

BEST OF THE BEST IN INDIANA JOURNALISM

*Recognizing the most outstanding work of the year
in Indiana print, broadcast and online journalism.*

CALL FOR ENTRIES PROFESSIONAL & STUDENT DIVISIONS



Is your work good enough to take home top honors as best of the best in Indiana? It's time to find out.

The 2017 Best in Indiana Journalism contest is now open for submissions through February 4.

The contest, sponsored by the Indiana Professional chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, includes contest categories in print, television, radio and online journalism.

Look inside for rules and submission criteria.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS:

- Both SPJ members and non-members are invited to participate.
- News organizations are encouraged to submit work on behalf of their staffs, but individuals are also welcome to enter their work.
- Low per-entry fee of \$20 for professionals and \$15 for students.

HOW TO ENTER

The Best in Indiana Journalism awards, sponsored by the Indiana Professional Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, considers all journalistic work printed, broadcast or published online in Indiana.

All entries must be submitted to the online entry site <http://awards.indyprospj.org> and mailed material must be postmarked by February 4, 2018. Entry fees must be paid through the online entry site.

- Nominations and entries are accepted from news organizations or individuals.
- Nominees need not be members of the Society of Professional Journalists.
- All entries must have been published or broadcast during calendar year 2017. A series of stories must have started publication or broadcast in 2017.
- An individual or organization may enter as many times as desired, including multiple entries for one category. Exceptions: In column writing categories, three columns comprise one entry, and only one entry per person is allowed. In the Television and Radio Newscast categories, each station is allowed only one entry.
- The category descriptions note cases in which multiple pieces of work are required or allowed.
- Stories may be entered in only one category, and work submitted in the Student Division may not be submitted in the Professional Division. Exceptions: Work submitted in the Special Honors Division may be entered in the Professional or Student divisions. Work submitted for a design award may also be entered for a print award. Work submitted for a videography award may also be submitted for a television award.
- Contest organizers may combine category divisions for judging if fewer than five entries are submitted in a circulation or broadcast market division within a contest category.
- Judges have the discretion to not name first-place winners if they consider none of the category entries worthy of the award. The Special Honors Division is particularly selective, and those awards will be presented only to exceptional nominees.
- For each entry, follow the specifications noted in the Submission Guidelines and Category Descriptions on the online entry site.
- Entries in the Professional Division cost \$20 per entry. Entries in the Student Division cost \$15 per entry. Special Honors Division entry fees vary depending on the category. Payment must be made through the online entry site, which accepts Visa, MasterCard or Discover Card.
- For questions, please submit questions to spjawards@gmail.com.
- Award submissions allowed by mail in the Book and Special Honors categories should be mailed/shipped to: Indiana SPJ Contest, c/o Scott Uecker, WICR-FM, University of Indianapolis, 1400 East Hanna Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46227
- The Best in Indiana Journalism awards banquet is scheduled for April 27, 2018 at the Indianapolis Marriott North.

>> Visit: <http://awards.indyprospj.org> to submit

SPECIAL HONORS DIVISION

Indiana Journalism Courage Award

Honors a person or organization demonstrating outstanding dedication to journalistic principles -- independence, fairness, and a commitment to truth -- while confronting obstacles or pressures. Candidates could include a reporter who faced legal impediments to a story, an educator or student who contended with the threat of censorship, or a citizen or public official who took extraordinary steps to distribute information important to the public. Nominations are welcome from individuals, employers, citizens and community organizations. No entry fee.

Indiana Journalist of the Year

Honors an Indiana journalist or team with the most outstanding body of work during the contest period. Nomination can include up to eight work samples. Entry fee: \$50.

Indiana Student Journalist of the Year

Honors an Indiana student journalist or team with the most outstanding body of work during the contest period. Nominations can include up to eight work samples. Entry fee: \$35.

Story of the Year

This award honors outstanding enterprise journalism that demonstrates impact or that advances understanding of a critical issue in the state. This award is open to any medium (print, broadcast, online or multiplatform). Entrants may submit up to five stories or up to 15 minutes of air time. This award is open to professionals and students. Solo journalists or teams are eligible. Entry fee: \$50.

