



News Reporter Job Description

KSJD's mission is to inform and empower the people of the Four Corners region through news, music, and public media service.

JOB SUMMARY

The News Reporter is responsible for reporting and producing local news for our listeners in Cortez, Colorado and the Four Corners region.

This position is under the supervision of the Executive Director, with editorial support from the Managing Editor of Rocky Mountain Community Radio (RMCR) and other journalists in the RMCR network. RMCR includes stations in Colorado, Utah, Montana, Wyoming and New Mexico. Applicants must live near or be willing to relocate to the Cortez, CO area. We will not accept applications from those wanting to work fully remote/virtual, as a physical presence in the region is required.

Primary Responsibilities:

- Report on local and regional issues through a twice-weekly newscast and by producing longer feature stories, two-way interviews, spots, and collaborations with different editors and newsrooms, including coverage of local government (city council, school boards etc.) with a view to providing consistent news reporting on local government issues and their impact on listeners.
- Report on local elections to provide listeners with comprehensive information about ballot issues and candidates.
- Share coverage on regional stories with the RMCR network, working regularly with the RMCR Managing Editor. Attend regular RMCR virtual meetings/workshops and the in-person annual RMCR conference.
- Create news reports and stories for on-air broadcast, web, and social media.
- Work with the Executive Director and the staff to identify and participate in community engagement activities such as debate moderation, career fairs, journalism roundtables etc., especially those hosted in KSJD's Sunflower Theatre.

Secondary Responsibilities:

- When time allows and with the permission of the Managing Editor and Executive Director, pitch KSJD stories to larger news outlets like NPR, The Daily Yonder, and KUNC's Water Desk.
- Co-host during on-air fundraising drives in the fall and spring.
- Plan news and civic engagement events held at the Sunflower Theatre.

Core Competencies:

- Multimedia skills (e.g. audio editing, writing for the web, photography/video production)
- Familiarity and appreciation of public radio news style
- Cultural competency; respect for diverse perspectives, experiences, and narratives
- Ability to thrive in a collaborative, deadline-driven environment
- Commitment to transparency and accuracy
- Flexibility to manage competing priorities while meeting deadlines
- Google Suite, particularly experience with using Google Docs and Sheets

This position is an excellent opportunity for someone who's eager to start or continue their career in radio reporting or journalism in general. KSJD's listening area in the Four Corners is located in what many experts call a "news desert," meaning there's a lack of substantial news reporting going on for communities that desperately need it. It's also one of the most culturally diverse – and complex – places in the southwestern U.S.

The Four Corners region is perfect for someone who enjoys the outdoors and rural living. The weather here is hard to beat, with over 300 days of sunshine each year. It is home to Mesa Verde National Park and adjacent to both the San Juan Mountains and the deserts and canyon country of southeast Utah. It's also home to four sovereign tribal nations, the Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute reservations, and the Navajo Nation. Idyllic western towns like Telluride, Moab, and Durango are all within a couple hours' drive from KSJD in downtown Cortez.

BASELINE QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor's degree in journalism or equivalent journalism experience at a daily newspaper, digital news outlet, or radio station.
- Experience with staying organized and on-task at all times in a smaller newsroom or workplace.
- Broadcast radio experience preferred.
- Most important is an eagerness to make a difference in a community through responsible, ethical journalism that centers the everyday people directly impacted by the issues at hand.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

- 2-3 years of journalism experience.
- Experience with or passion for reporting on the environment, Indigenous affairs, water conservation issues, local school boards, and/or public health.
- Track record of finding stories that other news outlets haven't substantially reported on yet, or haven't been reported on at all.
- Candidates who have a background or identity rooted in the Four Corners region or the desert Southwest are preferred.

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

Compensation: \$40,000 - \$43,000 annual salary depending on experience.

Paid Time Off: Holidays and sick and vacation time accrued as outlined in the Community Radio Project Employee Handbook.

Benefits: A monthly health reimbursement account and a Simple Plan retirement account.

REQUIRED MEETINGS AND TIME/TRAVEL

- Weekly supervisor check-ins and staff meetings.
- Work-related conferences.
- Mileage covered by KSJD for work travel.

TO APPLY:

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Open until filled.

To apply, please submit the following to Executive Director Tom Yoder by email at tom@ksjd.org with the subject line "*News Reporter at KSJD*."

1. Cover letter demonstrating your passion for this role and that addresses the following question: what do you see as public media's role in a rural community over the next 3-5 years?
2. Resume
3. At least three professional references
4. Links to at least two radio or audio news stories, interviews, or podcasts you've worked on, along with descriptions detailing your role in the piece. If you don't have audio samples, include two web/print news stories (this may be included as a separate document in your application materials).

We encourage individuals with diverse backgrounds, age, economic circumstance, ethnicity, gender expression, marital status, national origin, religion, and sexual orientation to apply.