

2022 Texas Better Newspaper Contest

The Texas Better Newspaper Contest is an annual competition sponsored by the Texas Press Association to recognize Texas newspapers for excellence in journalism and outstanding service to their communities.

With the contest's return to calendar year competition, the 2022 contest period is Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2022. Awards will be presented at the TPA Convention and Trade Show, June 1-3, 2023, in Round Rock.

ELIGIBILITY

Members in good standing (2023 dues paid) who were also members throughout the contest period, the 2022 calendar year, are eligible to enter the contest.

Entries are made by member newspapers, not individuals. Each newspaper should have a contest manager who responsible for uploading content and who will serve as the primary contact for the newspaper.

Content submitted for competition should have been produced by full- or part-time members of the newspaper staff.

• Note: Newspapers may submit content produced by local freelancers or contributors provided the newspaper paid to have the content created and the content was created predominantly for the newspaper submitting the entry.

Syndicated or wire service content is not eligible for submission.

CONTEST PERIOD - Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2022

With the exception of Best Website and Online Live Coverage categories, all entries must have been originally published in the newspaper's print or digital replica (eEdition) between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31.

ENTRY PERIOD: Monday, Jan. 23, through Monday, Feb. 20, 2023 on the ACES contest platform, www.newspapercontest.com/texas

DEADLINE: Monday, Feb. 20, 2023

All entries must be submitted via the ACES online platform, www.newspapercontest.com/texas, before 10 p.m., Monday, Feb. 20, 2023. The platform will automatically close the contest to entries at deadline.

***NOTE:** Each newspaper is encouraged to log onto the online contest platform at least two weeks before the deadline to ensure any challenges are resolved in advance. All registrations are new and contest managers will set their own new passwords. Instructions will be on the site.*

FEES

The fee for each category entered is \$10. The contest platform will enable contest managers to print an invoice to pay by check or to pay online with a credit card.

**NOTE: Fees must be paid by Feb. 28 or entries will be disqualified.*

AWARDS

Newspapers that have won awards will be notified by email in May, without specific information as to the award(s) won.

Contest results will be announced at the annual contest awards luncheon on June 3 at the conclusion of the 2022 TPA Convention & Trade Show at the Kalahari Resort in Round Rock.

A condensed copy of the contest results will be available at the conclusion of the awards ceremony. The complete Winners Circle publication will be online at www.texaspress.com after the luncheon.

• Competition Class Winners

First place winners receive plaques. In addition, award certificates will be presented to first, second, third and fourth place winners.

• **Sweepstakes Winners**

The Texas Better Newspaper Contest includes one Sweepstakes award for each division, except Division 1. Awards are earned by point accumulation in the 12 sweepstakes categories: Advertising, Column Writing, Editorial Writing, Feature Photography, Feature Writing; General Excellence, Headline Writing, News Photography, News Writing, Page Design, Sports Coverage and Sports Photography.

Sweepstakes points are calculated on the following scale:

1st Place	100 points (plaque and certificate)
2nd Place	75 points (certificate)
3rd Place	50 points (certificate)
4th Place	25 points (certificate)

• **Sweepstakes Tiebreakers**

If a tie should arise in a Sweepstakes category, the newspaper with the most points in the General Excellence category will be declared the winner. If neither newspaper has won a General Excellence award, the newspaper with the most first place awards overall will be declared the winner. If the score remains tied, the newspaper with the most second place awards will be declared the winner.

DIVISIONS

Division 1 consists of the top five metro dailies — Austin American-Statesman, Dallas Morning News, Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Houston Chronicle and San Antonio Express-News — which will compete exclusively in the General Excellence category.

Divisions 2 and higher will be divided based on total number of participating newspapers, frequency of publication (dailies, semiweeklies and weeklies) and by circulation.

Newspapers will be entered in divisions based on the frequency of their publication as of October 31, 2022. Circulation breakdowns will be based on newspapers' Statements of Ownership, Management and Circulation (PS Form 3526) published in October 2022.

Newspapers publishing print editions and/or digital replicas (eEditions) four or more times per week will compete as dailies.

Newspapers publishing print editions and/or digital replicas (eEditions) two or three times per week will compete as semi weeklies.

Newspapers publishing one print edition or less per week will compete as weeklies.

Please Note:

- An entry or website published in or for more than one newspaper must be entered by the newspaper in the highest circulation division.
- Semiweeklies (newspapers carrying only one name, but published more than once a week, yet less than four days a week) will enter the semiweekly division.
- Twin weeklies (newspapers bearing different names but published in the same plant and distributed in the same community during different days of the week) will be treated as semiweeklies and entered in the largest circulation division applicable.
- Monthlies will compete as weeklies and be entered in the appropriate weekly circulation division.

Questions/Assistance

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