

The 2024 Journalism Contest

# “Advancing Access & Equity”

Sponsored by



**S.C. GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE  
ON EMPLOYMENT  
OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

<https://scvrd.net/annual-journalism-contest>

# 2024 Journalism Contest

## “Advancing Access & Equity”

The winner of the 2024 Journalism Contest receives a four-year scholarship to the South Carolina state-supported institution of his or her choice provided, of course, that the winner is otherwise qualified.

The scholarship pays for undergraduate tuition and fees. Each institution has its own definition of tuition and fees.

The winner must be able to verify financial need (such as qualifying for a direct subsidized federal student loan) to the chosen state-supported institution, which typically requires completion of a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. Colleges and universities recommend that students in financial need complete the FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1 of the year they will enroll to establish eligibility for student aid. This may require providing income tax return information. The FAFSA is available at [fafsa.ed.gov](https://fafsa.ed.gov).

The scholarship may be canceled if the recipient does not maintain general scholastic and conduct standards established by the institution.

## Eligibility

To be eligible for the contest, you:

- must be a South Carolinian 16 to 19 years old;
- must not have entered a post-secondary school before March 1, 2024; and
- must be a high school senior, or otherwise qualified to begin post-secondary education no later than the 2024-2025 school year.

You do not have to have a disability to enter.

## How, where and when to enter

Entries must be postmarked no later than January 26, 2024. Send your article to Audrey Brown, Director of Communications, SCVRD, 1410 Boston Avenue, P.O. Box 15, West Columbia, SC 29171-0015.

## Judging

The contest is judged by a panel of professional journalists.

## For more information

If you have any questions or need more information, please call the S.C. Vocational Rehabilitation Department at (803) 896-6530, or visit: [scvrd.net/172/annual-journalism-contest](https://scvrd.net/172/annual-journalism-contest).

# 2024 Journalism Contest Rules

- ✓ Your article must address the theme “**Advancing Access & Equity.**” Inclusion of people with disabilities can be a vital part of America’s economic rebound from the pandemic. Given the opportunity, their skills and adaptability heighten the potential for a stronger workforce.
- ✓ Your article should not exceed three (3) pages. Documentation of quotes or works cited may be on a fourth (4th) page.
- ✓ Use correct grammar and sentence structure.
- ✓ Report about people with disabilities in language that focuses on their dignity, equality, individuality and ability. Choose words that carry non-judgmental connotations. Avoid using “victim,” “cripple,” “handicapped,” or “wheelchair-bound.” Emphasize the uniqueness and worth of the whole individual by writing “a person who has a disability” or “a person who is deaf” rather than “a disabled person” or “a deaf person.”
- ✓ Research disability issues and *interview people with disabilities*. Resources can include your library, the Internet and organizations that serve individuals with disabilities. Your local S.C. Vocational Rehabilitation Department office provides services that prepare and assist eligible citizens with disabilities to achieve and maintain competitive employment.
- ✓ Attribute all quotes, either within the body of the article or in footnotes.
- ✓ Type your article on white 8 ½ x 11-inch paper. Double space. Font size should be no smaller than 11-point.
- ✓ Include a separate cover sheet with your name, age, grade, home address, telephone number and email address. Also include your school name, school address, school telephone number and principal’s name.
- ✓ Have your principal, teacher or sponsoring organization’s representative **sign** the cover sheet and indicate his or her title. In lieu of getting a signature, a document (such as an email) from the principal, teacher or sponsoring organization indicating their awareness of your contest submission will suffice.
- ✓ Have any individual you interview **sign** the cover sheet. In lieu of getting a signature, a document (such as an email) from the individual interviewed acknowledging the interview will suffice.
- ✓ On the cover sheet, include this statement with **your signature**:  
**“I hereby confirm that the enclosed article submitted to the 2024 Journalism Contest is my own work. I wrote the article and conducted the research and any interviews (unless otherwise cited) used in the article.”**