Slaymaker Indiana Service to Journalism Award

Honors a person or organization for advancing the practice of quality journalism in the state. Presented in honor of Gene and Julie Slaymaker, longtime members of the Indiana Professional chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists and administrators of the Best in Indiana Journalism contest. No entry fee required.

First Amendment Award

Honors a journalist or news organization for outstanding use of public records in reporting or advocacy of rights such as press freedom and public access. Nominations can include up to eight work samples. Entry fee: \$20.



SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

SPECIAL HONORS DIVISION

Special Honors Division entry requirements and fees vary depending on the award (see category descriptions included on online awards entry site).

- Nomination should include a written summary (no more than 500 words) describing why the nominee is worthy of this award along with any documentation that supports the nomination, including letters of nomination.
- Work samples can be submitted by online links to stories, including online video sites; PDFs of the news/magazine pages, or Word documents of articles as published.
- Nominations are accepted from news organizations or individuals. The entry form, nomination summary and payment must be submitted to the online entry site. Supporting materials may be mailed but should include a print out of the entry form and nomination summary.
- The Special Honors Division is particularly selective, and those awards will be presented only to exceptional nominees.

PROFESSIONAL AND STUDENT DIVISIONS

(See individual category descriptions on online entry site for limits on number of articles, length of broadcast submissions and other specifics.)

■ NEWSPAPER & MAGAZINE

- Entrants should submit a link to the online article, a PDF of the news/magazine page on which the story appeared or a Word document of the article as it was published. Any corrections or clarifications made after publication must be submitted with entry.
- PDFs should have the same name as the title of the story.
- PDFs should be combined into one file, when possible. Any cover letters and supporting material should be separated from the main entry.

■ PHOTO, DESIGN, & GRAPHICS

- Entrant should submit a PDF of the news/magazine page designed or on which photo or graphic appeared, or a link to the photographs or graphics published on an online news site. Any corrections or clarifications made after publication must be submitted with entry.
- Submitting the actual digital photo/graphic for clearer viewing optional.
- For photographs published in a newspaper, magazine or on an online news site.

■ TELEVISION/VIDEOGRAPHY

- Entries may be edited for length.
- Entrant should upload the work to an online video site and submit the URL (preferred), or upload a video file to the awards site. [50 MB file limit] All video files must be one of the following formats: .wmv, .mov, .mpeg or .mp4.
- A script or transcript with lead-in can be submitted, but not required. Any corrections or clarifications made after original broadcast must be submitted with entry.

■ RADIO

- Entries may be edited for length.
- Entrant should submit a link to the work online or upload an audio file to the awards site. [50 MB file limit]
- All audio files must be .mp3 (preferred), .wav or .aiff format. Audio in other formats will not be accepted. Any corrections or clarifications made after original broadcast must be submitted with entry.

■ ONLINE

- For online journalism sites whether affiliated with a print publication, broadcast station or independent.
- Entrants must supply complete URLs and keep their nominated entries intact and accessible until May 30, 2018. Any URL that is not operational at time of judging can be disqualified.

■ BOOKS

- One copy of published book must be mailed/shipped for entry. No electronic entries will be accepted in this category. Entrant must complete online entry form on the awards site, print out the confirmation form and include it with the entry.

DEADLINE:

*ENTRIES MUST BE SUBMITTED
BY 11:59 P.M. SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 4, 2018.*

Entries must be submitted online* at:

<http://awards.indyprospj.org>

(*For book categories, please see mailing address on page 2.)

QUESTIONS?

Visit <http://spjcontest.com> or email spjawards@gmail.com. For contest information and forms, visit indyprospj.org or spjcontest.com.

LOOKING FOR STUDENT CATEGORIES?

Student categories are listed in this document on page 6.

PROFESSIONAL DIVISION

PRINT & DIGITAL

BREAKING NEWS REPORTING

(Coverage by a reporter or team of a breaking news event)

- A. Any publication with circ. above 30,000, news services and digital media
- B. Any publication with a circulation below 30,000

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

(Single story, package or series by a reporter or team; a letter describing the origin and impact of the project may also be included.)

