



STUDENT REPORTER SEARCH

Invitation to Apply

The DPAC Rising Star Awards are looking for high school students who have a passion for both musical theatre and creating social media content.

As a part of the Jimmy Awards' national Student Reporter program, DPAC will select two area high school students as Student Reporters for The DPAC Rising Star Awards this spring.

The two students selected will help DPAC cover The DPAC Rising Star Awards rehearsals and awards ceremony through planned social media posts. They will also receive ABC-11 mentorship, plus a trophy and recognition during The DPAC Rising Star Awards ceremony event.

The two selected Student Reporters for The DPAC Rising Star Awards will be submitted to the national Student Reporter Search conducted by the Jimmy Awards. The Jimmy Awards will select two students from a pool of Student Reporter applications submitted by other programs just like The DPAC Rising Star Awards from across the country.

The two Jimmy Awards' Student Reporters receive an all-expense paid trip to NYC, where they will work alongside Jimmy Awards' media team, create content featuring nominees from across the country, interview stars on the red carpet, and provide live social media coverage during the Jimmy Awards ceremony.

**The deadline to submit a Student Reporter application is
Sunday, March 29, 2026 at 11:59pm.**

STUDENT REPORTER TIMELINE

- **Monday, February 16** – DPAC invites students at participating high schools to apply.
- **Sunday, March 29 at 11:59pm** – Student Reporter Submission Deadline
- **Monday, April 6** – DPAC announces the two selected Student Reporters for The DPAC Rising Star Awards.
- **Friday, April 10** – DPAC submits The DPAC Rising Star Awards' Student Reporters to the Jimmy Awards' national search.
- **Saturday, April 25 - Saturday, May 16** – The DPAC Rising Star Rehearsals (Student Reporters will choose 2-3 rehearsal events to attend and cover).
- **Mid-May** (exact date not provided) – Jimmy Awards will contact the two students they select as Jimmy Awards Student Reporters.
- **Sunday, May 17** – The DPAC Rising Star Awards
- **Saturday, June 20 - Tuesday, June 23** – Jimmy Awards' Student Reporters in NYC.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Interested students will video submit applications using a prompt provided to DPAC by the Jimmy Awards. The DPAC Rising Star Awards will have a Selection Committee tasked with reviewing all applications, and they will select two (2) area students as DPAC's Student Reporters.

DPAC's Student Reporters will be contacted in early April.

Using the same application that was submitted to DPAC, DPAC's two (2) Student Reporters will also be submitted to the Jimmy Awards' national search.

The Jimmy Awards will select ten (10) applicants as finalists based on their video submissions.

The Jimmy Awards will feature all finalists in a video montage created by the Jimmy Awards, which will be uploaded to the Jimmy Awards' Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and TikTok accounts in early May.

The two (2) applicants determined by the Jimmy Awards Submissions Board who have the best camera presence, creativity, adherence to the stated guidelines, and other relevant criteria will be chosen as the two (2) Jimmy Awards Student Reporters.

The two (2) Jimmy Awards Student Reporters will be notified in mid-May.

VIDEO PROMPT

This video will be used for selecting DPAC's Student Reporters, and it will be submitted to the Jimmy Awards for their national search. Submitted videos that fail to meet the guidelines detailed in this prompt will not be considered.

Submitted videos should be labeled as following:

Applicant Full Name_ Applicant High School_ Student Reporter Video

PROJECT DEFINITION: Make a video in the style of an Instagram Reel/TikTok video using the prompt below. This video should showcase your ideas for how to share nominee experiences on the day of the ceremony and for encouraging the Jimmy Awards' social media followers to tune in to the ceremony livestream. Then, write a sample caption to accompany your Reel/TikTok video.

CONTENT PROMPT: Imagine you are covering the day of the Jimmy Awards ceremony in NYC on social media. Create an up to 60-second video in the style of an Instagram Reel or TikTok video that showcases your creative approach to content creation and includes at least one of the following scenarios as part of your video:

- You are on the bus with the nominees heading to the Minskoff Theatre, where they will rehearse and perform on a Broadway stage later that day.
- You are at lunch with the nominees after their first technical and staging rehearsal on a Broadway stage. In about six hours, they will be performing in front of a sold-out audience and worldwide livestream.
- You are interviewing Broadway talent and/or Jimmy Awards Judges on the red carpet before they take their seats in the audience for the ceremony.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS: Please ensure your video submission meets the following guidelines:

- The video should include at least one unedited segment of at least 20 seconds in length with the applicant speaking directly to camera.
- The video must not include any performance footage; the content of the videos is otherwise up to the applicant.
- Any pre-recorded music used must be royalty-free.
- Submissions must meet the requirements for an Instagram Reel/TikTok video with an aspect ratio between 1.91:1 and 9:16 and minimum resolution of 720 pixels.

We want to see your personality shine in this video! Show us how you would use your unique perspective to build interest in and awareness of the Jimmy Awards. This is an opportunity to showcase your creativity and skills in event coverage, visual storytelling, video editing, videography, photography, and/or social media.

APPLICATION LINK

Interested students can use the link below to apply. The deadline for all Student Reporter applications is Sunday, March 29 at 11:59pm.



GUIDELINES

- Student Reporter applicants **MUST** be currently enrolled in a high school that is participating in The DPAC Rising Star Awards this season.
- Student Reporter applicants should **NOT** also be students that are nominated for The DPAC Rising Star Awards Best Actor or Best Actress awards categories.
- Student Reporter applicants must be available to attend *some* Rising Star rehearsals.
- Student Reporter applicants must be available to attend The DPAC Rising Star Awards on May 17, 2026. (The DPAC Rising Star Awards will provide 2 complimentary tickets to each selected Student Reporter, to be used by their friends and/or family.)
- Student Reporter applicants must be available to attend the Jimmy Awards between June 20 and June 23, 2026.
- Student Reporters will be required to sign a Code of Conduct and media release.
- Student Reporters will be given a platform by DPAC and potentially also by the Jimmy Awards. While personalities are welcome always, it is important that DPAC's Student Reporters maintain a respectful and politically neutral online presence when representing the DPAC brand.
- Any Student Reporter under the age of 18 will be required to have participation permission from a parent or legal guardian.
- Any Student Reporter under the age of 18 who is selected as a Jimmy Awards Student Reporter must have a parent or legal guardian accompany them on their trip to NYC for the Jimmy Awards. (The Jimmy Awards will provide airfare, lodging, meals, and tickets to the Jimmy Awards for the Student Reporter and their chaperone.)

QUESTIONS?

To learn more about the Jimmy Awards Student Reporter Search, [CLICK HERE](#).

If you have any questions about the Student Reporter opportunity, or need help with the submission process, please email Megan Rindoks (DPAC's Director of Community Engagement) at mrindoks@dpacnc.com.