



PROFESSIONALS

BEST OF THE BEST IN INDIANA JOURNALISM

Recognizing the most outstanding work of the year in Indiana print, broadcast and online journalism.

HOW TO ENTER

The Best in Indiana Journalism awards, sponsored by the Indiana Professional chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, considers all journalistic work printed, broadcast or published online in Indiana.

This year, entries can be submitted online at spjcontest.com in some categories of the Best in Indiana Journalism contest. In both the Professional and Student divisions, entries are accepted at spjcontest.com in the print, photo, online and radio categories. Submissions are not accepted online in the television, design and books categories.

- Nominations are accepted from news organizations or individuals.
- Nominees need not be members of the Society of Professional Journalists.
- All entries must have been published or broadcast during calendar year 2009. A series of stories must have started publication or broadcast in 2009.
- An individual or organization may enter as many stories as desired, including multiple entries for one category. Exceptions: In the Personal Column category, three columns comprise one entry, and only one entry per person is allowed. In the Television Newscast category, each station is allowed only one entry.
- In most categories, the award recognizes a single piece of work, such as a single story, photo or design. The category descriptions note cases in which multiple pieces of work are required or allowed.
- Stories may be entered in only one category, and work submitted in the Student Division may not be submitted in the Professional Division. Exceptions: Work submitted in the Special Honors Division may be entered in the Professional or Student divisions. Work submitted for a design award may also be entered for a print award. Work submitted for a videography award may also be submitted for a television award.
- No first-place winner will be awarded when judges consider none of the work submitted to be worthy of the award. The Special Honors Division is particularly selective, and those awards will be presented only to exceptional nominees.
- Each entry must be accompanied by two copies of the Best in Indiana Journalism nomination form. For each entry, follow the specifications noted in the Submission Guidelines.
- Entries in the Professional Division cost \$20 per entry. Entries in the Student Division cost \$15 per entry. Special Honors Division entry fees vary depending on the category. Checks should be made payable to: Indiana Society of Professional Journalists. One check for several entries is acceptable. Credit card payment is available at spjcontest.com only for entries that are submitted online. A \$2.00 service charge per entry will be added to cover the cost of credit card processing.
- For questions, contact contest coordinator Rob Higley at (317) 578-1440 or rhigley@revealconsulting.com.
- Award submissions must be received by 5 p.m. Monday, February 1, 2010. They should be dropped off (during normal business hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday) or mailed to:

Reveal Consulting
Attention: Rob Higley
11057 Allisonville Road
Suite #444
Fishers, IN 46038

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

SPECIAL HONORS DIVISION

- Special Honors Division entries are not accepted online. Entry fees vary depending on the award (see category descriptions). One Special Honors entry consists of:
- Two copies of a completed Best in Indiana Journalism nomination form.
 - A written summary (no more than 500 words) describing why the nominee is worthy of this award.
 - Any documentation that supports the nomination (Optional). This might include letters of nomination, most notably from the nominee's supervisor.
 - Additionally, work samples are required for some awards in the Special Honors division. See category descriptions for more details. For work samples, print journalists should submit photocopies of their work; television journalists should submit work on a videocassette or DVD; radio journalists should submit their work on a CD containing MP3s; photojournalists should submit their work on a CD containing digital files in JPEG, GIF or PNG formats; and Web journalists should submit their work on a CD containing digital files.

Place one entry form, summary and, if applicable, work samples and backup documentation inside a 9 x 12 envelope. Label the envelope with the nominee's name and the category name and number. Attach the second copy of the entry form to the outside of the envelope with a paper clip.

PROFESSIONAL AND STUDENT DIVISIONS

■ PRINT

Print submissions are accepted online at spjcontest.com, where you can fill out nomination information and submit entries as PDFs. Or, one print entry in a traditional format consists of:

- Photocopy of the story or stories. The name of the story and date of publication must appear on the copy.
- Two copies of a completed Best in Indiana Journalism nomination form.

Staple one copy of the form to the photocopied entry and place the entry inside a 9 x 12 envelope. Label the envelope with the category name and number. Attach the second copy of the entry form to the outside of the envelope with a paper clip.

■ RADIO

Radio submissions are accepted online at spjcontest.com, where you can fill out nomination information and submit entries as MP3s. Or, one radio entry in a traditional format consists of:

- An audiocassette or CD edited to include only entry story or stories.
- Two copies of a completed Best in Indiana Journalism nomination form.

Place one copy of the form and the cassette or CD inside a 9 x 12 envelope. Label the envelope with the category name and number. Attach the second copy of the entry form to the outside of the envelope with a paper clip.

