



CBS News correspondent Joie Chen engages students in a hands-on activity. Photo by Kyndell Harkness.

About J Camp

J Camp brings a multicultural group of high school students together for six days of intensive journalism training.

Students will learn from professional journalists and get hands-on training in writing, photography, television broadcasting, online media, and reporting. Sessions and workshops will be led by experienced journalists from some of the top media companies in the industry.

Students with a strong interest in broadcasting, newspapers, magazines, photojournalism or online media are encouraged to apply. The program is designed for high school freshmen, sophomores, and juniors. Every year, J Camp receives hundreds of applications from all regions of the country.

Students selected for the program have all costs covered including airfare, campus housing and meals.

Changing the Face of Media

J Camp was started in 2001 as a response to the industry's diversity crisis. The program is designed to help assure excellence in the profession for decades to come and to confront the lack of diversity in journalism, not just in race, but also in matters of religious background, political background and other factors.

Since the program began, hundreds of the nation's most talented teenagers have graduated.

Early surveys of J Camp students indicated that approximately 75% went on to pursue journalism in college.

With a multicultural team, media get more accurate perspectives on stories of Latinos, African Americans, Asian American and Pacific Islanders, and Middle Eastern Americans.

With a diverse team, readers and viewers get different views on city governments, local communities, business, entertainment and recreation, science and medicine, and national and international issues.



Rolling Stone contributing editor Touré discusses his craft. Photo by Kyndell Harkness.



60 Minutes correspondent, the late Ed Bradley speaks to J Camp students during one of his last public appearances at the 2006 J Camp in New York City. Photo by Alexis Tamayo.

Past J Camp speakers include:

- Carl Bernstein, Pulitzer Prize-winning Watergate reporter
- Aaron Brown, CNN anchor
- James Colton, Sports Illustrated photography editor
- Leonard Downie Jr., Washington Post executive editor
- Hoda Kotb, "Dateline NBC" correspondent
- Atoosa Rubenstein, Seventeen magazine editor-in-chief
- Carole Simpson, ABC News senior correspondent
- Arthur Sulzberger, Jr., New York Times publisher
- Helen Thomas, Hearst Newspapers Washington columnist
- Brian Williams, "NBC Nightly News" anchor and managing editor



Moderator of "Meet the Press" Tim Russert (middle) with the 2004 J Camp students in Washington, D.C.

J CAMP FAQs

What will J Camp cost? Nothing. J Camp is fully subsidized by organizations promoting diversity in journalism.

Can anyone apply? Applicants must be currently enrolled in high school as freshmen, sophomores, or juniors and must be available to travel to the location of J Camp during the camp week. Students must be at least 16 years of age or older on or before the first day of J Camp.

If I can't make the deadline, will you still accept my application? Applications must be received (not just postmarked) by the date on the application. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

What should the letter of recommendation be about? The letter of recommendation should tell the selection committee something about the applicant that the other documents don't.

Can letters of recommendation be sent separately? Do not send materials separately. Doing so will make your application's status incomplete and will therefore disqualify your application from being considered.

Can parents or high school advisers apply for students? No. Applications must be completed and submitted by the student who is applying.

How is selection handled? There is a selection committee for J Camp comprised of professional journalists. All communications regarding the J Camp application process should go through the AAJA Student Programs Coordinator, who does not participate in the judging of any applications, and only checks to see that applicants have met the necessary criteria for the program.

How are students selected? The selection committee carefully reviews all completed applications and bases its decision on a combination of the student's academics, geographic background, and interest and skills in journalism. The selection committee also strives to bring together a diverse group of students so students can learn about shared and different cultural experiences.

How important is academic achievement? The majority of students who get selected have high G.P.A.s and J Camp is a highly competitive program. However, although academic achievement is important, it is not the only determining factor for acceptance.



J Camp students meet professional journalists and supporters during a reception at the program's conclusion. Photo by Kyndell Harkness.

**Questions about J Camp?
Please contact:**

Nao Vang
AAJA Student Programs Coordinator
(415) 346-2051 x 102
programs@aja.org

**For more information and
additional forms, log on to:**

www.aja.org

AAJA

J Camp is a program of the
ASIAN AMERICAN JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION
an alliance partner of UNITY: Journalists of Color.



**A multicultural journalism program
for talented high school students**