

**THE ERNEST ANDREW ROGERS AWARD
OUTSTANDING JUNIOR STATE CHAPTER OF THE YEAR**

Chapter of the Year Award

Each year at Spring State conventions across the nation, the Junior Statesmen Foundation recognizes the most outstanding chapters in each of its jurisdictions. The award is named in honor of JSA's founder, Professor Ernest Andrew Rogers, who is more commonly referred to as "Prof. Rogers." The idea for what is now known as the Junior State was first conceived by Prof. Rogers, headmaster of the Montezuma School in California's Santa Cruz Mountains in the early 1930s. Rogers had long maintained that one of the primary needs of a democracy was to train its youth in the essentials of good government. Rogers believed that without an informed populace, a democracy is worthless.

Rewards for Winning the Chapter of the Year Award

1. A plaque that can be engraved in order to be prominently displayed in your school's award case.
2. A \$1,000 scholarship to a Junior Statesmen Summer School AND a full scholarship to a Junior Statesmen State Symposium for one member of the chapter.
3. One free private room to the chapter's Teacher/Advisor for all conventions the following year.
4. Be one of the 10 chapters nominated for the inaugural Junior State of America's National Civic Impact Award.

The National Civic Impact Award

This year, The Junior State of America will inaugurate its National Civic Impact Award in order to recognize the chapter that has had the biggest impact on increasing the level of civic awareness and engagement at their school. The award will go to one of the 10 chapters nationwide that were chosen as their state's Chapter of the Year. The winning chapter will receive:

1. A plaque that can be engraved in order to be prominently displayed in your school's award case;
2. A \$500 stipend reward to the chapter's lead Teacher Advisor;
3. A \$2,000 grant to the chapter in order to continue their civic engagement.

How to be Recognized as the "Chapter of the Year"

The Chapter of the Year is chosen at each state's Spring State Convention. In the past, Chapter Presidents and Teacher Advisors from each participating school were required to submit an essay and a scrapbook which provided an overview of the chapter's activities in order to be considered for the award. This year, Chapter Presidents and Teacher/Advisor will be asked to make a 5-10 minute presentation during a special activity block at Spring State to promote their chapter's candidacy for the Chapter of the Year Award.

Chapter of the Year Application Process

1. Review the "Criteria for Judging the Most Outstanding Chapter" listed below;
2. Submit a complete Chapter of the Year application to the state's program director at least one week prior to convention;
3. At Spring State, submit an essay written by the Chapter President and Teacher/Advisor describing ways in which the chapter meets the judging criteria to your state's program director.
4. At Spring State, the Teacher/Advisor and the Chapter President or his/her designee, will give a 5-10 minutes presentation to a panel of Teacher Advisors and Junior State staff who will decide which chapter will win the Chapter of the Year.
5. **Presentation Requirements**
 - a. Chapters should prepare and submit a PowerPoint Slideshow or Video Documentary that is saved on a CD or DVD;
 - b. The presentation could include photos, video, music, recorded narration, text, charts, graphs, and any other audio/visual aids that help to convey the chapter's achievements;
 - c. The student should be able to operate all equipment. Junior State will provide an LCD projector and laptop PC computer for all CDs and DVDs. Students should contact their state's program director to ensure that the equipment is compatible for your presentation.
 - d. Video documentaries should not last more than five minutes so that there is time for questions and answers.

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Description of the Ideal Junior State Chapter.

The ideal JSA chapter is the center of nonpartisan political activity and awareness on campus. A chapter that is doing the best possible job of educating, involving, and representing the youth of their school and community is living up fully to the goals of the Junior State of America. Outstanding JSA chapters have members who diligently plan, regularly attend, and actively participate in chapter, regional, and state activities that could include fundraisers, mini-conventions, regional one-day conferences, and JSA overnight conventions. Typical chapter activities include student debates of controversial issues, guest speakers, mock trials, candidate debates, and voter education and registration drives. Outstanding JSA chapters go out of their way to encourage involvement in, and understanding of, the processes of democratic self-government, and participation in programs sponsored by the Junior State of America and the Junior Statesmen Foundation.

Criteria for Judging the Most Outstanding Chapter

1. **Chapter Activities** - The chapter conducts activities that build interest in government and politics and in the Junior State of America throughout the school and their community.

Examples of Evidence:

- Conducts a variety of diverse activities such as debates, thought-talks, guest speakers, simulations such as mock trials, and mini-conventions;
- Holds political activities that involve its members such as letter-writing campaigns, mock elections, and public opinion polls;
- Has good publicity for activities including signs, posters, articles in the high school newspaper, and announcements on the school website;
- Has effective membership drives; successful fundraisers; social “bonding” events for chapter members.

2. **Leadership** - The chapter has as many people involved in the chapter leadership.

Examples of Evidence:

- The Teacher/Advisor and chapter leadership work together as a team;
- Officers attend all activities; communicate with other chapters;
- Officers prepare underclassmen to assume leadership roles to replace graduating seniors.

3. **Maintains Chapter Interest** - Interest in the chapter builds as the year progresses rather than wanes or remains constant.

Examples of Evidence:

- Members attend chapter activities, mini-conventions, regional conferences, and state conventions as the year progresses;
- Increase in the number of tax-paid members as the year progresses;
- Membership includes students from all grade levels within the school.

4. **Community Involvement** – The chapter is active in the community and engaged in the local political scene.

Examples of Evidence:

- Attends school board and city council meetings;
- Encourages members to work on political campaigns; Conducts voter registration drives;
- Invites politicians and elected officials to speak; Members are involved in school and community issues;

5. **Conventions and Conferences** – Chapter has members who regularly participate in chapter, regional, and state activities.

Examples of Evidence:

- Attendance at conventions, regional one-day conferences, and mini-conventions;
- Members who serve as main speakers and/or moderators;

6. Presentation Quality

Examples of Evidence

- The presentation is original, creative, well-organized, and imaginative in presentation;
- All photographs, video, and/or audio are of high quality;
- The presenter was an articulate and persuasive advocate for his/her chapter.

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APPLICATION FORM

Directions: Chapters interested in competing for the Chapter of the Year Award should complete and submit this application form at least one week prior to Spring State Convention to their state's program director.

Name of Chapter:	Date:
School Address:	City/State/Zip:
Chapter President:	
CP Phone:	CP Email:
Teacher Advisor:	
TA Cell Phone:	TA Email:
Description of Presentation:	
Audio/Visual Requirements (Please contact the program director to ensure compatibility)	

JSA Program Director Contact Information on West Coast for Southern and Northern California, PNW and Midwest

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Northern California

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Pacific Northwest

Stephen Bayne
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JSA Program Director Contact Information for Ohio River Valley, Texas, Southeast, Northeast, and Mid-Atlantic States

The Junior State of America
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Washington, DC 20006
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Ohio River Valley and Texas

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