# S.C. Vocational Rehabilitation Department Locations

## Aiken

855 York St. N.E.  
Aiken, SC 29801  
803-641-7630 (Office/TDD)  
800-861-9410 (Toll free)

## Anderson

3001 MLK Jr. Blvd.  
Anderson, SC 29625  
864-224-6391 (Office/TDD)

## Beaufort

747 Robert Smalls Parkway  
Beaufort, SC 29906  
843-522-1010 (Office/TDD)

## Bennettsville

1029 SC-9  
Bennettsville, SC 29512  
843-479-8318 (Office/TDD)  
800-849-4878 (Toll free)

## Camden

15 Battleship Road Ext.  
Camden, SC 29020  
803-432-1068 (Office/TDD)  
866-206-5280 (Toll free)

## Clinton

22861 Highway 76 E  
Clinton, SC 29325  
864-984-6563 (Office/TTY)  
866-443-0103 (Toll free)

## Columbia (main office)

516 Percival Road  
Columbia, SC 29206  
803-782-4239 (Office/TDD)  
866-206-5280 (Toll free)

## Columbia (downtown)

1430-A Confederate Avenue  
Columbia, SC 29202  
803-898-8866 (Office)

## Columbia (training center)

201 Corporate Park Blvd.  
Columbia, SC 29223  
803-691-8284 (Office)

## Conway

3009 Fourth Avenue  
Conway, SC 29527  
843-248-2235 (Office/TTY)

## Dillon

309 North First Avenue  
Dillon, SC 29536  
843-774-3691 (Office)

## Florence

1947 West Darlington Street  
Florence, SC 29501  
843-662-8114 (Office/TTY)

## Gaffney

364 Huntington Road  
Gaffney, SC 29341  
864-489-9954 (Office/TTY)  
866-451-1481 (Toll free)

## Georgetown

1777 N. Fraser Street  
Georgetown, SC 29440  
843-546-2595 (Office/TTY)

## Greenville

105 Parkins Mill Road  
Greenville, SC 29607  
864-297-3066 (Office/TDD)

## Greenwood

2345 Highway 72/221 E  
Greenwood, SC 29649  
864-229-5827 (Office/TDD)  
866-443-0162 (Toll free)

## Hartsville

2413 Stadium Road  
Hartsville, SC 29550  
843-332-2262 (Office/TTY)

## Jonesville

131 North Main Street  
Jonesville, SC 29353  
864-475-5000 (Office/TTY)

## Kingstree

405 MLK Jr. Ave.  
Kingstree, SC 29556  
843-354-5252 (Office)

## Lancaster

1150 Roddey Drive  
Lancaster, SC 29720  
803-285-6909 (Office/TDD)

## Lyman

180 Groce Road  
Lyman, SC 29365  
864-249-8030 (Office/TDD)  
888-322-9391 (Toll free)

## Moncks Corner

2954 S. Live Oak Drive  
Moncks Corner, SC 29461  
843-761-6036 (Office/TDD)  
866-297-6808 (Toll free)

## Newberry

2601 Evans Street  
Newberry, SC 29108  
803-276-8438 (Office/TTY)

## North Charleston

4360 Dorchester Road  
North Charleston, SC 29405  
843-740-1600 (Office/TDD)

## Orangeburg

1661 Joe S. Jeffords Hwy S.E.  
Orangeburg, SC 29115  
803-534-4939 (Office/TDD)

## Rock Hill

1020 Heckle Blvd.  
Rock Hill, SC 29732  
803-327-7106 (Office/TDD)

## Seneca

1951 Wells Highway  
Seneca, SC 29678  
864-882-6669 (Office/TDD)  
866-313-0082 (Toll free)

## Spartanburg

353 S. Church Street  
Spartanburg, SC 29306  
864-585-3693 (Office/TTY)  
866-451-1480 (Toll free)

## Sumter

1760 North Main Street  
Sumter, SC 29153  
803-469-2960 (Office/TTY)

## Walterboro

919 Thunderbolt Drive  
Walterboro, SC 29488  
843-538-3116 (Office/TDD)  
888-577-3549 (Toll free)

## West Columbia

1330 Boston Ave.  
West Columbia, SC 29170  
803-896-6333 (Office/TDD)  
866-206-5184 (Toll free)