Why journalism?

When a high school junior applied to the Journalism Division of Northwestern’s National High School Institute, she admitted she “wasn’t sold” on a journalism career -- even though she already was an editor for her school newspaper.

However, she knew she wanted to become “a more organized, more coherent, and more forceful writer.” Also, she said she wanted to experience college living and dormitory life “before I make a (four-year) commitment to any university.”

Most students come to the Journalism Division with similar goals. And most students go home, as she did, wanting a career in journalism and knowing a lot more about life on a college campus.

This summer 80 high school journalists from around the country will be immersed in the same challenges: news media, the world of ideas, and college living. The program takes place in a residential college setting - a community of scholars - where students learn by doing and by careful evaluation of their work.

Educational philosophy

The program is designed for students who wish to become better writers and editors for print, online or broadcast. Much of what you learn you can apply to your school newspapers and yearbooks. But the program is broader than a workshop for high school editors. You’ll study journalism from a “professional’s perspective,” learning from top-notch practitioners and distinguished college teachers.

The training you will receive in writing clearly, concisely, and accurately will serve you for years to come, no matter what your college major or chosen career. Also, you’ll study with people from all parts of the country (last year, students came from 21 states, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan). Frequently, students form lasting friendships with classmates and teachers.

Course offerings

• Lab sessions to sharpen journalistic skills (write news and feature stories, editorials, and television news; edit stories others have written; write headlines; design newspaper pages; and report the news).
• Seminars with university professors and outstanding journalists to discuss subjects such as ethical considerations, interviewing techniques, online media, and video blogs.
• Workshops to teach free-lance writing, sports reporting, and magazine publishing and to discuss issues concerning high school journalism, among other subjects.
• Field trips to Chicago’s media and other locations.
• Discussion sessions to analyze contemporary journalistic issues.
• Special classes to study newer story-telling forms such as podcasting and blogging.
• Film and video showings to review works of and about American journalism.
• Weekly sessions with teachers on a one-to-one basis to evaluate and analyze writing assignments. (The student-teacher ratio is 10:1.)
What some 2009 students said:

This was a life-changing program. It opened my eyes to the real world of journalism, which has heightened my passion to become a professional journalist.

Elizabeth Azran, California

I could not have asked for better instructors. Their diversity of expertise was essential to their success in teaching a group of all-platform journalists.

Jeffrey Zalesin, New York

The cherub program re-energized me and rekindled my passion for writing. Thank you for all the lessons, kindness, generosity and fun. I really am so grateful for having been a part of this fantastic program.

Christine Chang, California

I learned more about journalism at cherubs than I did in my three years on my high school newspaper.

Hillary Lindwall, Illinois

I never could have imagined the relationships and camaraderie I developed with the other journalism students over five weeks. I now feel like I have known my fellow cherubs and staff at the program for my whole life.

Stanley Kay, Florida

The academic schedule was perfect—just the right amount of work and play.

Kristin Leffler, New Hampshire

Everyone at cherubs was bright, intelligent and creative and had something special to offer. I was incredibly inspired.

Kathryn Gourley, Oregon

Each time I recount my experiences to a friend or family member, I am overcome with the joy of how lucky I was to have spent those five weeks at Northwestern.

Allegra Tepper, California

This program was the experience of a lifetime and will forever hold a place in my heart.

Allison Prang, Illinois

About the NHSI

The National High School Institute, established in 1931, is the nation’s oldest and largest university-based program for outstanding high school students. More than 500 students will enroll in the Institute’s six divisions: Debate, Film and Video Production, Journalism, Music, Speech and Theatre Arts. Students are affectionately called “Cherubs,” a tradition that began in the 1940s.

Campus living and fun

As a NHSI journalism student, you will share a Northwestern residence hall with the program’s other participants, as well as with faculty and staff. Your meals will be eaten in a University cafeteria located in or near your dorm. Meals offer you a wide selection, including vegetarian options, and University dietitians are happy to accommodate special dietary needs. Living, dining, and learning together, you will have ample opportunity to get to know your fellow participants and to make lasting friends.

Just 12 miles north of Chicago, the Evanston campus stretches for a mile along Lake Michigan’s western shore and offers you jogging trails, a beautiful private beach, and a state-of-the-art fitness and athletic facility.

Admission requirements

To apply to the Journalism Division, you must:

- rank academically in the top quarter of your high school class;
- submit a current high school transcript and a letter of recommendation;
- submit the results of the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) and/or other standardized tests;
- complete your junior year of high school in May or June of 2010;
- meet a high standard of character, dependability, and intelligence;
- give evidence of background, special ability and/or interest in journalism.