- A. Any publication with circ. above 30,000, news services and digital media
- B. Any publication with a circulation below 30,000

NON-DEADLINE STORY OR SERIES

(Entry may include up to five installments of a project designated as a series upon publication. Sidebar material may be included. A letter describing the origin and impact of the project may also be included.)

- A. Any publication with circ. above 30,000, news services and digital media
- B. Any publication with a circulation below 30,000

COVERAGE OF GOVERNMENT OR POLITICS

(Entry may include up to five articles)

- A. Any publication with circ. above 30,000, news services and digital media
- B. Any publication with a circulation below 30,000

BUSINESS OR CONSUMER AFFAIRS REPORTING

(Entry may include up to five articles)

- A. Any publication with circ. above 30,000, news services and digital media
- B. Any publication with a circulation below 30,000

EDUCATION COVERAGE

(Entry may include up to five articles)

- A. Any publication with circ. above 30,000, news services and digital media
- B. Any publication with a circulation below 30,000

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REPORTING

(Entry may include up to five articles)

- A. Any publication with circ. above 30,000, news services and digital media
- B. Any publication with a circulation below 30,000

COVERAGE OF CHILDREN'S ISSUES

(Entry may include up to five articles)

- A. Any publication with circ. above 30,000, news services and digital media
- B. Any publication with a circulation below 30,000

COVERAGE OF MINORITY ISSUES

(Entry may include up to five articles)

- A. Any publication with circ. above 30,000, news services and digital media
- B. Any publication with a circulation below 30,000

MEDICAL OR SCIENCE REPORTING

(Entry may include up to five articles)

- A. Any publication with circ. above 30,000, news services and digital media
- B. Any publication with a circulation below 30,000

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

(Entry may include up to five articles)

- A. Any publication with circ. above 30,000, news services and digital media
- B. Any publication with a circulation below 30,000

FEATURES WRITING

(Single story or package)

- A. Newspapers with circ. above 30,000, news services and digital media
- B. Newspapers with a circulation below 30,000
- C. Magazines and non-daily newspapers

PERSONALITY PROFILE

(Single story or package)

- A. Newspapers with circ. above 30,000, news services and digital media
- B. Newspapers with a circulation below 30,000
- C. Magazines and non-daily newspapers

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT WRITING

(Entry may include up to five articles, including reviews)

- A. Any publication with circ. above 30,000, news services and digital media
- B. Any publication with a circulation below 30,000

EDITORIAL WRITING

(Single editorial per entry)

- A. All publications and digital media

EDITORIAL CARTOON

(Single cartoon per entry)

- A. All publications and digital media

COLUMN WRITING

(Up to three columns comprise one entry. One entry per person)

- A. Any publication with circ. above 30,000, news services and digital media
- B. Any publication with a circulation below 30,000

SPORTS REPORTING

(Entry may include up to five articles)

- A. Any publication with circ. above 30,000, news services and digital media
- B. Any publication with a circulation below 30,000

SPORTS COLUMN WRITING

(Up to three columns comprise one entry. One entry per person)

- A. Any publication with circ. above 30,000, news services and digital media
- B. Any publication with a circulation below 30,000

HEADLINE WRITING

(Three examples comprise one entry. Submit headlines with stories.)

- A. Newspapers with a circulation above 30,000, wire services and digital media
- B. Newspapers with a circulation below 30,000
- C. Magazines and non-daily newspapers

PHOTOGRAPHY, DESIGN, & GRAPHICS

NEWS PHOTOGRAPHY

(Photo coverage of a breaking news event or illustrating a news story)

- A. Publications with circ. above 30,000, news services and digital media
- B. Publications with a circulation below 30,000

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHY

(Photo coverage from a sports event or illustrating a sports story)

- A. Publications with circ. above 30,000, news services and digital media
- B. Publications with a circulation below 30,000

FEATURES PHOTOGRAPHY

(Feature photos or photography illustrating a features story.)

