



WASHINGTON STATE YOUTH & GOVERNMENT

Press Corps & Press Photographers

The Press Corps consists of reporters, photographers, one assistant editor from each district, and an editor-in-chief. Reporters must be in the 9th through 12th grade, or equivalent. Candidates for assistant editor positions must be in the 11th or 12th grade, or equivalent, have either one year prior experience as a member of the Youth Legislature Press. The Editor-in-Chief for the following year will be selected by the members of the Press Corps at the conclusion of the present session. The Editor-in-Chief will serve throughout the year and during the subsequent session. Assistant Editors will be elected by their districts, but will be assigned to specific positions by the Editor-in-Chief.

The Editor-in-Chief and Assistant Editors **MUST** attend the leadership training as scheduled in the Program Calendar.

The **Editor-in-Chief** has the following responsibilities:

1. Supervise production and layout of newspaper, control and proofread final copy.
2. Coordinate general operation of Press Room and supervise assistant editors.
3. May, in consultation with State Program Director and press advisors, institute an "alternative" paper.
4. Write at least three editorials on topics related to Youth and Government (i.e., calling for passage/defeat of bills, choice of officers, etc.).
5. Represent the press program for the YMCA Youth Legislature.
6. Serve as a voting member of the YMCA Youth Legislature Program Committee. This requires attendance at all Program Committee Meetings.
7. Work with the Program Area Lead in layout and editing of the Capitol Quarterly newsletter.
8. Attend the Proclamation Signing, Leadership Training and Y-Advocacy Day events, as well as the Youth Legislative session in its entirety.

Assistant Editors have the following responsibilities:

1. Directly supervise assigned reporters and photographers. Assist them with negotiating committee assignments and editing and proofreading their articles.
2. Ensure that communication is maintained in the press room so everyone knows what is happening.
3. Write at least one editorial.
4. Communicate consistently with other Assistant Editors and the Editor-in-Chief.

Reporters have the following responsibilities:

1. Each Reporter shall submit one article or news release in the proper form to the State Office by the deadline published in the Program Calendar for publication in the first issue of Capitol Capers.
2. Work as a member of the Press Corps to produce the Capitol Capers while in Olympia.
3. Write a minimum one article per day for Capitol Capers.
4. Work closely with assigned supervisor on content and revisions.
5. Prepare questions for interviews and press conferences.
6. Prepare a minimum of one pre-session and one follow-up article or news release to be sent to local media in reporter's home community. Article should provide substantive information about YMCA Youth Legislative Session.
7. Keep press room informed of location.
8. Attend all scheduled Press Corps meetings.

Photographers have the following responsibilities:

1. Responsible for the visual documentation of the youth session.

2. Work closely with assigned supervisor (Assistant Editor) for specific assignments and press needs.
3. Keep press room informed of location.
4. Attend all scheduled Press Corps meetings.
5. Create a disk with all pictures to turn into the State Office at the end of session.
6. Must provide own digital camera to work with during session.
7. Must submit a "portfolio" of photos from district events in electronic form to the State Office.