THE ERNEST ANDREW ROGERS AWARD
FOR OUTSTANDING JUNIOR STATE CHAPTER OF THE YEAR
& NATIONAL CIVIC IMPACT 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.

On an autumn evening in 1934, Prof. Rogers put the question before his students. Someone suggested a junior government -- an educational project to help create the statesmen and citizens of the future. Excited by the idea, the students began to set out the goals for their junior government. Non-partisan, non-sectarian, non-secret, and non-profit, the organization would rise above the evils of propaganda and dirty politics. Students would not just learn about democracy, but would practice it among themselves. The Chapter of the Year Award is given to schools that fulfill the ideals envisioned by Prof. Rogers.

Rewards for Winning the Chapter of the Year Award

1. An engraved plaque honoring the chapter.
2. A $1,000 scholarship to a Junior Statesmen Summer School
3. A full scholarship to a Junior Statesmen Symposium for one chapter member.
4. One free private room to the chapter's Teacher/Advisor to all conventions the following year.
5. Become eligible for the Junior State of America's National Civic Impact Award.

The National Civic Impact Award

The Junior State of America annually recognizes the chapter that has had the biggest impact on increasing the level of civic awareness and engagement at their school with the National Civic Impact Award. The award goes to one of the 10 chapters chosen as their state's Chapter of the Year. The winning chapter receives:

1. An engraved plaque honoring the chapter.
2. A $500 stipend reward given to the chapter's Teacher/Advisor.
3. A $2,000 grant to the chapter to continue their civic impact and engagement projects.

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

The Chapter of the Year is chosen at each state's Spring State Convention. Chapter Presidents and Teacher/Advisors submit an essay and make a 6-8 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 and essay written by the Chapter President and Teacher/Advisor describing ways in which the chapter has been extraordinary through their activities, events, and participation in the community to your state's Program Director at least one week prior to Spring State.
3. At Spring State, the Teacher/Advisor and the Chapter President or her/his designee will give a 6-8 minute presentation to a panel of Teacher/Advisors and Junior State staff who will decide which chapter will be the Chapter of the Year.
4. Presentation Requirements
    a. Chapters should prepare and submit a PowerPoint slideshow or video and have it ready in CD, DVD, or USB memory device.
    b. The presentation should describe your chapter's achievements and include photos, videos, press clippings, text, charts, 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. Students should contact their state's program director to ensure that the equipment is compatible for your presentation.
    d. Videos should not last more than five minutes so that there is time for questions and answers.

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 such as: chapter conferences, 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 democratic process, and participation in programs sponsored by the Junior State of America and the Junior Statesmen Foundation.

Criteria for Judging the Most Outstanding Chapter

1. ***Political Awareness***

    - Chapter hosts events such as debates, thought-talks, guest speakers, simulations such as mock trials and mock elections, and mini-conventions that are politically relevant and raise the level of engagement of chapter members and school.

2. ***Civic Engagement/Activism*** –

    - Participation in school governance, school board, and city council meetings.
    - Conducts voter registration drives and letter writing campaigns to local, state, or federal representatives.
    - Works with elected officials to raise awareness of student concerns and offer action plans, or policy recommendations.

3. ***Leadership*** –

    - Chapter members exemplify leadership qualities in their school, community, and at JSA events through active participation as speakers/moderators in debates, and thought talks.

4. ***Community Service*** –

    - Chapter contributes to the betterment of their city by participating and volunteering at charitable organizations such as food banks, care facilities, and community centers.

5. ***JSA Participation*** –

    - Regularly attends JSA conventions, regional one-day conferences, and chapter conferences.

THE ERNEST ANDREW ROGERS AWARD
FOR OUTSTANDING JUNIOR STATESMEN CHAPTER OF THE YEAR
APPLICATION FORM

Chapters interested in competing for the Chapter of the Year Award should complete and submit this application form at least one weak 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 Northeast Program Director Contact Information:

Dan Hess
The Junior State of America
1411 K St. NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 591-3722
dhess@jsa.org