

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

JEA/NSPA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL JOURNALISM CONVENTION

APRIL 4–6, SHERATON & WESTIN HOTELS AT CROWN CENTER



Welcome to Kansas City – the heart of America, the city of fountains and home to the next [JEA/NSPA National High School Journalism Convention!](#)

Over the coming weeks, the KC local committee will be sharing many things with the scholastic journalism community to help you start planning your spring convention trip. Information from airport transportation to our keynote to things to do and see and eat while you're here – we'll try to cover everything!

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Jan. 15:** speaker proposals due [via Google Form](#)
- **Jan. 17:** convention registration opens at noon CT
- **Jan. 24:** hotel block opens
- **Jan. 25:** [first-time convention grant](#) applications due
- **Feb. 5:** [JEA National Student Media Contest](#) registration opens
- **Feb. 12:** scholarship applications due
- **Feb. 15:** [JEA Outreach Academy](#) application deadline
- **Feb. 16:** convention early bird rate ends
- **March 1:** hotel block closes at 6 p.m. CT
- **March 11:** NSMC online submission deadline, registration closes at 6 p.m. CT
- **March 22:** online registration closes
- **April 4–6:** convention dates

IMPORTANT COSTS

- **Early bird convention registration:** \$125 for JEA or NSPA members, \$175 for nonmembers
- **Standard convention registration:** \$145 for JEA or NSPA members, \$195 for nonmembers
- **Convention hotel block:** \$236 per night, plus tax
- **Extra convention costs:** first-time convention grant applications due
- **NSMC:** \$20 per student
- **NSPA registration extras:** \$5–110, depending on the add-on

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

- **JEA:** staff@jea.org
- **NSPA:** info@studentpress.org
- **Kansas City Local Chair:** Tucker Love, tuckerlove152@smsd.org

First things first –

a little bit of Kansas City's story.



When you meet someone who says they're from Kansas City, it is likely they are actually from one of the smaller suburbs in one of the 14 counties that make up the greater Kansas City Metropolitan area. Johnson and Wyandotte counties on the Kansas side and Jackson, Clay and Platte counties on the Missouri side are the five counties you will likely visit during your time at the convention. Nearly 2.4 million people live in this 14-county area, anchored by downtown Kansas City, Missouri. More than 500,000 people do live in [Kansas City, Missouri](#) proper making it the largest single city in Missouri.

Kansas City's name comes from the indigenous Kaw people, whom French traders also referred to as the Kanza or Kansa. The original town of Kansas was settled in the early 1800s in the area the Kaw tribe inhabited. Eventually, the Kansas territory was founded to the west and confusion between the town and future state's name led to the town's name changing to Kansas City, even though it was situated in Missouri.

In the 1870s, small settlements west of Kansas City, Missouri grouped together and formed [Kansas City, Kansas](#). Scholars say that this new city was named to try and attract visitors to the Kansas side, away from the larger city on the Missouri side. Today, many of the things that have helped put Kansas City on the map are located in Missouri, but there are still plenty of things to do and see on the Kansas side of state line.

While there is a state line divide, most residents on both sides will claim KC as home, especially when they travel. There is a camaraderie across the metro that connects residents. We all love Kansas City – when you're here, look for the [KC hearts around the area](#), or pick up a [Charlie Hustle KC Heart](#) shirt and join the locals who call Kansas City the heart of America. Or maybe you'll pick up some fountain related gear since we're also known as the city of fountains with over 200 fountains located across the metro.

The metro – and its fountains – sprawls across 14 counties from suburban development on both sides of the state line. The fountain has become a symbol of the city and area. Kansas City, Missouri [adopted the fountain](#) into their official logo in 1992. The [City of Fountains](#) organization has more information about fountains across the area. When you're in KC – the city or the suburbs – you'll find museums, sports, arts, entertainment and food that will make you glad you came to the heart of America.

SOME KANSAS CITY LOCATIONS YOU MIGHT HEAR

913

area code for phone numbers on the Kansas side of KC.

JOCO

Johnson County, KS suburban development Overland Park, Prairie Village, Shawnee and many others.

KCK

Kansas City, Kansas

THE DOTTE

Wyandotte county, home to KCK, KU medical center and MLS team Sporting KC.

816

area code for phone numbers on the Missouri side of KC.

THE PLAZA

shopping district south of Midtown. Famous for its Spanish-inspired architecture.

KCMO

Kansas City, Missouri

CROSSROADS

arts and entertainment area in south Downtown, with many restaurants, art galleries and home to the monthly First Fridays.