

California Junior Scholarship Federation FAQs



- **What is it?**

CJSF is a statewide organization founded for the purpose of fostering high standards of scholarship, service, and citizenship in the middle school grades. CJSF emphasizes service to the school and the community while creating pride in scholastic achievement. Its motto is "Scholarship for Service."

- **Who is eligible for membership?**

Seventh and eighth grade students who qualify with the appropriate grades are eligible.

- **How do I qualify?**

Grades are given a point value. An "A" is 3 points, a "B" is 1 point, and a "C" is 0 points. A "D" or an "F" in any subject disqualifies a student from membership.

Only Math, Science, English, Social Studies, and Elective courses are used to determine eligibility.

Seventh and eighth grade students total their points for these classes at the end of the second quarter or fourth quarter (enrollment is open two times per year). If the total points equal 20 or above, the student qualifies for CJSF membership.

NOTE: Seventh graders must complete one full semester of junior high classes before they can apply for CJSF.

2nd NOTE: If you had "Student Service" as your elective class, you may no longer use this grade as part of your CJSF total. If this is the case, please list only your grades for Math, Science, English, and Social Studies when filling out your application. Your "total points" will need to equal 16 points or above from these four courses in order to qualify for CJSF membership.

- **What is the membership fee?**

There is a \$5.00 membership fee per semester. This money helps to pay for the Induction Ceremony, field trips, educational enrichment activities, celebrations, etc. No one will be denied membership if they cannot afford the dues. In addition to the \$5.00 membership fee, students may choose to pay an additional \$5.00 in order to purchase a CJSF medal. This medal may be worn during the Rio Norte graduation ceremony. A student need only purchase one medal for graduation, but if a student wishes, they may purchase a medal for each semester that they qualify for CJSF membership.

- **What is required for school /community service?**

Students are encouraged to complete 5-10 hours of volunteer service per semester. It is not mandatory, just recommended. Tutoring, coaching, volunteer work with other community groups can all be counted. Any service that is not compensated and helps others qualifies. The goal is for members to balance their high academic achievement with public or school service.

- **What can you gain from membership in CJSF?**

Students who become a member of CJSF will be recognized at the CJSF Induction Ceremony (held once per semester) and will have their membership acknowledged in the Rio Norte graduation ceremony program. Students who choose to purchase a CJSF medal can wear their medal during the 8th grade graduation ceremony, distinguishing themselves as a CJSF member. In addition to this, special fieldtrips are scheduled throughout the year for CJSF members. For example, during the 2006-2007 school year, some CJSF members visited the University of Southern California for a campus tour and to experience the "Camp Darfur" interactive museum. Other CJSF members participated in UCLA's Cub Tour program. In 2008, CJSF members toured Cal State University, Northridge and were able to visit the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena!

- **When do I apply?**

Students have a 2-week window to apply following the end of the second quarter and at the beginning of the first quarter for eighth graders who qualified at the end of their seventh grade year. Applications are made available during this window of time, both on the Rio Norte website and in room F7.

- **Do I have to apply each semester?**

Yes! Membership in CJSF is by application only, and it is not automatic or compulsory. STUDENTS MUST REAPPLY EVERY SEMESTER in order to achieve membership status.

- **How is information about CJSF disseminated to the students at Rio Norte?**

Announcements regarding CJSF are typically made during the daily bulletin announcements. On occasion, students will receive handouts from the homeroom teachers or be asked to pick up information from Ms Kratofil in room F7. It is essential that all students listen carefully to the daily announcements for any and all relevant information.

- **Who can I contact with questions?**

The Rio Norte CJSF Chapter Advisor for the 2008-2009 school year is Ms Jeanette Kratofil. You may reach her via email at jkratofi@hartdistrict.org or by phone at 295-3700 x. 1707.

For more information on CJSF, please go to <http://www.csf-cjsf.org/>.