■ TELEVISION/VIDEOGRAPHY

Television/videography submissions are not accepted online. One television/videography entry consists of:

- A videocassette or DVD edited to include only entry story or stories. Delete commercial breaks and include two seconds of black between segments.
- Two copies of a completed Best in Indiana Journalism nomination form.

Place one copy of the form and the videocassette or DVD inside a 9 x 12 envelope. Label the envelope with the category name and number. Attach the second copy of the entry form to the outside of the envelope with a paper clip.

■ DESIGN

Design submissions are not accepted online. One design entry consists of:

- *Tearsheets or a photocopy of the layout. The publication date and name of the publication must appear on the submission.*
- *Two copies of a completed Best in Indiana Journalism nomination form.*

Place one copy of the form and one entry inside a 9 x 12 envelope. Label the envelope with the category name and number. Attach the second copy of the entry form to the outside of the envelope with a paper clip.

■ PHOTO

Photo submissions are accepted only online at spjcontest.com, where you can fill out nomination information and submit entries in a digital format (JPEG, GIF or PNG).

■ ONLINE

Online submissions are accepted only online at spjcontest.com, where you can fill out nomination information and submit the name of the URL. Any URL that is not operational at time of judging can be disqualified.

■ BOOKS

Book entries are not accepted online. One book entry consists of:

- *One copy of the book.*
- *Two copies of a completed Best in Indiana Journalism nomination form.*

Place the book and one copy of the form inside a 9 x 12 envelope. Label the envelope with the category name and number. Attach the second copy of the entry form to the outside of the envelope with a paper clip.

SPECIAL HONORS DIVISION

1. Indiana Journalism Courage Award

Honors a person or organization demonstrating outstanding dedication to journalistic principles—*independence, fairness, and a commitment to truth—while confronting obstacles or pressures.* Candidates could include a reporter who faced legal impediments to a story, an educator or student who contended with the threat of censorship, or a citizen or public official who took extraordinary steps to distribute information important to the public. Nominations are welcome from individuals, employers, citizens and community organizations. No entry fee.

2. Indiana Journalist of the Year

Honors an Indiana journalist or team with the most outstanding body of work during the contest period. Nomination can include up to eight work samples. Entry fee: \$50.

3. Indiana Student Journalist of the Year

Honors an Indiana student journalist or team with the most outstanding body of work during the contest period. Nominations can include up to eight work samples. Entry fee: \$35.

4. Indiana Service to Journalism Award

Honors a person or organization for advancing the practice of quality journalism in the state. Presented in honor of Gene and Julie Slaymaker, longtime members of the Indiana Professional chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists and administrators of the Best in Indiana Journalism contest. No entry fee required.

5. First Amendment Award

Honors a journalist or news organization for outstanding use of public records in reporting or advocacy of rights such as press freedom and public access. Nominations can include up to eight work samples. Entry fee: \$20.

PROFESSIONAL DIVISION

■ PRINT

6. SPOT NEWS REPORTING

- A. Daily newspaper (circulation 40,000 or more)
- B. Daily newspaper (circulation less than 40,000)
- C. Non-daily newspaper

7. NON-DEADLINE REPORTING (Single story or series.)

- A. Daily newspaper (circulation 40,000 or more)
- B. Daily newspaper (circulation less than 40,000)
- C. Non-daily newspaper

8. COVERAGE OF GOVERNMENT OR POLITICS (Entry may include up to five pieces of work.)

- A. Daily newspaper (circulation 40,000 or more)
- B. Daily newspaper (circulation less than 40,000)
- C. Non-daily newspaper, magazine, special-interest publication or periodical

9. SERIES (Entry may include up to five installments of a project designated as a series upon publication. Sidebar material may be included. A letter describing the origin and impact of the project may also be included.)

10. EDITORIAL CARTOON (Single cartoon.)

11. EDITORIAL (Single editorial. If editorial is part of a series, the entire series may be submitted, but only one editorial will be judged. Entrant must designate which editorial should be judged.)

