

# THE 2021 GREAT PLAINS JOURNALISM AWARDS

To promote the highest standards of journalism, the Tulsa Press Club and Tulsa Press Club Foundation present the Great Plains Journalism Awards. Journalists from newspapers, magazines and websites across the eight-state region are invited to enter their best work from the past calendar year. After an extensive judging process, winners will be recognized in the spring. Journalists in Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota are eligible.

**PREPARATION OF ENTRIES:** All submissions must be made online at [betternewspapercontest.com](http://betternewspapercontest.com). See contest rules inside this booklet. Entry Deadline: Feb. 1, 2021.

**QUESTIONS:** Between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., call Ashley Parrish at (918) 361-8303 or email [greatplainsawards@gmail.com](mailto:greatplainsawards@gmail.com). For entry fee questions, contact Becki Watson at (918) 583-7737 or [becki@tulsapressclub.org](mailto:becki@tulsapressclub.org). For more information, visit [greatplainsawards.org](http://greatplainsawards.org).



## NEW THIS YEAR: THE GREAT PLAINS JOURNALISM HALL OF FAME

FIND DETAILS INSIDE THIS BROCHURE ON HOW TO NOMINATE A JOURNALIST FOR THE FIRST YEAR OF THE GREAT PLAIN JOURNALISM HALL OF FAME.

### ATTENTION STUDENTS! SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!

The Great Plains Journalism Awards is proud to announce that winners in the following Dan Harrison Memorial student categories each will be eligible to receive a \$2,000 scholarship courtesy of the Tulsa Press Club Foundation:

- Student Editor of the Year
- Student Writer of the Year
- Student Photographer of the Year
- Student Designer of the Year
- Student Broadcaster of the Year



# GREAT PLAINS JOURNALISM AWARDS RULES

1. Daily, weekly and monthly newspapers and media websites; photography from newspapers, magazines or media websites; magazines (general interest and organizational); television stations; radio and other news organizations that publish or broadcast in an eligible state or states or websites that are based out of an eligible state are eligible for the contest. Eligible states are Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.
2. All entries must have been published between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2020.
3. Entrants who send in URLs – and in all online categories – should keep their sites intact and accessible until May. If a site is behind a paywall, a username and password must be included with every entry.
4. Entries must be made at [betternewspapercontest.com](http://betternewspapercontest.com) and must be received by Feb. 1 for consideration.
5. Entries that do not provide complete and accurate URLs can be disqualified.
6. The Great Plains Journalism Awards committee reserves the right to use any part or the whole entry for publicity or educational purposes. Credit will be given to the submitting news organization.
7. Entries can be submitted by organizations or by individuals working full time, part time or on a freelance basis. Freelancers' work should be published in states eligible for the contest.
8. The same story, series or photo may be submitted in more than one category. Each entry will require a separate entry fee.
9. Publications and individuals are not limited in the number of entries they can submit.
10. The entry fee is \$25 per entry. Student-only categories are \$15 to enter. Entry fees can be paid at [tulsapressclub.org/sponsorship-tickets](http://tulsapressclub.org/sponsorship-tickets) by credit card or PayPal. If paying by check, call the Tulsa Press Club at 918-583-7737. Entry fees must be paid or arrangements for fees must be made by Feb. 1.
11. The Great Plains organizing committee will select distinguished journalists to serve as judges. Names of judges will be announced after the contest period ends.
12. Finalists will be announced in each category, and winners will be honored in the spring.
13. Students may enter any professional category but must pay the \$25 entry fee to compete in professional categories. If entering professional categories, students will be judged as professionals, not students. Student-only categories are \$15 to enter.
14. Five student categories – Student Designer of the Year, Student Photographer of the Year, Student Editor of the Year, Student Writer of the Year and the Student Broadcaster of the Year – will include a Dan Harrison Memorial Scholarship component. Winners of each category are eligible for a \$2,000 scholarship paid directly to the student.
15. Radio, television and other media outlets are welcome to compete in news and online categories and where appropriate. Questions about this can be sent to [greatplainsawards@gmail.com](mailto:greatplainsawards@gmail.com).
16. Entries should be submitted in one of the following manners:  
  
Stories: A URL link to the story is preferred. A PDF of the work and accompanying material is acceptable if a URL is unavailable. For purposes of the Great Plains Awards winners book, finalists in each category will be asked to submit the text of their story if it cannot be copied from the entry provided.  
  