- A. Publications with circ. above 30,000, news services and digital media
- B. Publications with a circulation below 30,000

MULTIPLE PICTURE GROUP

(Includes photo story, photo essay and photo sequence)

- A. Publications with circ. above 30,000, news services and digital media
- B. Publications with a circulation below 30,000

NEWSPAPER PAGE ONE DESIGN

(Entry may include up to three front pages)

- A. All newspapers

MAGAZINE OR PERIODICAL COVER DESIGN

(Entry may include up to three covers)

- A. All magazines or periodicals

DESIGN, OTHER THAN PAGE ONE

(Entry may include any page layout, except cover or front page.)

- A. All print media

GRAPHICS AND ILLUSTRATION

(Single graphic, illustration or package)

- A. Publications with circ. above 30,000, news services and digital media
- B. Publications with a circulation below 30,000

PROFESSIONAL DIVISION

ONLINE

BEST JOURNALISM WEBSITE

(Entries will be judged on original journalistic content, design, use of technology and ease of navigation. Can include links to special online projects, interactives or databases prepared during the contest period.)

A. All professional media

BEST ONLINE MULTIMEDIA

(Entries will be judged on journalistic use online of video, photos, audio, graphics or other media.)

A. All professional media

BOOKS

NON-FICTION BOOK

(Entries must be on an Indiana-related subject and have been published in 2017.)

TELEVISION

BEST NEWSCAST

(Regularly scheduled broadcast)

A. Television stations in the Indianapolis market

B. Television stations outside the Indianapolis market

BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE

(Entries may include both initial and follow-up reports broadcast within 24 hours of the event. Total entry maximum running time: 15 minutes.)

A. Television stations in the Indianapolis market

B. Television stations outside the Indianapolis market

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

(Recognizes a reporter or team for investigative reporting of a single event or issue. Entry may be a single broadcast or a series of up to five stories. Total entry maximum running time: 15 minutes.)

A. Television stations in the Indianapolis market

B. Television stations outside the Indianapolis market

SPORTS REPORTING

(General sports reporting or sports features. Entry may include up to five stories. Total entry maximum running time: 15 minutes.)

A. Television stations in the Indianapolis market

B. Television stations outside the Indianapolis market

FEATURE STORY

(Recognizes a reporter or team for personality profiles, trend stories, human-interest stories or other feature stories.)

A. Television stations in the Indianapolis market

B. Television stations outside the Indianapolis market

DOCUMENTARY OR SPECIAL

(Coverage of a single subject or related subjects in a traditional documentary style or as a studio-based news special. Maximum length: 60 minutes)

A. Television stations in the Indianapolis market

B. Television stations outside the Indianapolis market

CONTINUING COVERAGE

(Recognizes an individual or team for continued excellence as new information is uncovered beyond the initial news event. Entry may include up to five stories. Total entry maximum running time: 15 minutes.)

A. Television stations in the Indianapolis market

B. Television stations outside the Indianapolis market

COVERAGE OF GOVERNMENT OR POLITICS

(Recognizes a reporter or team for reporting on the topic. Entry may include up to five stories. Total entry maximum running time: 15 minutes.)

A. Any Indiana television station

BUSINESS OR CONSUMER AFFAIRS REPORTING

(Recognizes a reporter or team for reporting on the topic. Entry may include up to five stories. Total entry maximum running time: 15 minutes.)

A. Any Indiana television station

EDUCATION COVERAGE

(Recognizes a reporter or team for reporting on the topic. Entry may include up to five stories. Total entry maximum running time: 15 minutes.)

A. Any Indiana television station

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REPORTING

(Recognizes a reporter or team for reporting on the topic. Entry may include up to five stories. Total entry maximum running time: 15 minutes.)

A. Any Indiana television station

COVERAGE OF CHILDREN'S ISSUES

(Recognizes a reporter or team for reporting on the topic. Entry may include up to five stories. Total entry maximum running time: 15 minutes.)

A. Any Indiana television station

COVERAGE OF MINORITY ISSUES

(Recognizes a reporter or team for reporting on the topic. Entry may include up to five stories. Total entry maximum running time: 15 minutes.)

A. Any Indiana television station

MEDICAL OR SCIENCE REPORTING

(Recognizes a reporter or team for reporting on the topic. Entry may include up to five stories. Total entry maximum running time: 15 minutes.)

