

**Recognizing
Journalistic Excellence
for 86 years**

86TH NATIONAL HEADLINER AWARDS

Newspapers + Magazines + News Syndicates + TV + Radio + Online

Founded in 1934 by the Press Club of Atlantic City, the National Headliner Awards program is one of the oldest and largest annual contests recognizing journalistic excellence.

The first National Headliner Awards were presented in 1935. Since then, more than 2,650 Headliner medallions have been presented to outstanding photographers, writers, graphic artist, daily newspapers, news syndicates, online, radio and television stations, TV and radio networks and magazines. Membership in the exclusive National Headliner Club is limited to individuals and organizations who have won Headliner medallions and to those men and women who serve as consultants and judges for the annual program. Many journalists have capped long and distinguished careers with a National Headliner Award, and each year the judges have recognized exceptional talent that might otherwise have gone unnoticed.

Individual awards of \$1,500 will be made to Headliner Award winners whose work is selected by the judges for “Grand Award” recognition.

ELIGIBILITY

Headliner competition is open to all material appearing in publications distributed or broadcast in the United States between January 1, 2019 and Dec. 31, 2019 There is no limit on the number of entries that may be submitted. However, each entry may be entered in only one category.

JUDGING

All Headliner entries are judged in Atlantic City by a panel of journalists representing newspapers and radio and television stations from around the country. The judges are distinguished professionals who are selected on the basis of the journalistic contributions they have made during their careers.

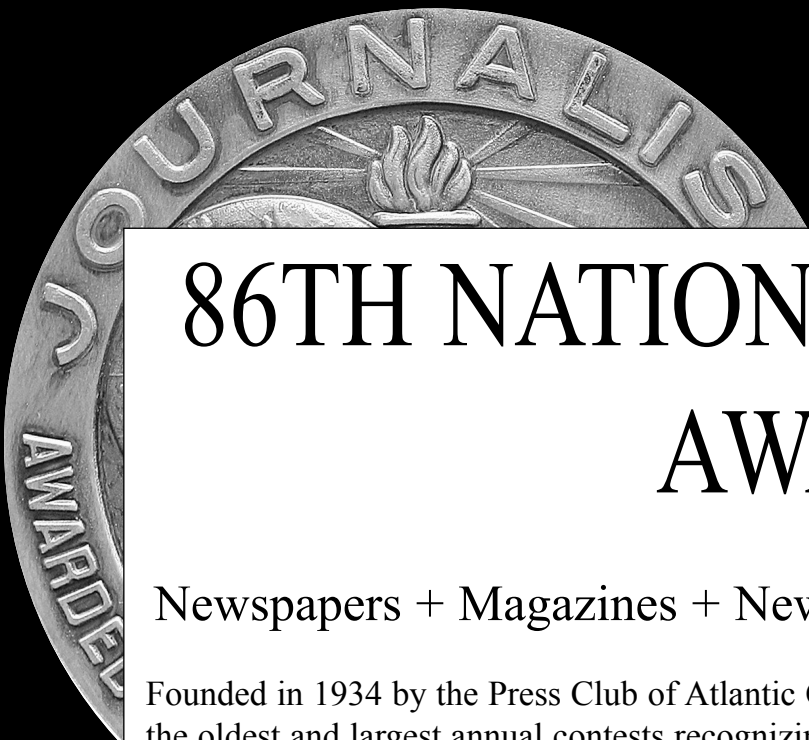
DEADLINE

All nominations must be submitted to our website -- www.headlinerawards.org -- no later than 11:59 p.m. on Friday, February 7, 2020. **ALL ENTRIES MUST BE SUBMITTED ONLINE.**

REGISTRATION FEE

There is a registration fee of \$75 per entry. Our tax-exempt IRS number is 22-213-8237 (Press Club of Atlantic City). **IT IS PREFERRED THAT YOU PAY THROUGH OUR WEBSITE.** You may mail checks made payable to National Headliner Awards and mailed to the following address: National Headliner Awards, 14 Colgate Road, Somers Point, NJ 08244.

