



2022 Rules for the Society for Collegiate Journalists National Publications and Broadcasting Contest for College Newspapers, Online Media, Yearbooks, Magazines, Radio and Television Stations

PROFESSIONALLY JUDGED | **NO FEES**

ENTRY DEADLINE: January 31, 2023

General Contest Rules:

1. Only **active** chapters of SCJ and their **initiated** members are eligible to participate. **To be eligible for Organizational Awards**, the chapter must be an active chapter prior to the contest deadline. **To be eligible for Individual Awards**, the person who created this work **MUST** be a dues-paying SCJ member who was inducted before the contest deadline. Eligibility will be verified by the National Office prior to judging. Non-members and honorary members are not eligible to compete.
2. All entries must have been **published or broadcast in the calendar year 2022**.
3. All categories except yearbook are online entry at <https://betternewspapercontest.com/login>.
4. No more than three entries from each chapter may be submitted in any individual category. Submit only entries of high quality, which merit attention.
5. Entry deadline is **January 31, 2023**. For yearbook, all entries must be postmarked by this date. Improperly prepared and/or late entries will be disqualified.
6. No entries will be returned to chapters or individual members. Where possible, judges' comments will be published with awards listings on <http://scjnational.org> on or after May 1 and disseminated to advisers via email.
7. The SCJ Contest Director has final say over contest decisions. For example, if too few entries are received in any category the contest director may choose to eliminate the category.
8. All work must have been produced by a student member of an SCJ chapter and must have appeared in a student publication or website or aired on a student broadcasting facility. The contest is not for faculty or staff of the university or for work that has been edited or worked on by outside professionals.
9. If appropriate, include a brief statement (no more than 100 words) explaining unusual circumstances under which an entry was published or broadcast. For example, you may

want to put a news story in context, describe action that resulted from it, or detail difficulties encountered in gathering information.

ORGANIZATIONAL AWARD GUIDELINES

Organizational award categories are for works created by the efforts of a team of students. In these categories, the school and/or publication will be recognized as the winner, not individual student members. We refer to this type of award as an Organizational Award. Organizational Awards must be submitted by active chapters, not individual SCJ members.

Special Category: First Amendment Coverage—While 2022 doesn't have the corner on the market for challenges to the five freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment, certainly student journalists had plenty to work with. This year the SCJ Special Category recognizes coverage in any form that addresses the First Amendment. Each entering chapter is invited to submit up to THREE pieces of published or broadcast work related to First Amendment challenges. Entries may come in any format (Story .pdf or weblink; video; audio; photostory, etc.)

SP 1. COVID-19 Coverage

Newspaper Organizational Award | Submit .pdfs of complete issues published (must have been printed and distributed on campus on or nearest the dates of **March 15, October 15 and December 1.**

NP 1. Newspaper Overall Excellence

Magazine Organizational Awards | Submit a URL to or a .pdf of each issue. You may submit up to three issues for review.

MAG 1. Literary Magazine Overall Excellence

MAG 2. Special Interest Magazine Overall Excellence

MAG 3. General Interest Magazine Overall Excellence

Online Media Organizational Awards | Submit a URL. Websites will be visited at least twice during the judging period (February/March).

OL 1. Online News Website Overall Excellence (This category is for news outlets that **do not** have a print or broadcast presence. They must operate as stand-alone news websites.)

- OL 2.** Broadcast Website Overall Excellence (These websites can include online versions of a broadcast channel and /or materials meant to complement a radio or television station.)
- OL 3.** Online Magazine Website Overall Excellence (This category is for magazines that do not have a print edition. These sites must operate as stand-alone online magazines. This category is for all types of magazines including general interest, literary and special interest.)
- OL 4.** Internet Radio Overall Excellence (This category is for radio stations that broadcast exclusively on the radio. These sites must operate as stand-alone radio stations.)

Television Organizational Awards | Submit a URL of your best show for each category. Submit no more than 30 minutes of each show.

- TV 1.** Television News Show Overall Excellence
- TV 2.** Live Event Broadcast (ex. election night coverage)
- TV 3.** Live Sports Broadcast

Radio Organizational Awards | Submit a URL of your best show for each category. Submit no more than 30 minutes of each show.