12. PERSONAL COLUMN (Three columns comprise one entry. One entry per person.)

13. HEADLINE WRITING—NEWS (Three examples comprise one entry. Submit headlines with stories.)

- A. Daily newspaper (circulation 40,000 or more)
- B. Daily newspaper (circulation less than 40,000)
- C. Non-daily newspaper
- D. Magazine, special-interest publication or periodical

14. HEADLINE WRITING—FEATURES (Three examples comprise one entry. Submit headlines with stories.)

- A. Daily newspaper (circulation 40,000 or more)
- B. Daily newspaper (circulation less than 40,000)
- C. Non-daily newspaper
- D. Magazine, special-interest publication or periodical

15. FEATURE

- A. Daily newspaper (circulation 40,000 or more)
- B. Daily newspaper (circulation less than 40,000)
- C. Non-daily newspaper
- D. Magazine, special-interest publication or periodical

16. INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING (Single story or series.)

- A. Daily newspaper (circulation 40,000 or more)
- B. Daily newspaper (circulation less than 40,000)
- C. Non-daily newspaper
- D. Magazine, special-interest publication or periodical

17. SPORTS REPORTING

- A. Daily newspaper (circulation 40,000 or more)
- B. Daily newspaper (circulation less than 40,000)
- C. Non-daily newspaper
- D. Magazine, special-interest publication or periodical

18. ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT FEATURE (Single story or package focusing on art, movies or theater.)

- A. Daily newspaper (circulation 40,000 or more)
- B. Daily newspaper (circulation less than 40,000)
- C. Non-daily newspaper
- D. Magazine, special-interest publication or periodical

19. LIFESTYLE FEATURE (Single story or package focusing on a lifestyle topic such as fitness, food, travel, family life or other lifestyle matters.)

- A. Daily newspaper (circulation 40,000 or more)
- B. Daily newspaper (circulation less than 40,000)
- C. Non-daily newspaper
- D. Magazine, special-interest publication or periodical

20. PERSONALITY PROFILE

- A. Daily newspaper (circulation 40,000 or more)
- B. Daily newspaper (circulation less than 40,000)
- C. Non-daily newspaper
- D. Magazine, special-interest publication or periodical

21. BUSINESS REPORTING

- A. Any publication of circulation exceeding 40,000
- B. Any publication of circulation less than 40,000

22. COVERAGE OF CHILDREN'S ISSUES

- A. Any publication of circulation exceeding 40,000
- B. Any publication of circulation less than 40,000

23. COVERAGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

- A. Any publication of circulation exceeding 40,000
- B. Any publication of circulation less than 40,000

24. MEDICAL/SCIENCE REPORTING

- A. Any publication of circulation exceeding 40,000
- B. Any publication of circulation less than 40,000

25. CONSUMER REPORTING

- A. Any publication of circulation exceeding 40,000
- B. Any publication of circulation less than 40,000

26. COVERAGE OF MINORITY ISSUES

- A. Any publication of circulation exceeding 40,000
- B. Any publication of circulation less than 40,000

27. CRIMINAL JUSTICE REPORTING

- A. Any publication of circulation exceeding 40,000
- B. Any publication of circulation less than 40,000

28. SOCIAL JUSTICE REPORTING

- A. Any publication of circulation exceeding 40,000
- B. Any publication of circulation less than 40,000

29. EDUCATION COVERAGE

- A. Any publication of circulation exceeding 40,000
- B. Any publication of circulation less than 40,000

■ RADIO/TELEVISION

30. SPOT NEWS

- A. Indianapolis market TV stations
- B. Outside Indianapolis market TV stations
- C. Any Indiana radio station

31. FEATURE

- A. Indianapolis market TV stations
- B. Outside Indianapolis market TV stations
- C. Any Indiana radio station

32. GENERAL NEWS (Not including spot news, investigative or feature stories.)

- A. Indianapolis market TV stations
- B. Outside Indianapolis market TV stations
- C. Any Indiana radio station

33. CONTINUING COVERAGE (Continuous coverage of a story.)

- A. Indianapolis market TV stations
- B. Outside Indianapolis market TV stations
- C. Any Indiana radio station

34. INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING (Single story or series of stories (up to five).)

- A. Indianapolis market TV stations
- B. Outside Indianapolis market TV stations
- C. Any Indiana radio station

35. DOCUMENTARY OR SPECIAL (Coverage of a single subject or related subjects in a traditional documentary style or as a studio-based news special. Maximum length: 60 minutes.)

- A. Indianapolis market TV stations
- B. Outside Indianapolis market TV stations
- C. Any Indiana radio station

36. SPORTS REPORTING (General sports report or sports feature. Coverage of an event or interview, but not entire same coverage nor full sports segment on regularly scheduled news broadcast. Play by play is not accepted.)

