



The Philadelphia Independence Awards

2026 Student Reporter Call for Submissions

EnsembleArts Philly

2026 STUDENT REPORTER SEARCH CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Each year, the Jimmy Awards invites select Student Reporters from participating Regional Awards Programs (RAP) to cover the Jimmy Awards events through social media. This provides a chance to expand connections into local schools' journalism, film, and other related departments. Student Reporters work directly with the Jimmy Awards Digital team which allows them to receive an insider look at the digital marketing strategy of Jimmy Awards coverage while gaining insight into the field as a whole.

Two (2) Student Reporters identified via a national search will be brought to NYC to cover the Jimmy Awards this year. Applicants may be submitted by their RAP only and must NOT be students who are eligible to compete as a nominee for The Jimmy Awards. There is a limit of two (2) student reporter applicant submissions per RAP. **Submissions are due to PIA by Friday, March 27.** All applicant materials must be submitted by the Regional Program Director (Brian Weiner).

The Philadelphia Independence Awards' Selection Process

All submissions are due by **Friday, March 27 at 3pm**. Absolutely no exceptions will be made for this deadline. **ONLY DIRECTORS MAY SUBMIT ENTRIES.** As of 2026, there is no limit to the number of applicants a school may submit to PIA. Each applicant may only submit one entry.

1. Interested applicants must submit their materials per the directions listed on the [Jimmy Awards Student Reporter page](#).
2. A team of Ensemble Arts Philly staff will select the winners as PIA nominees to be submitted to The Broadway League to compete on the national level.
3. Winners of the PIA nominations will be invited to attend a "Publicity/Media Boot Camp" - a day of workshops and conversations to prepare the student for their reporter duties at the Philadelphia Independence Awards ceremony. The bootcamp date will be chosen based on student availability and in coordination with Ensemble Arts Philly.
4. The PIA winners will be notified by April 11 and **must** be available to serve as reporters for The Philadelphia Independence Awards ceremony on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 and plan to arrive by noon on that day to cover rehearsals and take over the PIA social media channels.



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5. All applicants must print, complete, scan to Google Drive (be sure to make the view "anyone with the link"), and submit [these documents](#).
6. All applicants must complete this Ensemble Arts Philly [consent form](#). *Please do not submit an application if an applicant does not consent.*
7. Student video must be uploaded to a Google Drive. Copy the link (be sure to make the view "anyone with the link").
8. Any student eligible for a Jimmy Award nomination is unable to submit an entry.
9. **ONLY DIRECTORS MAY SUBMIT ENTRIES**. All forms and the video must be submitted [to this form](#) by ***Friday, March 27 at 3pm.***