- RD 1.** Live Radio News Show Overall Excellence
- RD 2.** Live Radio Sports Show Overall Excellence

Social Media Organizational Award | Submit URLs for all social media accounts for a media single outlet. Platforms will be visited at least two times during the judging period (February/March).

- SM 1.** Social Media Presence Overall Excellence

Yearbook Organizational Awards | Submit one hard copy of your yearbook. **No tear sheets.** Books will be judged in all six categories. Complete and include the form below on the inside cover of your book.

- YB 1.** Yearbook Overall Excellence
 - YB 1A.** Small School (Less than 7,000 enrollment)
 - YB 1B.** Large School (More than 7,000 enrollment)
- YB 2.** The Terry Vander Heyden Award for Coverage of the Year
- YB 3.** Concept of the Book (Judges will look at theme, idea and structure.)

- YB 4.** Writing
- YB 5.** Photography
- YB 6.** Display (Judges will look at layout, design, graphics.)

Yearbook entries must be submitted in hard copy by snail mail to:

Andrea Frantz, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Society for Collegiate Journalists National Office
610 W. Fourth St.
Buena Vista University
Storm Lake, IA 50588

INDIVIDUAL AWARD GUIDELINES

Individual awards are given **only to members who have been inducted into the Society**. Entries must be submitted by individual SCJ members or advisers. Each chapter is allowed **no more than 3 entries** per category.

Individual Newspaper Awards | Upload a .pdf of each page selected for contest entry (must have been printed and distributed on campus; if you are an online only publication, please see the online media category). Items will be judged as a print publication only. Pages will be judged on both design and quality of content.

- NP 2.** Front Page
- NP 3.** Editorial Page
- NP 4.** Sports Page
- NP 5.** News Page (No front pages in this category.)
- NP 6.** Feature Page
- NP 7.** Photo Essay (Can be news, feature or sports with at least three photos.)

Individual Writing Awards | Upload a .pdf or submit a URL. **You may NOT enter the same story in more than one category**. In each category, you may enter only one article/column except for IW 3, 4 and 5.

- IW 1.** News Stories (excluding Sports)

- IW 2.** Breaking News
- IW 3.** Enterprise Series (Two or more investigative or in-depth news or feature stories on a single issue.)
- IW4.** Beat Reporting (Three examples of news coverage in a specific beat i.e. crime, student government, etc.)
- IW 5.** Continuing Coverage (Coverage of a single news story over an extended number of stories. Submit at least 3 stories.)
- IW 6.** Editorial (Staff editorials)
- IW 7.** Column or Commentary (Individually bylined opinion writing)
- IW 8.** Feature (excluding Sports)
- IW 9.** Sports News
- IW 10.** Sports Feature
- IW 11.** Sports Column

Individual Imaging Awards | Submit a URL or both a .pdf (to show context) and a .jpeg of the original.

- II 1.** News Photography
- II 2.** Feature Photography
- II 3.** Sports Photography
- II 4.** Cartoon Strip or Panel
- II 5.** Editorial Cartoon
- II 6.** Infographic

Individual Multimedia Awards | Submit a URL. The judges will visit the urls during the judging period (February/March). The stories should remain active at the site during this time.

- IM 1.** Multimedia news story (Any type of multimedia, including video, audio, text, graphics.)
- IM 2.** Multimedia feature story (Any type of multimedia, including video, audio, text, graphics.)

- IM 3.** Multimedia sports story (Any type of multimedia, including video, audio, text, graphics.)
- IM 4.** Photo slideshow (Slideshows that feature still photography as the main form of storytelling.)
- IM 5.** Multimedia Series (Three or more multimedia stories—feature or news—on a related topic or issue.)
- IM 6.** Podcast (Best episode of a regular audio series in any genre.)

Individual Television Awards | Submit as URL, .mov, or .mp4.

- TV 4.** Television News Package
- TV 5.** Television Feature Package
- TV 6.** Television Sports Package
- TV 7.** Commercial, Promotion and Public Announcement (Entries should be no longer than 60 seconds.)

Individual Radio Awards | Submit as .mp3.

- RD 3.** Radio News Package
- RD 4.** Radio Feature Package
- RD 5.** Radio Sports Package
- RD 6.** Live Sports play-by-play/color coverage
- RD 7.** Commercial, Promotion and Public Announcement (Entries should be no longer than 60 seconds.)