A. Any Indiana television station

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

(Recognizes a reporter or team for reporting on the topic. Entry may include up to five stories. Total entry maximum running time: 15 minutes.)

A. Any Indiana television station

BEST VIDEOGRAPHY

(Judged on individual excellence, up to three examples of one person's work. Total entry maximum running time: 15 minutes.)

A. Television stations in the Indianapolis market

B. Television stations outside the Indianapolis market

RADIO

BEST NEWSCAST

(Regularly scheduled newscast)

BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE

(Entries may include both initial and follow-up reports broadcast within 24 hours of the event. Total entry maximum running time: 15 minutes.)

DOCUMENTARY OR SPECIAL

(Coverage of a single subject or related subjects in a traditional documentary style or as a studio-based news special. Maximum length: 60 minutes)

FEATURE STORY

(Recognizes a reporter or team for personality profiles, trend stories, human-interest stories or other feature stories)

IN-DEPTH REPORTING

(Recognizes a reporter or team for reporting excellence. Entry may include up to five stories. Total entry maximum running time: 15 minutes.)

CONTINUING COVERAGE

(Recognizes an individual or team for continued excellence as new information is uncovered beyond the initial news event. Entry may include up to five stories. Total entry maximum running time: 15 minutes.)

RADIO PUBLIC AFFAIRS

(Entry may include up to three stories or a radio program covering public affairs. Maximum length 30 minutes.)

SPORTS REPORTING

(General sports reporting or sports features. Entry may include up to five stories. Total entry maximum running time: 15 minutes.)

STUDENT DIVISION

PRINT OR DIGITAL PUBLICATIONS

BREAKING NEWS REPORTING

(Coverage of a breaking news event)

NON-DEADLINE NEWS

(Coverage of an issue or ongoing subject on a non-deadline basis. Up to three articles may be submitted per entry.)

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

(Single story, package or series by a reporter or team; a letter describing the origin and impact of the project may also be included.)

FEATURE STORY

(Single story or package focusing on subjects such as lifestyles, personality profiles, or the arts)

SPORTS REPORTING

(Entry may include up to three articles)

EDITORIAL WRITING

(Single editorial per entry. Multiple entries can be made.)

EDITORIAL CARTOON

(Single editorial cartoon per entry. Multiple entries can be made.)

COLUMN WRITING

(Up to three columns comprise one entry. One entry per person.)

NEWS PHOTOGRAPHY

(Photo coverage of a breaking news event or illustrating a news story)

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHY

(Photo coverage from a sports event or illustrating a sports story)

FEATURES PHOTOGRAPHY

(Feature photos or photography illustrating a features story)

PAGE ONE OR COVER DESIGN

(Submit no more than three front pages or covers)

DESIGN OTHER THAN PAGE ONE OR COVER

(May include up to three examples of any page layout, except page one or cover)

GRAPHICS OR ILLUSTRATION

(Single graphic, illustration or package)

BROADCAST AWARDS

BEST NEWSCAST

(Regularly scheduled newscast)

A. Any Indiana student television production

B. Any Indiana student radio production

NEWS REPORTING

(Entries may include both initial and follow-up reports on event or topic. Maximum running time: 15 minutes.)

A. Any Indiana student television production

B. Any Indiana student radio production

SPORTS REPORTING

(Entries may include both initial and follow-up reports on event or topic. Maximum running time: 15 minutes.)

A. Any Indiana student television production

B. Any Indiana student radio production

FEATURES REPORTING

(Recognizes a reporter or team for personality profiles, trend stories, human-interest stories or other feature stories. Entry may include up to five stories. Maximum running time: 15 minutes.)

A. Any Indiana student television production

B. Any Indiana student radio production

VIDEOGRAPHY

(Judged on individual excellence, up to three examples of one person's work. Maximum entry time: 15 minutes.)

ONLINE AWARDS

BEST JOURNALISM WEBSITE

(Entries will be judged on original journalistic content, design, use of technology and ease of navigation. Can include links to special online projects, interactives or databases prepared during the contest period.)

BEST ONLINE MULTIMEDIA

(Entries will be judged on original journalistic content, design, use of technology and ease of navigation. Can include links to special online projects, interactives or databases prepared during the contest period.)