

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **SPJ San Diego Area Journalism Competition**

#### **What entries are accepted in this contest?**

Any work published or broadcast from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2025.

**Is the contest open to professional journalists and students, or just professionals?** This contest is for professional and student journalists in the San Diego and Tijuana area. Student journalists entering work that was published/broadcast in student media must enter in the College Media Division. Student journalists entering work published/broadcast in professional media — for example, work they produced during an internship or job or through freelancing — must enter in the appropriate professional divisions.

#### **What media types are included in the contest? Is the contest just for daily newspapers?**

We recognize *all* media types in this contest, including daily print, non-daily print, online publications, radio, TV and college media. For a complete list of divisions, see our “Contest Guidelines and Categories” page.

#### **What kinds of categories are included in the contest?**

The contest includes nearly 140 categories. For a complete list of categories, see “Contest Guidelines and Categories.”

Since 2025, we also have a Spanish language division for both print (daily, non-daily and online combined) and video categories. This is meant to be for work created in Spanish, not just a Spanish translation of an article originally created in English. We will have judges available to critique the entry in Spanish, so it is not necessary to submit an English version of the work.

#### **How many entries can an individual entrant submit per category?**

Entrants may submit an unlimited number of entries in each category.

#### **Can an entry be submitted in more than one category?**

No, although an entry may be submitted for a Top Award or a Special Award in addition to being submitted in one regular category. It can also only be entered in one division unless there is a substantial change in the work in order to qualify for multiple divisions (i.e. print and video).

#### **How many categories can an individual enter?**

An individual can submit entries in any or all contest categories, provided all other criteria and rules are met.

#### **How many articles can I submit per entry?**

Most categories allow only one article per entry. Exceptions are categories identified as series (no more than five examples), columns (three examples are required, combined into a single entry) and headlines (three examples required, combined into a single entry).

**How many photos can I submit per entry?**

Most categories allow you to enter one photo per entry. The only exception is if the category specifically allows for more than one photo submission, such as Photo Essay.

**Do I have to submit my entries online?**

Yes, all entries must be submitted online to be eligible, except for College Media Best Newspaper entries, which should be mailed, along with completed entry forms and payment, to: SPJ San Diego Journalism Competition P.O. Box 880482 San Diego, CA 92168

**Can an editor or publisher submit entries for multiple entrants?**

Yes, but please be sure to provide the name of each individual who produced the work.

**How do I pay my entry fees? Do I pay online, or do I send a check?**

We prefer that you pay for your entries online. Once you are registered and have submitted all your entries online, click the “Pay Now” button. You will be prompted to confirm your contact information and be asked for your credit or debit card information. You may also pay by check. Simply print off an invoice showing the total due and enclose that with your check. Checks should be made payable to “San Diego Society of Professional Journalists.”

To qualify for the early bird rate payment must be made online via PayPal no later than 11:59 p.m. Monday, March 2, 2026. Otherwise, the regular rate applies. If paying the early bird rate by check, payments must be postmarked by Tuesday, March 3, 2026. Final deadline payments must be made online by 11:59 p.m. Monday, March 9 or if paying by check, postmarked by Tuesday, March 10, 2026.

If payments are submitted for less than the correct amount (i.e. member/non-member rate and/or early bird/regular fee), the correct balance due must be paid before entries are forwarded to the judges or they will be disqualified from the competition.

Mail to:

SPJ San Diego Journalism Competition  
P.O. Box 880482  
San Diego, CA 92168

**I want to become an SPJ member to take advantage of the discounted entry fee for chapter members. How can I join?**

That's easy. Visit <http://spj.org/join.asp> and choose from the options shown. Be sure to pay your national dues *and* your \$10 San Diego Pro Chapter dues. You must be a chapter member to qualify for the member entry rate. Just paying national dues does not qualify for the discounted rate. There are national rates for professional journalists, retired or part-time journalists ages 62 and older, households with more than one journalist, post-grads (up to three years after college graduation) and college students.

**Can a member submit multiple entries on behalf of non-members to take advantage of the discounted entry fee?**

No. The discount can only be applied to entries from SPJ members. However, if multiple individuals produced a single entry, they qualify for the member entry fee if at least one of them is an SPJ member.

**How do I delete an entry or make an entry inactive?**

Entrants have the ability to delete entries. After logging in, an entrant will see a list of their entries. On the far right, there is a big red X next to each entry. Click on the X to make an entry inactive and remove it from the contest.

**When will the winners be announced?**

The winners will be announced on Monday, May 18. Winners' names will be listed on the SPJ San Diego Pro Chapter website at [spjsandiego.org](http://spjsandiego.org). The initial post will include only a list of winners. To find out which prize(s) you won, attend the reception on Thursday, June 25 or check the website the following morning.

**I am not working full-time. Can you waive the entry fees?**

Unfortunately, no. However, you may qualify for a dues waiver with national SPJ. Go to [spj.org/join.asp](http://spj.org/join.asp) to find out if you qualify. If not, consider the membership fee and \$10 annual chapter dues as an investment in your career. It is well worth it and comes with perks, like discounts at Office Depot, OfficeMax, UPS, HP and GE Appliances Store. You can also access the SPJ Health Insurance Marketplace and get special prices for Aquiline Coaching, for example.