Admission is competitive; decisions are based on ability and merit.
Faculty
Professor Roger Boye is director of the NHSI Journalism Division. For many years he was assistant dean of Northwestern's Medill School of Journalism, one of the nation's most distinguished journalism programs. He has taught in the NHSI since 1971.

The program's full-time teachers have rich and varied backgrounds in journalism. Lecturers include journalists from the media in Chicago and elsewhere, as well as Northwestern faculty members. Past guest speakers have included television journalists, newspaper editors, columnists, and Pulitzer Prize-winning reporters.

Students gather for a group grin during a boat ride on Lake Michigan.

Application deadline
Applications, recommendations, and transcripts must be received by 4 p.m. on March 26, 2010. Decision letters will be mailed to applicants on or before April 2, 2010. Students are strongly encouraged to submit three samples of their work, such as stories published in high school newspapers (see list of items at bottom of application form). The Journalism Division does not accept applications by fax or e-mail.

Fees
The basic fee for this program is $4,700. The cost includes tuition, room, board, health service, field trips, and group events. Any additional expenses are at your discretion.

Scholarships and financial aid
Last year, 26 students shared $50,200 worth of scholarships and financial aid awarded through the Journalism Division. If you wish to apply for assistance, you should complete and return the financial aid section of the application form. Grants are made on the basis of financial need and academic achievement.

In addition to grants made directly from the Journalism Division's budget, these special awards will be available:
- Joan Beck and Ruth Moss Buck Journalism Scholarships
- William J. and Catherine Maloney Scholarship
- Nestle USA Scholarships
- Mary Lou Song Cherub Alumni Scholarship
- Wrigley Foundation Scholarships
- Diane Granat Yalowitz Memorial Fund Scholarships

For more information
If you are accepted by the NHSI, you will receive information about housing arrangements, when to arrive on campus, what to bring, and transportation to Evanston. To receive additional copies of this folder or information about other divisions of the NHSI, contact:
National High School Institute
Journalism Division
Northwestern University
1845 Sheridan Road
Evanston, IL 60208-2101
Phone: 1-800-662-NHSI or 847-491-3026
Fax: 847-491-3956
E-mail: r-boye@northwestern.edu
Web: www.northwestern.edu/nhsi

See the Web site prepared by 2009 NHSI students at:
www.medillcherubs.org

Typical daily schedule
9 am
Attend lecture by Northwestern professor
9:45 am
Write editorials
11:45 am
Lunch
1 pm
Discuss reporting with newspaper journalist
2 pm
Conduct interviews for feature articles
4:30 pm
Free time
6 pm
Dinner
7 pm
Write television news scripts to go with video
9 pm
Attend movie

Northwestern University does not discriminate or permit discrimination by any member of its community against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, parental status, marital status, age, disability, citizenship or veteran status in matters of admissions, employment, housing or services or in the educational programs or activities it operates. Any alleged violations of this policy or questions regarding the law with respect to nondiscrimination should be directed to Director of Equal Employment Opportunity, Affirmative Action, and Labor Relations, 720 University Place, Evanston, IL 60208-1147, phone 847-491-5158, Office of the Provost, Rebecca Crown Center, Evanston, IL 60208-1101, phone 847-491-5117.

Northwestern University reserves the right to change without notice any statement in this folder concerning, but not limited to, rules, policies, tuition, fees, curriculums, and courses.
If you are requesting financial aid, you must complete this section. Acceptance decisions are not affected by financial aid requests.

The basic fee for the Journalism Division of the National High School Institute is $4,700. This includes tuition, room/board, health service (not insurance), field trips and group events. Transportation and personal expenses are extra.

### Parents’ Information

Check all that apply:

- Parents Married
- Parents Divorced*
- Father Deceased
- Parents Separated*
- Mother Deceased
- Single-Parent Household

Mother’s Occupation

Father’s Occupation

Adjusted Gross Income (2009)
(From IRS form 1040 or 1040EZ)

2010 Estimated Adjusted Gross Income

Number of exemptions
(From IRS form 1040 or 1040EZ)

Number of children who are full-time college students during the 2009-2010 academic year

### Applicant’s Financial Information

Income
(From current or anticipated employment)

Assets

### Applicant’s Budget for NHSI Program

How do you propose to finance attending the NHSI?

1. Compute your total cost

   A. Basic cost $ 4,700

2. Expected sources of financing

   A. Student’s contribution

   B. Family contribution

   C. Local school

   D. Community

   E. Other

   F. TOTAL (A through E) $

3. Difference
(Subtract line 2F from line 1C)

4. FINANCIAL AID REQUESTED $

A copy of parents’ federal income tax return for 2009 must be included for financial aid consideration. If not available, please submit 2008.

