



AI Neuharth Free Spirit and Journalism Conference

A virtual journalism workshop June 21-24, 2021, to inspire and prepare free-spirited high school juniors for media careers.

Applicants *are* able to start the application process and complete it at a later date. To exercise the “save for later” option, students can create a Jotform account or can log back in with either their Google or Facebook account.

To qualify as an applicant for this program:

1. Applicant must be a high school **junior who will graduate in the Class of 2022**.
2. Applicant must be interested in pursuing a career in journalism.
3. Applicant must demonstrate qualities of a “free spirit.”
4. Applicant must be available to attend the conference June 21-24, 2021.

The following constitutes a completed application:

- A completed, online application
- A color headshot photo
- An academic transcript - (unofficial one is acceptable)
- Two letters of recommendation (from journalism/media advisor, principal, counselor, teacher or other mentor). The letters should describe why this student is nominated for the AI Neuharth Free Spirit and Journalism Conference. Describe the applicant’s personal qualities, his/her interest in pursuing a career in journalism and characteristics that make him/her a free spirit. Persons recommending must be familiar with the applicant’s work and personal characteristics. All letters of recommendation should be submitted on official letterhead (if possible) and should include the contact information of the person providing it. Please note that letters of recommendation may be submitted via email to info@freespirit.org.
- Three journalistic work samples. The following work samples (published or unpublished) may include any of the following and can be attached to the online application:
 - Bylined printed article
 - Bylined photo
 - Yearbook pages



- Online content (printed format, PDF or electronic link)
 - Classroom journalism assignments
 - Students interested in submitting audio/video work samples should post them online (i.e. YouTube or your own website) and include the URLs in your application or email them to info@freespirit.org. If using Google Docs, send as view only.
- Two essays: maximum of 500 words each
- **Essay one:** The essay must explain why the applicant wants to pursue a career in journalism.
 - **Essay two:** This essay should be about the applicant's specific qualities as a free spirit.

Applicants should share experiences and/or challenges that make him/her a free spirit. Possible characteristics includes leadership, courage, creativity, risk-taking, innovative thinking, perseverance, rising above circumstances to accomplish something extraordinary.

Again, applicants will have the ability to upload some, if not all, of the afore-mentioned information. Any portion of the application that the applicants are unable to upload can be emailed to info@freespirit.org.

Applications *will be* accepted beyond the February 1 deadline but we encourage students to apply ASAP.

Applicants must be able to attend the virtual conference (June 21-24, 2021 – 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. EST), including a session dedicated to creating a First Amendment Call to Action project that students will be required to complete during their senior year of high school, with assistance and support from Freedom Forum staff. All applicants will be notified by mid-May whether or not they have been selected for the program. Any questions may be sent to info@freespirit.org or call Program Director Karen Catone at 202-253-5401.