Now Accepting Nominations for 2019



RADIO & TELEVISION

RADIO STATIONS

(These categories are for local radio stations)

R01. Newscast. Submit best newscast from one particular day in 2019. Not to exceed 45 minutes.

R02. Breaking news or continuing coverage of a single news event. May include, but is not limited to, website and social media postings, news alerts, email blasts. Not to exceed 20 minutes.

R03. Feature and human interest story. Not to exceed 10 minutes.

R04. Documentary or Public Affairs. For Public Affairs, submit three complete regularly scheduled shows that focus on addressing issues of the day. For documentary, submit one show. No time limits.

R05. News series. Not to exceed 20 minutes.

R06. Newscast. Submit best newscast from one particular day in 2019. Not to exceed 45 minutes.

R07. Breaking news or continuing coverage of a single news event. May include, but is not limited to, website and social media postings, news alerts, email blasts. Not to exceed 20 minutes.

R08. Feature and human interest story. Not to exceed 10 minutes

R09. Documentary or Public Affairs. For Public Affairs, submit three complete regularly scheduled shows that focus on addressing issues of the day. For Documentary, submit one show. No time limits.

R10. News series. Not to exceed 20 minutes.

BROADCAST TELEVISION STATIONS

(These categories are for local TV stations)

TV01. Newscast. Submit best newscast from one particular day in 2019. Not to exceed 45 minutes.

TV02. Coverage of a live breaking news event. May include, but is not

limited to, website and social media postings, news alerts, email blasts. Not to exceed 20 minutes.

TV03. Continuing coverage of a single news event. Not to exceed 20 minutes.

TV04. Feature, sports or human interest story. Not to exceed 10 minutes

TV05. Public service. No time limits.

TV06. Documentary or series of reports on the same subject. No time limits.

TV07. Investigative reporting. Not to exceed 20 minutes.

TV08. Business & Consumer reporting. Not to exceed 20 minutes.

TV09. Health / Science reporting. Not to exceed 20 minutes.

TV10. Environmental reporting. Not to exceed 20 minutes.

BROADCAST TELEVISION NETWORKS, CABLE NETWORKS AND SYNDICATORS

(These categories are for national TV networks - Fox News, CNN,

MSNBC, for example)

TV11. Newscast. Submit best newscast from one particular day in 2019. Not to exceed 45 minutes.

TV12. Coverage of a breaking news event. May include, but is not limited to, website and social media postings, news alerts, email blasts. Not to exceed 20 minutes.

TV13. Continuing coverage of a major news event. Not to exceed 20 minutes.

TV14. Feature, sports or human interest story. Not to exceed 10 minutes.

TV15. Documentary or series of reports on the same subject. No time limits.

TV16. Investigative report. Not to exceed 20 minutes.

TV17. News magazine program. No time limits.

TV18. Business & Consumer reporting. Not to exceed 20 minutes.

TV19. Health / Science reporting. Not to exceed 20 minutes.

TV20. Environmental reporting. Not to exceed 20 minutes.

BROADCAST RADIO NETWORKS AND SYNDICATORS

(These categories are for national radio networks, NPR, CBS Radio, ESPN radio, for example)

PRINT AND MAGAZINE – NOTE CHANGES

NEWSPAPERS & NEWS ORGANIZATIONS WRITING AND REPORTING

N01. Breaking News, all sizes:

Coverage of the first 36 hours of a news event. May include, but is not limited to, website and social media postings, news alerts, email blasts and the printed edition. Please include a timeline outlining the major points and a letter describing the circumstances.

N02. Local news beat coverage or continuing story by an individual or team. NOT a series. Send three samples.

N03. International news beat coverage or continuing story by an individual or team. NOT a series. Send three samples.

N04. News series (one series) in newspapers in top 20 media market. (see list below)

N05. News series (one series) in newspapers not in top 20 media market (see list below)

N06. Local interest column on variety of subjects. Send three samples.

