

# 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 in June 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 25, 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 Road to College 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 continuing 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 the late 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. Coursework is allowed; published work is preferred.
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## **San Diego Area Journalism Awards Merit Scholarships (6)**

Award Amount: six scholarships of \$1,575

- SPJ Scholarship Competition will award up to six \$1,575 scholarships.
- Applicants may submit in multiple scholarship categories (print, photo, video), but will not win more than one Merit 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](https://spjsandiego.org).
- Click on [this Google Form link](#)
  - Google Form link:  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScQPaJ9riRvfMklxh5je3SswktQiJv-iPio54TFwQMriXdRdA/viewform?usp=dialog>

Questions or need help?

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

Winners will be announced prior to our annual awards event on June 25, 2026 and the scholarships will be distributed at that time. Winners will receive one free ticket to the awards ceremony.