



# 2026 COPPER STATE AWARDS INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING CONTEST

The Arizona Media Association is partnering with the A-Mark Foundation to award \$15,000 to Arizona’s best investigative reporting. This partnership was born out of a joint commitment to rewarding investigative journalism that results in positive change for Arizona.

Any local media organization based in Arizona can enter the 2026 Copper State Awards contest. Media organizations can enter reporting projects across visual, audio and print/digital platforms.

## What you need to know:

- The entry fee is \$20/entry. Organizations can submit up to five contest entries.
- Entries for the 2026 contest must have been aired or published between June 1, 2025 and May 31, 2026.
- The contest will be segmented by platform (video, audio, print/digital) and division (Phoenix metro, Tucson metro, other markets).
- In the first round of judging, entries will compete against other entries on the same platform in the same division (for example, audio entries in the Tucson metro, print/digital entries in the Phoenix metro, etc. will compete only with each other).
  - **NOTE:** Organizations can submit entries on any platform even if they do not reflect the primary medium of the organization. Print/digital operations and radio stations can submit video entries, TV stations and radio stations can submit digital, written stories and TV stations and print/digital operations can submit podcasts or other auditory media.
- When the first round of judging is complete, there will be up to nine first place finishers. Those entries will advance the final round of judging, which will determine a top three regardless of platform and division.
- Winners will be announced and celebrated at an awards event in November 2026.

## The Winnings Breakdown:

Place:	Reporter(s) Winnings:	Outlet Winnings:
First Place	\$5,000	\$2,500
Second Place	\$3,000	\$1,500
Third Place	\$2,000	\$1,000

**NOTE:** If the winning entries involve multiple reporters, the prize amounts listed will be split evenly among them.