Student Journalist Fellowship Program

The March on Washington Film Festival’s Student Journalists Fellowship Program provides an opportunity for five student journalists to learn the essential role that reporters have in shaping and preserving Civil Rights in a Democracy, while giving them a chance to step into that role themselves. This is a professional development program that offers in-depth training for students interested in carrying the mantle of social justice reporting. In addition, the students receive mentorship, expert insight from leaders in the field, and a plethora of resources to develop long-form social justice reporting projects that identify and dissect the Civil Rights challenges of their generation. At the end of the program, students have the opportunity to pitch their final projects directly to festival media partners and outlets.

The program begins April 23 and ends after the conclusion of the July festival (July 12-20).

Participating fellows:

- Receive a $500 stipend
- Attend monthly reporting workshops and seminars facilitated by experts in the field
- Engage in virtual Coffee & Conversation sessions with media professionals via video group chat
- Engage in mentorship sessions with program coordinator and former New York Times journalist
- Access resources to work on long-form social justice pieces
- Pitch their stories to festival media partners
- Tour newsrooms
- Media access to certain festival events
- Throughout the course of the program, maintain a “reporter’s notebook” style blog on www.marchonwashingtonfilmfestival.org about their fellowship experiences, and find creative ways to document them via social media.

Applications

School officials will be asked to nominate students from their department who demonstrate an interest in social justice reporting. Each nomination should include the student’s resume, contact information, a work sample demonstrating the student’s interest in social justice reporting, and a one-page proposal from the student describing an area within the realm of social justice or Civil Rights that they would explore if given the resources and opportunity.

All materials must be sent to jada@marchonwashingtonfilmfestival.org by April 13, 2018.
Rules
This program is open to students currently enrolled in a college or university in Washington, D.C., Maryland or Virginia. Students will be responsible for their own housing and transportation for the duration of the program.

Program Coordinator:
Jada F. Smith began her career in the Washington Bureau of The New York Times, where she covered a range of local, national and international news stories. Her 2015 essay for The Sunday Review, entitled Don’t Mess With Auntie Jean, was re-published in the 12th edition of the college-level textbook, Steps to Writing Well with Additional Readings. Other work of hers has appeared on LennyLetter.com, TheRoot.com, The PBS NewsHour, Mic.com, C-SPAN, VerySmartBrothas, Honey Magazine (defunct) and The Atlanta Post (defunct). Smith is an alumna of Howard University in Washington, D.C., where she was managing editor of The Hilltop, the daily student newspaper founded by Zora Neale Hurston.