Apply here: http://justicenerds.smapply.io/.

INTRODUCTION

The Young Justice Nerds awards (YJN) are a 'first of their kind' competition to celebrate high school and college students across the country doing the work of promoting improvements in criminal justice. The competition asks high school students (with the help of an advisor/mentor/teacher) and college students to submit written materials _and_ a video essay on how they are using science and technology to improve the criminal justice system. The winning submission will be shown during the Center for Policing Equity's (CPE) _Mapping the Science of Justice_ Convening and subsequently at CPE's _Celebrating the Science of Justice_ awards dinner, both to be held on May 3rd, 2018 in Washington, DC.

The goal is to lift up the passions, genius, and inspiration young people have for justice. By highlighting the amazing talents of young people from around the country, we also demonstrate how our children's brilliance can improve our neighborhoods. In this way, science, technology, and justice can work together for community uplift.

THE AWARD

One high school team and at least 1 college winner of Young Justice Nerds Awards will travel to Washington, D.C. to receive their awards from the Head of Google Education, North America, the President of the Center for Policing Equity, and a Member from the NFL Players Coalition. All travel and lodging will be provided by the Center for Policing Equity, as well an allowance for food and incidentals. Additionally, winning college students and high school teams will receive a monetary prize. Finally, winners will have their names, pictures, and project publicized by the teams at the Center for Policing Equity, Google Education, and _The Atlantic_.

ELIGIBILITY

For College Applicants:

College applicants must be enrolled in a two or four-year accredited college as of May 1 and be able to provide confirmation of that enrollment.

For High School Applicants:

High school applicants will apply as a "team." Teams may be the full enrollment of a class, members of a club, participants in an afterschool program, a group of entrepreneurial friends, or a neighborhood activities group. Teams must consist of at least two students and a mentor. Students must be enrolled in a high school, upper school, or vocational primary school as of May 1 and be able to provide confirmation of that enrollment. Mentors must be adults over the age of 18 with the ability to demonstrate a history of mentorship to the team. Preference will be given to teams and mentors with a school affiliation.

For All Applicants:

All applicants commit to being available for the award presentations on both the afternoon and evening of May 3rd in Washington, D.C.

APPLICATION MATERIALS

A complete application packet **must** include the following:

1. **A narrative statement of no more than five pages** (double spaced) that summarizes the work that the high school team or college student do to leverage science and technology for criminal justice reform.
2. **A video essay of no longer than five minutes** showcasing the team or college student as well as the work described in the application statement. Be creative.
3. **For high school applicants only, a letter of support** from your team mentor which should be no longer than three pages.

Application packets **may** also include:

1. **Up to two letters of external support** from either:
   A) An elected official or state/city employee such as a law enforcement professional (sworn or civilian) or correctional staff.
   B) A justice-involved individual or someone working outside the formal mechanisms of criminal justice and government. For instance, this person could be someone who is formerly incarcerated, a civil rights advocate, police chaplain, or fundraiser for correctional officers.
2. **Up to two letters of internal support** from teachers or administrators at the applicants' current school. For high school applicants these letters would be in addition to the letter from your team mentor.
3. **Supplementary materials** which may include:
   1. Artwork associated with the application
   2. Print or digital media coverage of the applicants' work

3. Demonstration materials of the applicants' work

<u>Narrative Statement</u>
The narrative statement should include the following sections:
- *Project Title*
- *Introduction*. Briefly summarize the problem you are trying to solve and why is it important to your community? Briefly explain how you are using science and technology to solve it and how you decided to start doing that work?
- *Project Description*. Detail the work you are doing to address the problem you identified. Explain the impact it has had in your community and the impact you hope it will have in the near future.
- *Personal Impact*. Explain how the work has affected you. What is different in your life/lives as a result of doing this work.
- *What's Next?* Finally, describe what you would like to do with this next? What would take the project "to another level" and how might the community of Justice Nerds— or you specifically do that?

<u>Video Essay</u>
The video essay is intended to allow applicants to showcase the power of their work in ways that words alone may fail. We are *not* looking for students to read their narrative statements into a camera. Instead, try to showcase both the project(s) you have been working on and the passions that brought you to them. Most of all, be creative. Try to create a video that reflects the soul of the work you care most about!

<u>Letters of Support</u>
Letters of support are most effective when they can be specific about the applicant and the work they are doing to combine science, technology, and criminal justice reform. They should make reference to the students' character, their passion for science and justice, and their commitment to the project(s) they are referencing in the application.

<u>Release Form</u>
-If under the age of 18 will need parental forms signed upon selection
-All applicants must sign a video release form allowing CPE to use the video essay and video from the awards ceremony for promotional purposes. Applicants who are under 18 must have these signed by a legal guardian (check box).

EVALUATION CRITERIA
The goal of the Young Justice Nerds Awards is to lift up the innovative spirit of young people who are combining their love of science and technology with their passion for justice. That goal is at the heart of the evaluation criteria for the award. Applicants should highlight work they have done and/or are currently doing that combines science and technology (e.g., chemistry, physics, computer science, social psychology, etc.) with criminal justice reform (e.g., making police vests safer, reducing incarceration rates, improving community trust of criminal justice systems, etc.) The emphasis for these awards is on empowering young people to shape their communities, so priority will be given to projects that move outside

the classroom (though particularly impressive classroom projects will also be considered). The categories for evaluation are:

- <u>Innovation</u>: The originality of the project or projects. The likelihood that this work could produce real change.
- <u>Passion</u>: Demonstrated commitment of the students to the work. Evidence of the students' desire to go beyond the classroom with the work.
- <u>Education</u>: The centrality of science and technology to the work. Also, the ability to educate others about and/or with the work.

TIMELINE

All application materials are due by **April 15, 2018 via** http://justicenerds.smapply.io/. CPE will announce the winners on **April 17th** and all travel and lodging arrangements will be made shortly thereafter to ensure that all winners can be in Washington, D.C. for the **May 3rd** awards.

ABOUT CPE

The Center for Policing Equity is the nation's the leading think and action tank on racial justice and policing. In an era of political divisiveness and social unrest, CPE believes collaboration with law enforcement and communities is imperative. CPE has worked for 10 years to hold police and their communities accountable and build trust in cities and states across the country. By providing evidence-based analytic tools and up-to-date research, CPE's work amplifies the need for a broader bipartisan movement for criminal justice reform.

The Science of Justice Gala – underwritten by Google - will kick off the "20/20 by 2020" initiative – by 2020 CPE will have enough departments in its National Justice Database (NJD) to provide reliable national estimates of racial disparities in police stops and use of force. In advance of the gala, CPE will unveil new software created in partnership with Google that can automatically audit, clean, standardize, analyze, and interpret racial disparities in police data. The software reliably replaces human efforts that used to take 9-12 months to complete—and accomplishes them in closer to 9-12 minutes.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Please print this page, fill it out, and upload it with your application. Check all the boxes below if you will be including these items in your application. **Starred items are required for your application to be reviewed.**

☐ *Narrative statement (*no more than five pages*)
☐ *Video essay (*no longer than seven minutes*)
☐ *Team mentor's letter of support (*for high school applicants only*)
☐ *Video release forms
☐ *Parental permission forms (*for applicants under* 18 only)
☐ Supplemental letters of support
☐ Supplemental digital materials (e.g., demonstrations, media coverage, etc.)