

# SPJ San Diego 2026 Journalism Scholarships

## Overview

- Up to six \$1,575 San Diego Area Journalism Awards Merit Scholarships for San Diego County college students
    - Categories: print, photojournalism, video/audio/multimedia
  - Agnes Diggs Road to College Scholarship: \$1,520
  - Bradley J. Fikes Scholarship: \$1,000
  - All three scholarships recognize outstanding student journalists while honoring some of San Diego's top reporters.
  - Non-county students must submit their ties to San Diego County in order to qualify.
  - Submit your application:  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScQPaj9riRvfMklxh5je3SswktQiJv-iPio54TFwQMriXdRdA/viewform?usp=dialog>
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## Eligibility and Key Details

- The competitions for the Merit and Fikes scholarships are open to current undergraduate college students who either attend a school in San Diego County or who attend a school out of the county/state, but their home address is still in San Diego County. Those applying for the Diggs scholarship must attend school in San Diego County.
  - Applicants may submit in multiple categories (for example, print, photo, memorial) but can receive only one scholarship total.
  - Students on track to graduate before the 2026 awards presentation may apply only for:
    - San Diego Area Journalism Awards Merit Scholarships
    - Bradley J. Fikes Scholarship
  - The Agnes Diggs Road to College Scholarship is open to students who will have at least one semester of studies remaining before graduation. (Must be enrolled during fall 2026.)
  - Application deadline: 9 p.m. Monday, May 11, 2026.
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## Agnes Diggs Road to College Scholarship

Award Amount: \$1,520

- Administered by SPJ San Diego for the Rancho Santa Fe Foundation's Agnes Diggs Scholarship.
- Named for North County Times columnist Agnes Diggs.
- Open to San Diego County journalism and communications majors who are:
  - Sophomores, juniors, or seniors
  - Attending college full- or part-time at the time of submission
- Scholarship funds are paid directly to the school, so only current and future students are eligible.
- Funds may be used for tuition, campus fees, or on-campus housing.
- Priority is given to students from underserved communities.
- Open to all journalism formats:
  - Print
  - Photojournalism
  - Video/audio/multimedia

What to submit (Agnes Diggs):

- An uplifting 500-word, community-focused essay that demonstrates:
    - Your commitment to journalism
    - The communities you hope to serve
  - 2–3 examples of your best work (coursework allowed; published work preferred).
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## Bradley J. Fikes Scholarship

Award Amount: \$1,000

- Honors the former reporter who wrote for:
  - The Daily Transcript
  - North County Times
  - The San Diego Union-Tribune
- Preference given to applicants with an interest in science and technology journalism, in recognition of Mr. Fikes' contributions to this field.
- Open to journalists working in:
  - Print
  - Photojournalism
  - Video/audio/multimedia

What to submit (Fikes):

- An essay of no more than 500 words explaining:
    - Your career goals
    - Your journalism experience thus far
    - Why you should be chosen for the scholarship
  - 2–3 examples of your work.
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## **San Diego Area Journalism Awards Merit Scholarships (6)**

Award Amount: six scholarships of \$1,575

- SPJ Scholarship Competition will award six \$1,575 scholarships to local college students.
- Applicants may submit in multiple scholarship categories (print, photo, video), but will not win more than one scholarship.

What to submit (SPJ Scholarships):

- An essay of no more than 500 words explaining:
    - Your career goals
    - Your journalism experience thus far
    - Why you should be chosen for the scholarship
  - 2–3 work samples in the category you're entering:
    - Print: 2–3 articles
    - Photography: 2–3 photos
    - Multimedia: 2–3 video/audio/multimedia pieces
  - Coursework is allowed; published work is preferred.
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## **Submission Requirements (All Scholarships)**

- Attach all articles, videos, audio files, or photos, plus your essay.
  - Work must have been published in 2025 or spring 2026.
  - All submissions must be electronic:
    - URLs
    - PDFs
    - JPGs
    - Other digital links
  - No mailed copies will be accepted.
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## How to Apply

- Go to [spjsandiego.org](http://spjsandiego.org).
- Click on [this Google form link](#) and submit the form.
  - Google form link:  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScQPaj9riRvfMklxh5je3SswktQiJv-iPio54TFwQMriXdRdA/viewform>

Questions or need help?

Email: [sdspjscholarships@gmail.com](mailto:sdspjscholarships@gmail.com)

Winners will be announced prior to our annual awards on June 25, and the scholarships will be distributed at that time. Scholarship recipients receive 1 free ticket to attend.