N07. Special or feature column on one subject by an individual. (examples: food, fashion, radio-TV, music, etc.) Send three samples.

N08. Editorial writing by an individual or team. Send three samples.

N09. Sports column by an individual. Send three samples.

N10. Sports writing by an individual or team. Send three samples.

N11. Feature writing on variety of subjects by an individual. Send three samples.

N12. Business news coverage, business commentary and/or business columns by an individual or team. Send three samples.

N13. Education writing. Send three samples of news stories, feature stories or columns by an individual or team.

N14. Health/Medical/Science writing. Send three samples of news, features or columns by individual or team.

N15. Environmental writing. Send

three samples of news, features or columns by an individual or team.

N16. Investigative reporting in newspapers in top 20 media market. (see list below) The entry may include, but is not limited to, stories, photographs, editorials, social media campaigns, videos, community reaction and supplemental material addressing the investigation. Include a letter outlining the background and results, if any.

N17. Investigative reporting in newspapers not in top 20 media market. (see list below). See above.

N18. Public service in newspapers in top 20 media market (see list below).

Entries must be accompanied by a letter outlining background and results. The entry may include, but is not limited to, stories, photographs, editorials, social media campaigns, videos, community reaction and supplemental material addressing the issue. See Top 20 media market list.

N19. Public service in newspapers not in top 20 media market (see list

below). See above for description.

N20. Editorial cartoons. Send 10 samples.

N21 Journalistic innovation: An experimental or unconventional reader service, design, feature or news and online package that represents a fresh approach to connecting newspapers and their communities. Must include a letter explaining the effort and its impact on the readers and community.

N22 Best political coverage. Send three samples by an individual or team.

MAGAZINES

M01. Coverage of a major news event or topic. One sample per entry.

M02. Feature writing by an individual on a variety of subjects. Send three samples by the same writer.

M03. Column. (Examples: business, food, finance, fashion, sports, travel, etc.) Three samples by the same writer.

M04. Political coverage. Send three samples by an individual or team.

PHOTOGRAPHY - OPEN TO ALL NEWS ORGANIZATIONS (PRINT, MAGAZINE, ONLINE)

Must be staff-generated or first-use work. Images must include caption information as originally published. On multiple-image entries, please include story headline and brief description of coverage.

PG01. Spot news photography, single photo, not a series.

PG02. Feature photography, single photo, not a series.

PG03. Sports action or feature photography, single photo.

PG04. Individual Photo Portfolio. This is a collection of exactly 10 images from a single staff photographer. Entries that have less than 10 or more than 10 will be disqualified.

PG05. Staff Photo Portfolio. This is a collection of exactly 10 images from a photography staff.

PG06. Single Day Photo Story. 10 images from a single photographer or staff that covers a single-topic event published on one day.

PG07. Multiple Day Photo Story. 10 images from a single photographer or

staff that covers a single-topic event published on no more than seven days. Entries that have less than 10 or more than 10 will be disqualified.

PG08. Portrait. A single photo that reveals the essence of the subject.

PG09. Pictorial - A single photo that succeeds on its light, composition or geometry.

PLEASE NOTE CATEGORY CHANGES

**NOTE: PLEASE PROVIDE A PASSWORD IF ENTRIES ARE BEHIND PAYWALL.
ENTRIES WILL BE DISQUALIFIED IF NO PASSWORD IS PROVIDED**

COMPANIES THAT PUBLISH PRIMARILY ONLINE

D01. Online investigative reporting. This entry may include, but is not limited to, stories, photographs, editorials, social media campaigns, videos, community reaction and supplemental material addressing the investigation. Please include a letter outlining the background and results.

D02. Online beat coverage. The entry demonstrates excellence in ongoing coverage of a specific topic. Send up to five samples by an individual or team.

OPEN TO ALL

NEWS ORGANIZATIONS

D03. Best blog: Includes topics such as, but not limited to, food, the arts, fashion, family, music, parenting, political, sports, news. Send three samples.

