



2022 SPJ San Diego Area Journalism Competition

CONTEST GUIDELINES

The **2022 SPJ San Diego Area Journalism Competition** recognizes outstanding work by San Diego-area student and professional journalists published or broadcast during the 2021 calendar year.

The Early Bird entry deadline is **Monday, April 25, 2022**, at 9 p.m. PST. After that, entry fees will increase. The final deadline is **Monday, May 2, 2022**, at 9 p.m. PST.

Entry fees can be paid at the end of the online submission process, or by check as long as the payment is postmarked by **Tuesday, May 3, 2022**. Any entries not paid for by that date will not qualify. Entry fees are nonrefundable.

Identify each person who contributed to the work on the entry form. The way the name appears on the entry form is the way it will appear on the award.

The submitting entrant must create an online contest account. If an outlet has a contest coordinator, that person 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. If you have questions, send an email to spj.sandiego@cox.net.

To enter, select the division and category that best fits each entry. **A story or work of journalism may be submitted to only one category.** A work submitted in multiple categories will be rejected at SPJ San Diego's discretion. We will reassign entries submitted to an incorrect division. For example, a weekly or monthly column in a daily publication must 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 for as many Top and Special Awards as the submitter thinks appropriate.

All entries — with the exception of College Media Best Newspaper entries — must be 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

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 25. After April 25, SPJ members pay \$20 per entry, professional nonmembers pay \$40 per entry and students pay \$10 per entry.

At least one journalist per entry must be an active SPJ member to qualify for the member rate. If you are not currently a member, you can join at spj.org/join.asp. We will cross-check all entries submitted at the membership price against a list of current members.

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. San Diego 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 winning entry receives one plaque; all other winners receive certificates. 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 San Diego SPJ presents an annual Excellence in Journalism Award and a Distinguished Coverage award.

SPECIAL AWARDS San Diego SPJ presents special awards named in memory of journalism professionals and individuals who contributed significantly to the journalism profession or community. Other awards are for outstanding work addressing diversity and First Amendment issues. 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. "Daily" refers to 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. "Non-daily" refers to 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 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 2022), as the money is paid directly to the school. All other scholarships are open to 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 segment. Submit your best work along with an essay of no more than 500 words explaining why it stands out in San Diego journalism. Open to all. Entry fee is \$50. **Only one entry is allowed per outlet.**

2021 Distinguished Coverage Award (formerly the Wildcard Award): San Diego SPJ selects a new topic each year that dominated local headlines. This year's topic is Education. Each outlet should submit its best story, series or show, along with an essay of no more than 500 words on why the coverage merits recognition. Open to all outlets. Entry fee is \$50. **Only one entry is allowed per outlet.**

SPECIAL AWARDS

Gloria Penner Award for Political Affairs Reporting: The award, named for longtime KPBS broadcast journalist Gloria Penner, recognizes the journalist whose story or series represented the best in local political journalism. Like Penner, this journalist will demonstrate a deep understanding of civic issues. Open to all journalists. The entry fee is \$15 for Early Bird (through April 25) SPJ members, \$35 for Early Bird nonmembers. After April 25, SPJ members will pay a \$25 entry fee and nonmembers will pay \$45.

Neil Morgan Community Impact Award: 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 an essay of no more than 500 words explaining what the work accomplished and what impact it had on the community. Open to all journalists. The entry fee is \$15 for Early Bird (through April 25) SPJ members, \$35 for Early Bird nonmembers. After April 25, SPJ members will pay a \$25 entry fee and nonmembers will pay \$45.

Sol Price Prize for Responsible Journalism: 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. The entry fee is \$15 for Early Bird (through April 25) SPJ members, \$35 for Early Bird nonmembers. After April 25, SPJ members will pay a \$25 entry fee and nonmembers will pay \$45.

First Amendment Award: This award honors the story, series, or commentary for which the author or authors had difficulty accessing information. Stories might demonstrate skillful use of the California Public Records Act or the federal Freedom of Information Act or a successful challenge to a violation of California's public meeting laws. Entries must include an essay of no more than 500 words explaining how the author(s) made use of open records or open meeting laws. Open to all journalists. The entry fee is \$15 for Early Bird (through April 25) SPJ members, \$35 for Early Bird nonmembers. After April 25, SPJ members will pay a \$25 entry fee and nonmembers will pay \$45.

Herbert Lockwood “Woody” Award: This award, named for journalist, historian, and humorist Herbert Lockwood, honors the best local humor writing. Open to all journalists. The entry fee is \$15 for Early Bird (through April 25) SPJ members, \$35 for Early Bird nonmembers. After April 25, SPJ members will pay a \$25 entry fee and nonmembers will pay \$45.

Diversity Award: 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 an essay of no more than 500 words about how efforts were made to better serve underrepresented communities. Open to all journalists. The entry fee is \$15 for Early Bird (through April 25) SPJ members, \$35 for Early Bird nonmembers. After April 25, SPJ members will pay a \$25 entry fee and nonmembers will pay \$45.

James Julian Memorial Award: 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. The entry fee is \$15 for Early Bird (through April 25) SPJ members, \$35 for Early Bird nonmembers. After April 25, SPJ members will pay a \$25 entry fee and nonmembers will pay \$45.

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 (please do not submit a 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 (please do not submit a 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 website
Multimedia presentation
News website
Social media account
Social media storytelling

PHOTOGRAPHY / HEADLINES

Feature photograph
Breaking news photograph
Headline writing (submit three examples)
Photo essay
Sports photo

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

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

COLLEGE MEDIA

Arts/entertainment story
Best newspaper
Best news media website
Column (submit three examples)
Feature photo
Feature story
In-depth reported 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 2022 SPJ San Diego Area Journalism Competition. We look forward to celebrating your work!

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