

Kid Scoop News Reporter Application

Return Completed by: September 8, 2014



I would like to apply to be a reporter for Kid Scoop News. I will submit a 350-400 word article as specified below. Articles submitted will be judged by the Kid Scoop News team and reporters will be selected from the best entries.

Student Section (this portion is to be completed by the student):

Name: _____

School/Grade/Teacher: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Is there a home computer that you could use? Yes/No Are emails checked daily? Yes/No

Write a (350-400 word) article on a topic below, type/edit, and return with this application.

Select from the following:

Event: Local, National, or International

Person of Interest: Political, Social, Financial, Sports, Entertainment, etc.

Educational: Math, Science, Languages, etc.

Who is the most famous person you could interview and how would you set up that meeting?

(Please specify and explain in detail)

Parent Section (this portion is to be read and signed by the parent):

I have read the *Kid Scoop News* Reporter Regulations. I am committing to do the following: I will be available to drive my child to monthly meetings for the young writers. When needed, I will assist my child in making contacts with persons of interest and setting up interviews. I will be responsible to drive my child to cover stories and hold interviews. I will take photos when needed. I will make sure my child is responsible for fulfilling his/her writing obligations and meet their article deadlines. I will be responsible for proofreading my child's article, assisting with attaching photos, and making sure everything is emailed to the newspaper in a timely manner.

Parent Signature

Teacher Section (this portion is to be read and signed by the student's teacher):

The above student would like to apply to serve as a reporter for *Kid Scoop News*. In order to do so, we feel it is important that the student: be responsible, make good grades, turn in work/homework on time, and have strong writing skills.

_____ I feel this student would be an asset to the writing staff of *Kid Scoop News*.

_____ I am willing to serve as a mentor for this student. I will assist him/her when they need additional help researching, editing, and writing.

Teacher Signature

Regulations for *Kid Scoop News* Reporters



Only a small number of student writers will be selected to join the prestigious team of *Kid Scoop* reporters. Our expectations are high and we want all involved to have a good understanding of these. This newspaper is a countywide monthly publication (*Kid Scoop News*) and a nationally weekly publication (*Kid Scoop*). The combined circulation is 7 million readers.

Those selected will be strong writers. They will be taught to become better writers and good reporters. This will take place at monthly training meetings and through valuable experience. Each young writer will strive to work on one to two stories per school year. Everyone will be asked to provide a professional photo of themselves. This will be used for the paper and Press Passes.

Self motivation is essential. Young writers will present ideas for stories and their plan of action. Each writer will be asked for a list of five big stories they would like to cover. Previous reporters attended a Town Hall meeting at the White House, interviewed a NASCAR legend, and covered a football game at the Superdome and then met the Super Bowl coach. These five stories are their goals for the year. They will work to achieve them all, but will find certain opportunities more available than others. Where opportunities are presented, they will follow leads and move forward – professionally, and politely.

Students need to be creative and diligent when working to achieve interviews and appointments. Some of this information will be gained in the monthly training meetings, but a portion will be determined by the tenacity of the student reporter (and their supportive parent). These children must be strong and determined. The young reporters will do research, create questions, and conduct interviews. Parents and teachers may assist when needed; however, the goal is for the student to do this as independently as possible.

Parental involvement is a MUST for each child to be a successful young reporter. Parents need to be available to drive and often attend the monthly writers' meetings. They must serve as a guide for their child when making contacts for interviews, assisting them in making phone calls, writing letters, and sending emails. Parents need to provide transportation for their child to cover a story or conduct an interview. The young reporters must be accompanied at all times at a story/interview location. It will be the job of the parent to serve as their child's assistant during this time (ie: taking photos, gathering memorabilia, locating restrooms, etc). This is a time for parents to serve, while their child is in the spotlight.

Parents will make sure their child fulfills his/her writing responsibilities and meets the required obligations for the deadline. This may require checking in with the child throughout the writing process. Parents will proof read the articles for spelling, punctuation, and overall grammatical errors. If needed, they will assist their child in emailing the final typed article, attaching photos, and meeting the paper's deadline.

This is a great opportunity for kids, but with this opportunity comes great responsibility!