media: 8 copies (CD or DVD) clearly labeled with your name, TV/radio broadcast date, and transcript of each piece. Please review each copy to ensure that it has recorded your work and can be opened.

These samples will not be returned.

Required Information: (do not staple, please)

Please submit the information requested below printed on one side only (not front and back). *Remember, all applications and required information sent separately must be postmarked by May 1. Incomplete applications or those postmarked after this date will not be processed.*

- This completed application form
- Your official college fall semester transcript showing GPA to date. A printout from the internet is not acceptable. We prefer that you include your transcript with your application.
- Your complete Federal Student Aid Report (SAR), which must include your expected family contribution (EFC) and your family’s adjusted gross income (AG). Do not send the FAFSA.
- Personal letter
- Writing exercise
- Work samples – current and properly formatted
- A signed, current letter of recommendation as outlined above
- A copy of your college financial aid offer (please send when available)

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that all of the required items are submitted on or before the application deadline. Incomplete applications or those postmarked after May 1 will not be processed. All information received from applicants will be held in confidence.

I certify that all information on this form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that I may be asked to provide proof of information stated on this form, including a copy of my parents’ and/or my prior year’s U.S. Income Tax return.

Signature of Applicant: _____

Guy P. Gannett Scholarship Fund – Writing Exercise (page 1)

The committee expects to receive a professional story written in AP Style (www.apstylebook.com). Enclosed is a “Black List” compiled by the committee to assist you. This story is a critical component of your application. Write it thoughtfully.

Instructions: Your editor has assigned you to cover an auto accident that has caused a town-wide power outage. Based on the following information, write a news story that could be published in a daily newspaper. You are not required to use all of this information. Strive for accuracy, clarity, structure and AP style -- and try to make it interesting, too.

Background:

In June 2009, your paper ran a story about safety concerns at the corner of Main and Church Streets. The site has seen a higher than average number of accidents due to congestion. The state Department of Transportation has begun a study of the issue. All active DoT studies are currently under review as a result of budget cuts.

Police report:

At 3:35 p.m., a loaded log truck driven by Sam Gamgee, 35, of West Horseshoe, was at the corner of Main and Church Streets in Grantville, turning east toward Route 1. A Ford Extinction SUV driven by Frank Textmessage was approaching the light from the opposite direction and failed to stop. Gamgee had begun his turn when he saw Textmessage’s SUV run the light. Gamgee reports that he braked and swerved to avoid hitting the SUV. The SUV braked hard at the same time and hit the log truck head-on, at which point Gamgee lost control of his vehicle. The log truck rolled over and slid into an electric power pole, resulting in wires falling across the intersection.

At 3:40 p.m., Grantville Police Officers Adamson, Hitchings and Jennings arrived at the scene to direct traffic away from the downed wires.

EMTs arrived at the scene at 3:45 p.m., and power company employees were on the scene by 4:12 p.m. Gamgee was uninjured and Textmessage was transported to Maine Memorial Hospital for treatment of leg and back injuries.

The intersection was cleared by 4:30 p.m.

Textmessage’s SUV sustained \$12,000 worth of damage. The log truck suffered minor damage.

Interviews:

Hancock County Sheriff’s Deputy Alan Alanson, the first responder: “Mr. Textmessage told me he tried to stop, but the roads are so bad right now he couldn’t.”

Dan Smith, a salesman at Stealem Luxury Auto Sales, a business located on the corner of Main and Church Streets: “That guy in the SUV almost took out three of my cars! You see it over there – barely a foot from that Mercedes SQ999. I’ve been telling the state for years that this intersection is a mess!”

Louise Sackville-Baggins, a witness to the accident: “The pulp truck was turning west onto Route 1 and all of a sudden that pickup come flying through the intersection. He shouldn’t have been driving so fast in this weather.”

Sam Gamgee: “I saw the guy coming and I knew it was gonna turn out bad as soon as he slammed on his breaks and started spinnin’. Thirty thousand pounds of fresh-cut logs ain’t stoppin’ on a dime, that’s for sure! And now I’ve got to replace two reflectors on the side of my truck.”

Jane Letorneau, a spokeswoman for Maineco Power: “When the log truck hit the transmission pole, it caused a short that damaged two circuits at the Elmo River Substation. Two crews responded, and electricity was restored to most of Grantville by 6:45 p.m.”

FINANCIAL INFORMATION RELEASE FORM

**** PLEASE FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS FORM TO YOUR **
COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY FINANCIAL AID OFFICE,
NOT TO MAINE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

ATTENTION: Financial Aid Officer

The student named below is applying to the Maine Community Foundation for a scholarship and requires your assistance in providing need-based information. Please keep this signed statement in the student's file for reference if you receive an inquiry from our Scholarship Coordinator regarding the student's financial aid award.

TO THE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANT:

I authorize release of financial aid award information to:

**Maine Community Foundation
Scholarship Coordinator
245 Main Street
Ellsworth, ME 04605-1613
Tel: 207-667-9735 or toll free 877-700-6800
Fax: 207-667-0447
E-mail: info@mainecf.org Web: www.mainecf.org**

College/University _____

Name of Student: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Student's Signature: _____

Date: _____

REMINDER: DO NOT mail this form to Maine Community Foundation.

THE BLACK LIST

Do not use...

A. ...as the main verb in a news lead:

1. met
2. announced
3. spoke
4. held
5. attended
6. led
7. presented
8. considered
9. addressed
10. discussed

B. ...in any context:

1. centered around
2. finalize
3. prioritize
4. impacted (impact as a verb)
5. when asked

C. ...without evidence:

1. thinks
2. believes
3. feels
4. hopes

FATAL ERRORS

1. Fact
2. Name or title
3. Spelling
4. Grammar
5. Style
6. Editorializing
7. Lack of attribution

FOULS

8. Typo
9. Sentence structure
10. Language usage
11. Inappropriate emphasis in the lead
12. Omission of basic information in the lead
13. Incomplete coverage
14. Unbalanced coverage