*Separate returns must be provided from custodial and non-custodial parent.

Students requesting financial aid are strongly encouraged to provide additional information that may be helpful to the financial aid evaluation. Describe any unusual circumstances that should be known in evaluating your application for financial aid, such as unusual medical problems, age of parents, nonpublic educational expenses—specify unreimbursed expenses, parent’s impending retirement, etc. You may use a separate sheet of paper. Make sure your name and the division you are applying to are on the sheet.

I certify that to the best of my knowledge all financial statements submitted by me are accurate.

Parent Signature ____________________________ Applicant Signature ____________________________

Northwestern University does not discriminate or permit discrimination by any member of its community against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, parental status, marital status, age, disability, citizenship or veteran status in matters of admissions, employment, housing or services or in the educational programs or activities it operates.
Please type this form or print legibly.

My signature certifies that to the best of my knowledge all statements submitted by me are correct, complete, and my own. I understand that this application and all other records gathered for my admission file are confidential and will not be disclosed to me, my parents, or any other person except at the sole discretion of the Journalism Division Director of the National High School Institute.

Signature ____________________________ Date _______________________________

Social Security Number ____________________________ ☐ Female ☐ Male Email address ____________________________

Applicant’s Name ____________________________ First Middle Last 

Permanent Address ____________________________ Number Street City State ZIP

Date and Country of Birth ____________________________ Applicant’s Cell Phone (________)

Home Telephone (________) ____________________________ Mother’s Work Phone (________) ____________________________ Father’s Work Phone (________)

Full Name and Address of Parents (or Guardian) ____________________________

Mother’s Cell Phone and Email ____________________________ Father’s Cell Phone and Email ____________________________

Name of High School ____________________________ High School Phone (________)

Address of High School ____________________________ Number Street City State ZIP

High School Principal ____________________________ High School Guidance Counselor ____________________________

High School Teacher in Journalism (or newspaper, yearbook, etc.) ____________________________ Current Year in High School ____________________________

Are you applying for financial aid? ☐ Yes ☐ No (If yes, furnish confidential financial information on other side.)

How did you hear about the National High School Institute? ☐ Brochure mailed to my home ☐ Teacher
go to WWW/Internet ☐ Family ☐ Former NHSI Student ☐ Other ____________________________

Racial/ethnic information. Please check one. Furnishing or failing to furnish this optional information will not affect your admission decision.

☐ Native American/Alaskan Native ☐ Asian-American/Pacific Islander ☐ Black/African American, not of Hispanic origin

☐ Puerto Rican ☐ Mexican-American/Chicano ☐ Latino/Hispanic

☐ Caucasian/White, not of Hispanic origin ☐ Other ____________________________

In addition to the information requested above, you must do the following:

1. Write an essay of between 150 and 300 words on why you would like to attend the Journalism Division of the National High School Institute.

2. Submit a list of your activities in the area of journalism and writing, including your experience in editing, reporting, and writing news stories, editorials, and feature material (whether in the print, online or broadcast media), and any related experience or activities. (In addition, we strongly encourage you to submit three samples of your work, preferably stories published in high school newspapers.)

3. Ask your guidance counselor to send us the following items:
   - A transcript of your high school record;
   - Your grade-point average;
   - Your high school class rank;
   - Your PSAT, SAT, and/or ACT scores.
   - A school profile
   (You should give your guidance counselor a stamped envelope addressed to us that your counselor could use in sending the material.)

4. Ask your journalism teacher, newspaper adviser, or English teacher to send us a letter of recommendation that gives us an estimate of your talents or abilities in journalism and writing. The letter also should discuss your personal characteristics, such as initiative, reliability, leadership and ability to work with others. (You should give your teacher a stamped envelope addressed to us that your teacher could use in sending the letter.)

5. Enclose a $50 check made payable to Northwestern University for the non-refundable application fee.

All of these items should be sent to:

Professor Roger Boye
Medill School of Journalism
1845 Sheridan Road
Northwestern University
Evanston, IL 60208-2101

Deadlines:

All of the above items must be received by 4 p.m. on March 26, 2010. Decision letters will be mailed to applicants on or before April 2, 2010.
To bring together gifted young people and superior teachers ... in an atmosphere of affection, knowledge and trust.

Ralph Dennis, 1931
FOUNDER OF THE PROGRAM

Application Deadline: March 26, 2010