



### **What is the NVGSA Press Corps & Media Club (PC&MC)?**

Aside from the being the best thing since the invention of human communication, the NVGSA PC&MC is a group of talented volunteer teen journalists, writers, video producers, photographers, social media masters, and content management gurus. The PC&MC is NVGSA's primary producer of online and printed communications materials.

### **What are some examples of PC&MC projects?**

- Softball-related news articles and editorials for an NVGSA online magazine
- Seasonal registration videos for online posting and distribution
- Online photo albums on the NVGSA website and management of league photo contests
- NVGSA news releases distributed via web, email, and social media venues
- Writing web and email-based program registration announcements
- Coordinating registration notices with community schools and news and information outlets
- Developing and promoting NVGSA member surveys

### **Who is eligible to participate in the PC&MC?**

The club is oriented toward high-school aged participants in school grades 9-12. Brothers and sisters of current or previous-season registered softball players are eligible to participate in the PC&MC. **There is no requirement for participants to play softball.**

### **What skills do I need in order to participate?**

The most important skills needed are the desires to communicate and learn. Whether you prefer the written word, still photography, or video production, you must be willing to learn the processes and methods of being part of an organization's communication staff. **Experience is not necessary**, though interested club members and their parents should be honest about their communication strengths and weaknesses, as well as their commitment to be motivated contributors.

### **What is the cost of participation in the PC&MC?**

There are no costs for members to volunteer with the Press Corps & Media Club. However, NVGSA may offer club t-shirts or other gear to participants for optional purchase. Additionally, NVGSA may periodically organize field trips, professional lectures, or other club-related venues to participants for a fee. Such offerings are completely volunteer and membership is not impacted by participation.

### **What is expected of those who volunteer?**

Commitment to creative communication is what NVGSA expects of the PC&MC participants. This commitment includes the following:

- Participation in a monthly club meeting (2-3 hour meeting at a local high school or library).
- Acceptance of at least 1 assignment per month based on organizational needs. Most assignments typically require 5-10 hours to complete, depending on complexity and scope.
- Willingness to interview NVGSA Board members, officers, coaches, players, parents, and community partners, as needed for the completion of assigned projects.
- Working with NVGSA adult mentors and Board members for assignment editing, final review, publication, and dissemination.
- Attention to detail in project research, production quality and thoroughness.
- Participation in major NVGSA organizational events (e.g. Parent/Coaches Meeting and Opening Day Ceremonies)

### **Who organizes and leads the PC&MC?**

The NVGSA Press Corps & Media Club is organized, managed and led by Board-approved, adult volunteer officials from within the overall NVGSA membership. The PC&MC Officer is in charge of regular club operations and may recommend additional adult volunteers to the Board for consideration of participation as a club leader, mentor, or guide. Check the NVGSA website for exact contact information of current PC&MC leaders.

### **What can volunteers expect from NVGSA?**

Just as NVGSA expects the PC&MC to be committed to participation and quality, PC&MC volunteers can expect the league to provide the following:

- Opportunities for interesting projects that help develop and refine participants' abilities.
- Professional-level mentoring, editing, guidance and project coaching.
- Project publication and dissemination within NVGSA communication channels.
- League-verified completion of school-required community volunteer hours.
- Consideration for the annual NVGSA Press Corps & Media Club Volunteer Contributor Award.
- Opportunities for recognition within annual Fairfax County volunteer award programs.
- Opportunity to apply for NVGSA college scholarship programs, assuming all scholarship eligibility requirements are met.
- Letters of recommendation for college application packages.

### **How do I register to be a Press Corps & Media Club participant?**

Participation in the NVGSA PC&MC is competitive, limited to 12 members per adult volunteer mentor at any given point in time.

Because the type of the projects are as varied as the interests of the PC&MC membership, interested participants are required to submit any of the following to convey the reason for their interest in the club, basis for eligibility, specific communication strengths and weaknesses, and an anticipated level of commitment:

- A 250-500 page essay.
- A portfolio of at least 25 softball-related photos (can be printed or digital).
- A 3-5 minute video.
- An original article of less than 500 words.

Selected participants and their parents/guardians will be required to submit a signed PC&MC communication policy agreement, which establishes parent/guardian inclusion or notification as a requirement for all correspondence between adult volunteers and teen club participants.

Submissions and the signed policy agreement should be submitted to the NVGSA PC&MC Coordinator email address listed on the Contacts page of the NVGSA website.

### **If selected, how long will I be allowed to participate?**

Selected participants are allowed to participate for 2 years following selection without having to re-apply, assuming active NVGSA membership of the participant or a family member within the current or previous softball season. Following the 2 year period, participants are allowed to re-apply.

### **Can I be removed from Press Corps & Media Club participation?**

Yes. But let's be honest – this is going to be a blast, so why would you do anything to risk it? Though not an exhaustive list, the following are potential reasons for club expulsion:

- Refusal to accept three assignments in a row.
- Continuous lack of participation in monthly club meetings.
- Abuse of NVGSA-owned, operated or maintained resources, including but not limited to NVGSA websites, web accounts, email accounts, printed materials, or photographic equipment.
- Disrespectful language, behavior, or actions deemed by the NVGSA Board of Directors to have brought disgrace, humiliation, or discredit to the league, its officers and members, or its affiliates.