



## 2019 Gannett Foundation/Madelyn P. Jennings Scholarship Program

**For high school junior (11th grade/third year) students who will be completing or leaving high school in 2019 and entering college in the fall of 2019.\***

### The Gannett Foundation/Madelyn P. Jennings Scholarship Program

This scholarship program was established in honor of Madelyn P. Jennings, who served as Gannett's senior human resources executive for 15 years, for sons and daughters of Gannett Co., Inc. employees. The awards are in recognition of her strong interest in education and her dedication to the Gannett employees she served.

The annual competition is conducted through the National Merit Scholarship Program by National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), an independent, not-for-profit organization. NMSC's purposes are (1) to identify and honor exceptionally able high school students and (2) to provide a system of services for corporations, foundations, and other organizations that wish to sponsor college undergraduate scholarships for outstanding students who interest them. All aspects of the selection of winners and the administration of their awards are handled by NMSC.

### Who is eligible?

Only high school students who are sons and daughters of regular, full-time employees of Gannett Co., Inc. or its subsidiaries on the date the offer of an award is mailed can compete for these scholarships. Such students also must meet all requirements for participation in the National Merit Scholarship Program that are published in the *PSAT/NMSQT Student Guide* which is updated annually and distributed to students through their high schools.

To participate in the program, students must take the qualifying test, the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) during the proper high school year. In general, students who spend the usual four years in grades 9 through 12 must take the PSAT/NMSQT when they are in their third year (grade 11/junior year). A participant also must be a citizen of the United States; or be a U.S. lawful permanent resident (or have applied for permanent residence, the application for which has not been denied) and intend to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. The *PSAT/NMSQT Student Guide* explains these and other requirements for the competition, gives detailed information about the test (including sample questions and a complete practice test), and describes the scholarship programs NMSC administers.

\* Students who plan to leave high school a year (or more) early to enroll in college full time should refer to the *PSAT/NMSQT Student Guide* (or contact NMSC) about when to take the qualifying test.

### How does a student enter the 2019 Gannett Foundation/Madelyn P. Jennings Scholarship Program?

To enter the competition for Gannett Foundation/Madelyn P. Jennings Scholarships to be awarded in the spring of 2019:

1. A 2019 Gannett Foundation/Madelyn P. Jennings Scholarship Program Entry Form must be completed and submitted by **March 31, 2018**. The Entry Form for the 2019 competition is provided in Entry Step 3 (Complete Entry Form).
2. The student must take the PSAT/NMSQT in the fall of 2017, on the date his/her school chooses for the administration. At the beginning of the 2017 - 2018 school year, the student should obtain

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a copy of the *2017 PSAT/NMSQT Student Guide* from the high school counselor and make arrangements with the school to take the 2017 PSAT/NMSQT.

If more than one parent is an employee of Gannett Co., Inc., each parent should submit an Entry Form for the same child.

## Important information about the 2017 PSAT/NMSQT

- The **2017 PSAT/NMSQT is the qualifying test to enter the 2019 competition**. Scores from prior PSAT/NMSQT administrations (2016 or earlier) cannot be used for participation in the 2019 program
- The **2017 PSAT/NMSQT** will be administered as follows:

**Primary test date: Wednesday, October 11, 2017**

**Saturday test date: Saturday, October 14, 2017**

**Other test date: Wednesday, October 25, 2017**

- The 2019 Gannett Foundation/Madelyn P. Jennings Scholarship Program Entry Form can be submitted prior to the student taking the 2017 PSAT/NMSQT and/or receiving his/her official score report.
- As a cosponsor of the examination, NMSC receives all 2017 PSAT/NMSQT scores and information students provide on their answer sheets. Therefore, students do not need to report their PSAT/NMSQT scores to NMSC. □
- For more information about the PSAT/NMSQT or the National Merit Scholarship Program, visit NMSC's website at [www.nationalmerit.org](http://www.nationalmerit.org).

## Unable to take the 2017 PSAT/NMSQT?

If a student does not take the October 2017 PSAT/NMSQT because of **illness, an emergency, or other extenuating circumstance** (but meets all other participation requirements), he/she may still be able to enter the 2019 competition. To request information about possible arrangements for alternate testing, write directly to NMSC as soon as possible after the 2017 PSAT/NMSQT administration, but **no later than April 1, 2018**. Do not delay; the earlier you write, the more options your child will have scheduling test dates.

The alternate entry request should include the name and address of the student; the contact information of the person making the request; the name and address of the student's high school; and a brief explanation of why the student missed the 2017 PSAT/NMSQT. Requests for alternate testing instructions may be sent by:

**E-mail:** [scholarshipadmin@nmerit.net](mailto:scholarshipadmin@nmerit.net)

**Mail:** National Merit Scholarship Corporation  
Attn: Scholarship Administration  
1560 Sherman Avenue, Suite 200  
Evanston, IL 60201-4897

**Your e-mail must be received or your letter postmarked on or before April 1, 2018, for your request to be considered.**

## **How are winners selected?**

All Gannett Foundation/Madelyn P. Jennings Scholarship winners in 2019 will be chosen from a group of candidates who (1) score high on the 2017 PSAT/NMSQT and (2) are notified by NMSC in the fall of 2018 that they may receive further consideration for a scholarship by meeting several academic and other requirements set by NMSC. Scores from the 2017 PSAT/NMSQT will be used by NMSC as an initial screen of applicants in the 2019 Gannett Foundation/Madelyn P. Jennings Scholarship Program.

**Entrants who advance in the competition will be contacted by NMSC on or before December 31, 2018.** (Only those entrants who advance in the competition will be notified and receive materials from NMSC.) These students and their high school principals will complete applications that include biographical and academic information that must be filed with NMSC. Scholarship winners will be chosen on a competitive basis and without regard to family financial circumstances, gender, race, ethnic origin, or religious preference. An NMSC committee of professionals trained in selection will choose the winners by evaluating several factors about each eligible candidate; these include academic record throughout high school, significant activities and contributions to the school and community, test scores, the school's recommendation of the candidate, and the student's essay about personal characteristics, activities, plans, and goals. In most cases, winners will be notified by NMSC in March of 2019. All winners are notified directly, prior to any public announcement that may be made about recipients.

## **What is the amount of the award?**

Each Gannett Foundation/Madelyn P. Jennings Scholarship stipend is a one-time award of \$3,000 to be sent to the winner's college as a single payment in the fall of 2019. Other scholarship aid or an approved change in college will not affect the amount of the award.

## **Are there requirements that scholarship winners must meet?**

Yes. The formal Gannett Foundation/Madelyn P. Jennings Scholarship offer that NMSC sends to each winner specifies terms for acceptance of the award. A winner must be granted and accept admission to college no later than the fall following selection and must enroll as a full-time undergraduate in a college or university in the United States that holds accredited status with a regional accrediting commission on higher education. (Scholarship stipends are not payable for attendance at service academies or certain institutions that are limited in their purposes or training.) Also, the winner must pursue a course of study leading to one of the traditional baccalaureate degrees, and remain in good academic and disciplinary standing.

## **Who handles scholarship procedures?**

All phases of the competition, including the selection of winners and payment of scholarship stipends are handled for Gannett Foundation, Inc. by National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

## **Questions may be addressed to:**

Gannett Benefits  
7950 Jones Branch Drive  
McLean, VA 22107  
- gannettbenefits@gannett.com

or

National Merit Scholarship Corporation  
- 847.866.5100