Design/headline writing: PDFs of the original pages should be submitted.  
  
Photo categories: JPEGs of the photos or PDFs of the photos as published should be submitted.  
  
Video/multimedia/website: A URL link to the entry should be submitted.
17. Online-only publications can submit work where desired but must choose to whether they want to compete in news or magazine to compete. Some categories require work that has been printed.

## NEW THIS YEAR: THE GREAT PLAINS JOURNALISM HALL OF FAME

The Great Plains Journalism Awards Committee is now accepting nominations for its Hall of Fame.

Housed at the Tulsa Press Club in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the Great Plains Journalism Hall of Fame will honor one or more journalists each year at the banquet or awards ceremony.

- » Inductees will be honored for a long and distinguished career in journalism, with at least a significant portion of that career spent working within the Great Plains region.
- » The selection committee will accept posthumous nominations. Candidates may also be retired or former journalists, but the selection committee will consider only a candidate's work and impact within journalism.
- » Candidates must have been involved in the editorial production of news content, whether in print, online or broadcast mediums, or in the teaching of journalism. The selection committee will not consider candidates who worked only in other areas of a news organization.
- » To nominate a journalist, provide the following in category 74 of the contest portal at [betternewspapercontest.com](http://betternewspapercontest.com):
  1. A minimum 400-word essay describing the candidate's career and impact, including an explanation of the candidate's ties to the Great Plains region.
  2. Five to 10 examples of the candidate's most exemplary work or, if more practical, an additional three to five testimonials describing the candidate's work and impact within the field of journalism.
  3. A photo of the candidate.
- » Material submitted with the application becomes the property of the Tulsa Press Club and will not be returned. The Tulsa Press Club reserves the right to use the submitted material in displays and promotional activities related to the GP Journalism Hall of Fame.

ENTER ONLINE AT [BETTERNEWSPAPERCONTEST.COM](http://BETTERNEWSPAPERCONTEST.COM) / DEADLINE FEB. 1

# GREAT PLAINS JOURNALISM AWARDS CATEGORIES

## NEWS

### 1. NEWS PACKAGE

A package or series of stories on a single topic. Entries will be judged as a complete package, taking into consideration writing, reporting, editing, photos, graphics, design and web content. Name **all staff** who contributed. This category is meant to honor every part of a story, from reporting through copy editing.

### 2. PROJECT/INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

One story, package or series of stories on a single topic that required more than routine reporting. A brief letter explaining the reporting process is encouraged.

### 3. GENERAL NEWS SINGLE STORY

One story on a single topic. May include sidebars.

### 4. GENERAL NEWS CONTINUING COVERAGE

Three to five stories published on multiple days covering a single topic.

### 5. NARRATIVE STORY/SERIES

One story, package or series of stories on a single topic written in a narrative style. Will be judged on quality of storytelling, reporting and writing.

### 6. BEAT REPORTING

Three to five stories showing coverage of a beat such as education, health or crime.

### 7. FEATURE WRITING

A story, package or series on a single topic. May include sidebars.

### 8. BUSINESS REPORTING

A story, package or series on a single business topic. May include sidebars.

### 9. BUSINESS FEATURE

A story, package or series on a single topic. May include sidebars.

### 10. SPORTS REPORTING

One story or continuing coverage of a sports event or topic. May include sidebars.

### 11. SPORTS FEATURE

A story, package or series on a sports topic. May include sidebars.

