



# 2021 SPJ San Diego Area Journalism Competition

## CONTEST GUIDELINES

The **2021 SPJ San Diego Area Journalism Competition** will recognize outstanding work by San Diego-area student and professional journalists published or broadcast during the calendar year 2020

The contest Early Bird entry deadline is Monday, April 26, 2021, at 9 p.m. PST. After that entry fees will increase. The final deadline is Monday, May 3, 2021 at 9 p.m. PST. Entry fees can be paid during the online submission process, or by check as long as it's postmarked by May 4, 2021. Any entries not paid for by that date will not qualify to compete. Entry fees are nonrefundable.

Identify each person who produced a work on the entry form. How the name appears on the entry form is how it will appear on the award.

The submitting entrant needs an online contest account. If an outlet has a contest coordinator, they can create an online "Open Call" account and submit entries on behalf of others. For detailed instructions on submitting entries, see the [How to Enter link](#) on the Journalism Contest page. Clarifications may be added to the Help tab throughout the contest based on questions received from entrants, so check back frequently if you have questions.

SPJ members pay a discounted entry fee. Entrants can submit as many works as they like. Pick the division and category that best reflects each work. **Each work may be submitted to only one category. Entries incorrectly submitted in multiple categories are subject to being reassigned or rejected at SPJ's discretion.**

**This also applies to entries in an incorrect division. For example, a weekly or monthly column in a daily publication is to be entered in the daily division, not the non-daily division.**

This limitation does not apply to the Top and Special Awards divisions; any given work may be submitted to as many Top and Special Awards division categories as the submitter thinks appropriate.

All entries – with the exception of College Media best newspaper division entries – are submitted online as either a URL address, PDF or JPG file, or video or audio link.

Checks and College Media best newspaper division entries should be mailed to: San Diego SPJ Journalism Competition, P.O. Box 880482, San Diego, CA 92168

## ENTRY FEES

Entry fees are per entry, regardless of the number of journalists on the entry. SPJ members pay \$10 per entry, non-members pay \$30 per entry, and students pay \$5 regardless of membership, until April 26. After that date, professionals pay an additional \$5 per entry; student rates are unchanged.

At least one journalist per entry must be an active SPJ member to qualify for the member rate. The membership identification number must be submitted at the time of online entry. Join at [www.spj.org/join.asp](http://www.spj.org/join.asp).

Entry fees can be paid during the online submission process, or by check as long as it's postmarked by May 4. Checks should be mailed to: San Diego SPJ Journalism Competition, P.O. Box 880482, San Diego, CA 92168

**NOTE:** Public relations and marketing content (e.g., content sponsored, or paid for, by another person or business to benefit that person or business) is not eligible for this contest. SD SPJ reserves the right to disqualify such entries and refund entry fees.

## **JUDGING**

Professional journalists outside California judge all submissions. Judges will select winners in each category in which exemplary work is submitted. Winners are announced at San Diego SPJ's annual awards banquet held each summer.

Each first-place winner receives one plaque; all other winners receive a certificate. Additional plaques can be ordered at the winner's expense by contacting SPJ San Diego after the banquet; additional certificates are available upon request at no charge.

## **DIVISIONS AND CATEGORIES**

### **TOP AWARDS**

**SPECIAL AWARDS** - San Diego SPJ presents special awards each year that include cash prizes. Special award entries can come from individuals at any outlet and can be submitted in other appropriate divisions.

**DAILY REPORTING AND WRITING** - This division includes print and online reporting and writing work. "Daily" refers to those outlets that publish new content five or more times a week.

**NON-DAILY REPORTING AND WRITING** - This division includes print and online reporting and writing work. "Non-daily" refers to those outlets that publish new content four or fewer times a week.

**DIGITAL** - This division is open to work published online, whether for a print publication, TV or radio station, podcast, social media site, or online-only publication.

**PHOTOGRAPHY/HEADLINES** - This division is open to work published in daily and non-daily print publications.

**AUDIO** - This division is open to audio work from any professional media outlet.

**VIDEO** - This division is open to video work from any professional media outlet.

**COLLEGE MEDIA** - This division is open to college outlets. Please note: College students whose work appeared in professional publications and/or broadcasts must submit that work in professional divisions.

**SCHOLARSHIPS** - This division is open to college students. The Agnes Diggs scholarship is only open to college students who have at least one more semester or quarter (Fall 2021) as the money is paid directly to the school. San Diego SPJ scholarships are open to all current college students, including those who will have already graduated by the July awards presentation.

### **TOP AWARDS**

**2021 SPJ Excellence in Journalism Award (formerly Mark of Excellence Award):** This top award honors the best story, series, or show. Submit your best work with a 500-word explanation about why it stands out in San Diego journalism. Open to all. Entry fee is \$50.

**2021 Distinguished Coverage Award (formerly the Wildcard Award):** San Diego SPJ selects a new topic each year that dominated local headlines. This year entrants can select one of two focus options: **COVID-19 or Racial Issues (i.e. Black Lives Matter, protests). Only one entry per outlet -- do not submit an entry for each focus.** Did your outlet cover it best? Each outlet should submit its best story, series or show for one focus, along with a 500-word essay on why the coverage merits recognition. Open to all outlets. Entry fee is \$50.

