

FIND YOUR VOICE: REAL MEDIA. REAL EXPERIENCE.

The Peak News Academy

Homeschool Enrichment Program (7th – 12th grade) | Colorado Springs

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

- You attend **one long in-person day each week**.
- That day includes: **Two 90-minute academic classes** (storytelling, ethics, professionalism), and **Two 90-minute integrated hands-on classes** (production, tech, marketing, real work)
- You'll also regularly: Meet **local media professionals** - Go on **field trips** to real media environments - Work on projects that get **published** (not graded and forgotten)

CURRICULUM: SEMESTER 1 — JOURNALISM and MEDIA FOUNDATIONS

Learn how media actually works. Learn how to do it right. Learn how to do it well.

- **Week 1:** Meet and Greet and Personal Assessments + Orientation and Course Overview
- **Week 2:** Ethics 101 + Playing by the Rules
- **Week 3:** Passion for Storytelling + *Field Trip*: Radio Station Tour and Goal-Setting
- **Week 4:** Ethics of Journalism + Effective Communication
- **Week 5:** Constitutional and Legal Issues in Journalism 101 + Tools of the Trade I (Print, Audio, Video)
- **Week 6:** Personal Responsibility (Individual, Community, Professional) + *Guest Speaker / Field Trip*
- **Week 7:** Ethics 201 + Tools of the Trade II (Print, Audio, Video)
- **Week 8:** Impactful Story Structure + Tricks of the Trade
- **Week 9:** Marketing and Financial Basics of Journalism + *Guest Speaker / Field Trip*
- **Week 10:** Serving Your Community + Effective Public Speaking
- **Weeks 11 - 13:** Special Projects
- **Week 14:** Presentations and Peer Assessments (all day)
- **Week 15:** Finals + Reflections, Testimonies and Next Steps

CURRICULUM: SEMESTER 2 — PODCASTING, BUSINESS and LEADERSHIP

Keep learning. Build your own platform. Launch something that's actually yours.

- **Week 1:** Re-meet and Greet and Personal Assessments + Orientation and Course Overview
- **Week 2:** Ethics 301 + Producing a Podcast
- **Week 3:** Passion for Impact + *Guest Speaker / Field Trip*
- **Week 4:** Ethics in the Media Business + Tools of the Podcaster
- **Week 5:** Ethics of Interviewing and Reporting + Shoe-Leather Journalism
- **Week 6:** Business and Leadership Skills + *Guest Speaker / Field Trip*
- **Week 7:** Ethics of News Reporting + Marketing and Financial Aspects of Podcasting
- **Week 8:** Building a Community Around Your Podcast + Preproduction Planning
- **Week 9:** Disciplines of Regular Production + *Guest Speaker / Field Trip*
- **Week 10:** Constitutional and Legal Issues in Journalism 201 + Ethical Testing
- **Week 11:** Getting Sponsors + Closing the Business Side
- **Weeks 12 - 14:** Launch Your Podcast
- **Week 15:** Presentations and Peer Evaluations (all day)
- **Semester Finish:** Graduation Ceremony and Podcast Trade Show (in-person and virtual)

+ HANDS-ON PROFESSIONAL TRAINING (each week)

Each week includes **two 90-minute Career and Technical Education blocks** where you: Train on real equipment and software – Practice interviewing, writing, filming, and editing – Go on field trips to local media environments (once per month) – Apply exactly what you learned in the academic classes

+ INTERNSHIP — YOU'RE ON THE TEAM

Each student automatically receives a real-world **internship with *The Peak News***.

- **3+ hours per week** throughout each semester
- Additional volunteer hours available
- Internship work may happen:
 - From home
 - In the community (“on the beat”)
 - At *The Peak News* production studio

In **Semester 2**, students may also qualify for **outplacement internships** with media outlets across the Pikes Peak region.

+ TEAM PROJECTS and REAL COLLABORATION

You won't go it alone.

- Students work in teams of two
- Roles rotate (journalist ↔ tech/producer)
- You learn how real media teams function under the pressure of production deadlines
- Projects are cooperative, practical, **and published**

THE FINAL CHALLENGE — PODCAST TRADE SHOW

By the end of Semester 2, each student will: Launch and run his or her own podcast – Recruit and lead a small volunteer team – Promote their show publicly. The course wraps-up with a **Podcast Trade Show**, where you host an actual and virtual booth to: Share your podcast – Recruit listeners, guests, sponsors, and volunteers – Present your work to students, families, and the public

WHAT YOU'LL ACCOMPLISH

- Real-world media experience
- A published body of work
- A launched Podcast
- Resume-building Internship experiences and high-level business contacts
- Confidence communicating, leading, and creating
- Your professional “break” into Media!

This isn't Practice...

This is Preparation and a Platform!



Letter of Intent to Enroll

The Peak News Academy – Homeschool Enrichment Program 2026 - 27 Academic Year

Date: _____

To Whom It May Concern,

We, the undersigned parent(s)/legal guardian(s), submit this Letter of Intent to formally express our interest in enrolling our student in *The Peak News Academy* Homeschool Enrichment (HSE) Program for the 2026–2027 academic year.

Student Information

- Student Name: _____
- Age as of September 1, 2026: _____
- Grade Level for 2026 - 27: _____

Parent / Guardian Acknowledgments

By signing this letter, we acknowledge and affirm the following:

1. Funding Source Acknowledgment

We understand and acknowledge that funding for participation in *The Peak News Academy* Homeschool Enrichment Program is provided through the Colorado State Department of Education, and that participation is subject to applicable state requirements and approval processes.

2. Curriculum Awareness

We confirm that we have been informed of the curriculum offered through *The Peak News Academy* Homeschool Enrichment Program.

3. Intent to Enroll

We hereby express our intent to enroll our student named above in *The Peak News Academy* Homeschool Enrichment Program beginning in the **Fall of 2026**, contingent upon eligibility, funding approval, and program availability.

This Letter of Intent is submitted in good faith to demonstrate our interest and intent and does not, by itself, constitute final enrollment. We understand that additional documentation, agreements, and approvals may be required to complete the enrollment process.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to the opportunity to partner with *The Peak News Academy* in our student's educational journey.

Parent / Guardian Information

Parent / Guardian Name (Printed): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Email Letter of Intent to:

ChaimG@ThePeak.news

Get All the Info about our The Peak Academy at:

ThePeak.news/Academy