- A. Indianapolis market TV stations
- B. Outside Indianapolis market TV stations
- C. Any Indiana radio station

37. COVERAGE OF GOVERNMENT OR POLITICS (Entry may include up to five pieces of work.)

- A. Indianapolis market TV stations
- B. Outside Indianapolis market TV stations
- C. Any Indiana radio station

38. NEWSCAST (Regularly scheduled newscast.)

- A. Indianapolis market TV stations
- B. Outside Indianapolis market TV stations
- C. Any Indiana radio station

39. COVERAGE OF CHILDREN'S ISSUES

- A. Any Indiana television station
- B. Any Indiana radio station

40. COVERAGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

- A. Any Indiana television station
- B. Any Indiana radio station

41. MEDICAL/SCIENCE REPORTING

- A. Any Indiana television station
- B. Any Indiana radio station

42. CONSUMER REPORTING

- A. Any Indiana television station
- B. Any Indiana radio station

43. COVERAGE OF MINORITY ISSUES

- A. Any Indiana television station
- B. Any Indiana radio station

44. CRIMINAL JUSTICE REPORTING

- A. Any Indiana television station
- B. Any Indiana radio station.

45. SOCIAL JUSTICE REPORTING

- A. Any Indiana television station
- B. Any Indiana radio station

46. EDUCATION COVERAGE

- A. Any Indiana television station
- B. Any Indiana radio station

47. RADIO PUBLIC AFFAIRS (Entry may include up to three stories or a radio program covering world or community affairs.) Open to all radio news departments.

48. RADIO USE OF SOUND (Submit three examples.)

49. RADIO WRITING

50. TV NEWS VIDEOGRAPHY, GENERAL NEWS

51. TV NEWS VIDEOGRAPHY, SPOT NEWS

52. TV SPORTS VIDEOGRAPHY, SPORTS ACTION

53. TV SPORTS VIDEOGRAPHY, SPORTS FEATURE

54. TELEVISION FEATURE VIDEOGRAPHY

■ PHOTO

55. NEWS PHOTOGRAPH, GENERAL NEWS

56. NEWS PHOTOGRAPH, SPOT NEWS

57. SPORTS PHOTOGRAPH, SPORTS ACTION

58. SPORTS PHOTOGRAPH, SPORTS FEATURE

59. FEATURE PHOTOGRAPH

60. MULTIPLE PICTURE GROUP (Includes picture story, picture essay and picture sequence.)

■ DESIGN

61. DESIGN, PAGE ONE/COVER (Submit no more than three front pages or covers demonstrating general design excellence; elements judged include composition, headline writing, editing and graphics used.)

- A. Daily newspaper 40,000 or more
- B. Daily newspaper less than 40,000
- C. Non-daily newspaper
- D. Magazine, special-interest publication or periodical

62. DESIGN OTHER THAN PAGE ONE/COVER (Entry may include any page layout, except page one.)

- A. Daily newspaper 40,000 or more
- B. Daily newspaper less than 40,000
- C. Non-daily newspaper
- D. Magazine, special-interest publication or periodical

63. INFORMATIONAL GRAPHICS (Graphics will be judged for clarity, impact, originality and quality of execution.)

- A. Daily newspaper 40,000 or more
- B. Daily newspaper less than 40,000
- C. Non-daily newspaper
- D. Magazine, special-interest publication or periodical

■ ONLINE

64. JOURNALISM WEB SITE Entries will be judged on original journalistic content, design, creative use of technology and ease of navigation. Site design should be original, not a template provided by another organization.

■ BOOKS

65. BOOKS (Must have been published in 2009.)

- A. Fiction
- B. Non-Fiction



Think you've got the journalism chops to compete with the best of the best in Indiana? It's time to prove it. The 2009 Best in Indiana Journalism contest is calling for entries now.

The contest, sponsored by the Indiana Professional chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, includes more than 200 contest categories in print, television, radio and online journalism. Look inside for rules and submission criteria.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS:

- Both SPJ members and non-members are invited to participate.
- News organizations are encouraged to submit work on behalf of their staffs, but individuals are also welcome to enter their work.
- Low per-entry fee of \$20 for professionals and \$15 for students.

DEADLINE:

ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED

**BY 5 P.M. MONDAY,
FEBRUARY 1, 2010.**

Entries should be mailed or delivered to:

Reveal Consulting
Attention: Rob Higley
11057 Allisonville Road
Suite #444
Fishers, IN 46038

QUESTIONS?

Contact Rob Higley, contest coordinator, at (317) 578-1440 or rhigley@revealconsulting.com. For contest information and forms, visit indyprospj.org or spjcontest.com.

LOOKING FOR STUDENT CATEGORIES?

Student categories and entry forms are available as a PDF at spjcontest.com.