## SPECIAL AWARDS

**Gloria Penner Award for Political Affairs Reporting** (\$150 prize): The award, named for long-time KPBS broadcast journalist Gloria Penner, recognizes the journalist whose story or series represented the best in local political journalism this year. Like Penner, this journalist will demonstrate a deep understanding of civic issues. Open to all journalists. Entry fee is \$30.

**Neil Morgan Community Impact Award** (\$150 prize): This award, named for San Diego journalism icon Neil Morgan who helped shape outlets including The San Diego Union-Tribune and Voice of San Diego, recognizes the local journalist whose story or series achieved the greatest community impact. Entries should include a 500-word essay about what the work accomplished and what impact it had on the community. Open to all journalists. Entry fee is \$30.

**Sol Price Prize for Responsible Journalism** (\$150 prize): This award, named for entrepreneur and philanthropist Sol Price, will honor a journalist whose work meets ethical standards while showing uncommon sensitivity. The journalist pursued the truth despite unpopularity, economic retribution, or physical harm. Entries should include a 500-word essay about how the journalist overcame challenges to pursue the story. Open to all journalists. Entry fee is \$30.

**First Amendment Award** (\$100 prize): This award honors the story, series, or commentary that best spotlights First Amendment issues. Open to all journalists. Entry fee is \$30.

**Herbert Lockwood “Woody” Award** (\$100 prize): This award, named for journalist, historian, and humorist Herbert Lockwood, honors the best local humor writing. Open to all journalists. Entry fee is \$30.

**Diversity Prize** (\$100 prize): This award honors a story or series that provides outstanding coverage of communities not typically represented in local stories, or an outlet that deserves recognition of outstanding inclusion of diverse voices in everyday news coverage. Entries should include examples of the work, along with a 500-word essay about how efforts were made to better serve underrepresented communities. Open to all journalists. Entry fee is \$30.

**James Julian Memorial Award** (\$100 prize): This award, named for San Diego State University journalism professor emeritus James L. Julian, honors the best community service story or series. Open to those who work for newspapers with circulation below 65,000 subscribers. Entry fee is \$30.

## DAILY REPORTING AND WRITING

- Arts/entertainment story
- Breaking news story
- Business story
- Column (Submit three examples)
- Crime/courts story
- Education story
- Environment story
- Feature story
- Food story – not review
- Health story
- Housing/development story
- Investigative/enterprise story -- single subject
- Investigative/enterprise story -- series
- Multicultural story

News feature story  
Opinion/editorial  
Political/government story  
Review/criticism  
Science/technology story  
Series -- any subject  
Sports story

## **NON-DAILY REPORTING AND WRITING**

Arts/entertainment story  
Breaking news story  
Business story  
Column (Submit three examples)  
Crime/courts story  
Education story  
Environment story  
Feature story  
Food story – not review  
Health story  
Housing/development story  
Investigative/enterprise story -- single subject  
Investigative/enterprise story -- series  
Multicultural story  
News feature story  
Opinion/editorial  
Political/government story  
Review/criticism  
Science/technology story  
Series -- any subject  
Sports story

## **DIGITAL**

Blog  
Data/visualization  
Entertainment site  
Multimedia presentation  
News site  
Social media personality  
Social media storytelling

## **PHOTOGRAPHY/HEADLINES**

Feature photo  
Headline (Submit three examples)  
News photo  
Photo essay  
Sports photo

## **AUDIO**

- Breaking news story
- Business/consumer report - single story or series
- Community service program or series
- Feature series
- Feature story
- Investigative/enterprise -- series
- Investigative/enterprise -- single story
- News
- Newscast
- Podcast
- Sports story

## **VIDEO**

- Breaking news story
- Business/consumer report -- single story or series
- Community service program or series
- General video feature
- Investigative/enterprise -- series
- Investigative/enterprise -- single story
- News
- Newscast
- Photography
- Sports story
- Video editing
- Video feature

## **COLLEGE MEDIA**

- Arts/entertainment story
- Best newspaper
- Column (Submit three examples)
- Feature photo
- Feature story
- Headline (Submit three examples)
- In-depth reporting story
- Layout and design -- single story or series
- Multicultural story
- Newscast
- News or feature series -- any subject
- News photo
- News story
- Opinion/editorial
- Original illustration or cartoon
- Review/criticism
- Sports photo
- Sports story

## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

Agnes Diggs

Bradley J. Fikes

Photo

Print

Video/audio/multimedia

*Thank you for participating in the **2021 SPJ San Diego Area Journalism Competition**. We look forward to celebrating your hard work.*

**Questions? Check the San Diego SPJ website ([spjsandiego.org](http://spjsandiego.org)) for commonly asked questions, or contact contest coordinator, Terry Williams, at [spj.sandiego@cox.net](mailto:spj.sandiego@cox.net) or 619-743-3669.**