

CTSPJ 2015 Excellence in Journalism Contest

The Connecticut Pro Chapter of SPJ has revised its contest to reflect changes in the industry. We hope the new circulation classes and categories give entrants a chance to compete against media outlets with similar resources and goals – and to do so in more specific categories than before. We welcome all feedback on the new contest as we continue to refine it in future years. Any feedback should be sent to Contest Chair Jodie Mozdzer Gil at jmozdzer@gmail.com. If you do not see your media outlet on the list, please contact contest clerk Jessica Garin at Jessica.garin.u@gmail.com.

Circulation categories

Regional A:

Any publication that covers more than five towns and statewide issues on a regular basis. Category A is for larger news organizations with more resources, including number of journalists and staff experience.

Media outlets include: Hartford Courant, CT Mirror, Connecticut Post, New Haven Register, Connecticut Magazine, Waterbury Republican-American, Connecticut Health Investigative Team, New Haven Living and Hartford Magazine. Any Hearst CT or Digital First Media collaboration entries, including any work done by centralized copy editing desks.

Regional B:

Any publication that covers more than five towns and statewide issues on a regular basis. Category B is for media news organizations with fewer resources than Category A, including number of journalists and staff experience.

Media outlets include: The Day, Danbury News-Times, Meriden Record Journal, Norwich Bulletin, Manchester Journal-Inquirer, CTNewsJunkie, Stamford Advocate, Connecticut Law Tribune, Raising Hale.

Regional C:

Smaller publications covering multiple towns and statewide issues on a regular basis.

Media outlets include: Greater New Milford Spectrum, The Chronicle, Litchfield County Times, Catholic Transcript, AAA Journeys, The Hour, New Britain Herald, Bristol Press, Middletown Press, Register Citizen, CT Latino News

Regional D:

Any broadcast station that covers local and statewide issues on a regular basis.

Media outlets include: WTNH, WFSB, WTIC, WNPR, WSHU, News12

Hyperlocal:

Any news organization that covers no more than five towns.

Media outlets include: Hersam Acorn weeklies, Shore Publishing weeklies, TurleyCT publications, New Britain City Journal, NewCanaanite.com, WestportNow.com, Online Journalism Project publications, CollinsvillePress.com, Citizens News, Digital First Media weeklies, Hearst Connecticut weeklies.

Categories

Stephen A. Collins Public Service Award

This is a special award open to all media for a story or stories having a significant impact in the public interest. Entries must include supporting documentation such as letters, editorials, evidence of a change in public policy, showing how the entry had an impact. Please include a cover letter with the entry.

Theodore Driscoll Award for Investigative Reporting

This is a special award open to all media for a single story or formal series containing information, obtained through reporter initiative not readily available to the news media or public.

First Amendment Award

This is a special award open to all media for a single story, column or series which increases public understanding of the role of the press in a free society.

Editorial Cartoon | A single cartoon online or in print
Single Editorial | Represents the opinion of the publication, station or news website as an organization

General Column | A single (other than sports or humorous) that expresses an opinion or point of view on an issues or event

Humorous Column | A single column on any topic with the purpose to entertain

In-Depth | A single story that helps audience understand situation beyond information provided in a normal news story

Investigative | A single story containing information obtained through reporter initiative that was not readily available to the news media or the public

Religion | A story dealing with religious topics

Government | A story dealing with government topics

Courts/Crime | Any story dealing with issues of the criminal justice system, except for breaking news

Arts & Entertainment | A single story dealing with the arts

Business | A single story dealing with business

Leisure | A story dealing with travel, food, gardening, or other leisure topics

Continuing Coverage | No more than 10 articles that follow the same topic over time

Diversity Coverage | Single story on a diversity issue

Education | A single story on an education issue

Reporting Series | A formal series of no more than 10 articles, including investigative, in-depth or feature series

Local Reporting | A story that shines light on an issue important to a single town or region. This category is meant for those stories that fulfill the mission of community journalism.

Breaking News | A single story or package of stories and social media updates that involves coverage of a spot news event written under an immediate deadline.

Sports News | A single story on a sports news topic

Sports Feature | A single story on a sports topic, written for a factor other than timeliness

Sports Column | A single column on a sports topic

Sports Photo | A single sports photo

Feature Photo | A single feature photo

News Photo | A single news photo

Photo Essay | A collection of photos, either in print or online, that together tell one story.

Page 1 Layout | A category for the person who arranged the text and images, not for the writers or photographers of the materials on the page.

Non-Page 1 Layout | Any single page design that was not on page 1

Headline | A single entry is made up of three headlines, all the work on a single individual

Infographic Design | The design of a single static or interactive graphic

Infographic Reporting | The reporting of a single static or interactive graphic

Video Storytelling | Use of video to tell a story alone or bolster written reporting

Audio Storytelling | Use of audio to tell a story alone or bolster written reporting