D04. Best news video up to 1 minute. Entries will be judged on news value, storytelling, cinematography, conciseness and relevance. Can be part of a larger package or a standalone feature. Please include URL to video.

D05. Best news video up to 3 minutes. Entries will be judged on news value, storytelling, cinematography, conciseness and relevance. Can be part of a larger package or a standalone feature. Please include URL to video.

D06. Best news video 3 to 10 minutes. Entries will be judged on news value, storytelling, cinematography, conciseness and relevance. Can be part of a larger package or a standalone feature. Please include URL to video.

D07. Best news video 10 to 30 minutes.

Entries will be judged on news value, storytelling, cinematography, conciseness and relevance. Can be part of a larger package or a standalone feature. Please include URL to video.

NEW D08: Digital presentation of a single news topic. Involves revelatory news reporting that is presented in a compelling manner for digital audiences. Must be a single project and should include a combination of digital storytelling tools not limited to, video, photography, graphics, social media, written narrative. Must be original work. Judges will be looking for creativity and originality including excellence in user experience and design. Print and/or broadcast may accompany entry. Please include URLs for all parts to be judged. Must submit a letter outlining the project and its impact.

NEW D09. Digital presentation of a single features topic. Involves explanatory, human interest features or behind-the-headlines projects that are presented in a compelling manner for digital audiences. Must be a single project and should include a combination of digital storytelling tools not limited to, video, photography, graphics, social media, written narrative. Must be original work. Judges will be looking for creativity and originality including excellence in user experience and design. Print and/or broadcast may accompany entry. Please include URLs for all parts to be judged. Must submit a letter outlining the project and its impact.

D10. Social Media: This award is for excellence in social media strategy and execution. This can include Twitter, Facebook, Snapchat,

Instagram, Pinterest or any other social network or networks. Emphasis will be placed on best use of emerging digital techniques on creative and alternative platforms to tell a story and serve a community. Please include URLs and/or screenshots for all parts to be judged. Please include letter explaining vision, strategy, significance and reach.

D11 Online slideshow: Entries must be original content not aggregated from elsewhere and will be judged on depth/range of information and images presented, design and user experience. Can include accompanying story or contextual information. Can be one photographer or team. Must include at least 10 images, plus cutlines.

NEW D12 Best narrative podcast. Award for excellence in a podcast that is based on a serial narrative in recounting a single story or closely related stories. Typically, this involves extensive reporting and brings a new angle or information to a story. Submit up to five URLs.

NEW D13 Best information podcast. Award for excellence in a podcast that is focused on bringing insight, background and news to help public understanding. Typically, this involves a host or hosts of a regularly scheduled podcast. Submit up to five URLs.

NEW D14. Innovation in storytelling. Entries should be a single topic that engages audience by pushing beyond traditional platforms. It also solves problems. Examples of work include tools developed to improve digital journalism, as well as events, promotions, and other community engagement. Please include a letter explaining project goals and impact. Submit up to five URLs of material related to the project.

TOP 20 MEDIA MARKETS

For the newspaper categories, here are the top 20 media markets in the nation:
New York
Los Angeles
Chicago
Philadelphia
Dallas-Fort Worth
San Francisco/Oakland/San Jose
Washington, D.C.
Houston
Boston
Atlanta

Phoenix
Tampa-St. Petersburg
Seattle
Detroit
Minneapolis-St. Paul
Miami-Ft. Lauderdale
Denver
Orlando
Cleveland
Sacramento
Source: Market population estimates per Nielsen Research, 2020

REMINDERS

-- **NOTE: You do not have to submit PDFs this year.** Only URLs will be accepted for entries. If you wish to submit a PDF of the page and how it appeared in print, you may but are not required.

-- All entries must be submitted online at **HeadlinerAwards.org**. See next page for more information.

-- **Association code to register:** NHA

-- **Deadline for entries:** 11:59 p.m., Friday, Feb. 7, 2020

-- **More information:** Call 609-732-2330 or 609-350-3099 or email info@headlinerawards.org