### 12. SPORTS COLUMN

Three sports columns. One byline only.

### 13. REVIEW

Three reviews on topics including food, music, movies, theater or books.

### 14. FOOD

Three stories showing coverage of a food beat. Reviews, features, blogs or news stories are encouraged.

### 15. ENTERTAINMENT FEATURE

A single story or package on an entertainment topic, including personality profiles. May include sidebars.

### 16. SPECIALTY FEATURE

A story, package or series on a single topic, including home, style, health and related topics. May include sidebars.

### 17. SPECIAL SECTION

A printed special section created by a newspaper staff. Include a letter explaining the project. Online components can be submitted as supplemental material.

### 18. NEWS PAGE DESIGN

Include five pages by a **single** designer per entry.

### 19. FEATURE PAGE DESIGN

Include five pages by a **single** designer per entry.

### 20. SPORTS PAGE DESIGN

Include five pages by a **single** designer per entry.

### 21. GRAPHICS/ILLUSTRATION

Include three pages per entry.

### 22. EDITORIAL CARTOON

Five illustrations by an individual.

### 23. EDITORIAL PORTFOLIO

Three columns by a single writer on any topic.

### 24. NEWS COLUMN PORTFOLIO

Three columns by a single writer on any topic.

### 25. HEADLINE PORTFOLIO

Submit three to five headlines written by one person. Include accompanying articles.

### 26. GREAT PLAINS DESIGNER OF THE YEAR

Submit five to seven layouts by a single designer.

### 27. GREAT PLAINS WRITER OF THE YEAR

Submit three to five articles by a single reporter. Entries will be judged on the quality of reporting and writing.

### 28. GREAT PLAINS NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Submit three editions, including two consecutive days and one free choice.

## NEWS PHOTOGRAPHY

### 29. GENERAL NEWS

A single photo of a scheduled or organized event for which advance planning was possible.

### 30. SPOT NEWS

A single photo of an unscheduled event for which no advance planning was possible.

### 31. FEATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

A single photo with strong human interest where advance planning was possible.

### 32. PHOTO STORY/PHOTO ESSAY

A collection of up to 12 photos with a single theme.

### 33. SPORTS ACTION

A single picture showing participation in a game or athletic event that exploits peak action.

### 34. SPORTS FEATURE

A single feature photo that is sports-related.

### 35. GREAT PLAINS NEWSPAPER PHOTOGRAPHER/ PORTFOLIO OF THE YEAR

Submit up to 12 photos/story entries by a single photographer. Multi-photo stories count as one entry. Maximum of 40 photos.

## MAGAZINE PHOTOGRAPHY

### 36. MAGAZINE PORTRAIT

A single photo of a person.

### 37. MAGAZINE SPECIALTY PHOTO

A single photo. Category can include studio, food, still life, fashion, etc. A photo that required planning and setup.

### 38. MAGAZINE PHOTOGRAPHY, MULTIPLE

A collection of photos with a single theme. Can be feature, general news or spot news, fashion or portraiture. Twelve image maximum.

### 39. MAGAZINE LIFESTYLE PHOTO

A single photo of a lifestyle subject, such as home, food or related topic.

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# GREAT PLAINS JOURNALISM AWARDS CATEGORIES

## 40. MAGAZINE FASHION PHOTO

A single photo of a fashion subject with a model.

## 41. MAGAZINE PHOTOGRAPHY, FEATURE

A single photo. Usually a found situation with strong human interest; a fresh view of an everyday scene.

## 42. GREAT PLAINS MAGAZINE PHOTOGRAPHER/PORTFOLIO OF THE YEAR

Submit up to eight photos/story entries by a single photographer. Multi-photo stories count as one entry. Maximum of 30 photos.

## MAGAZINE

## 43. NEWS WRITING

An article or series on one topic judged on the quality of reporting and writing.

## 44. FEATURE WRITING

An article or series judged on the quality of reporting and writing.

## 45. PROFILE WRITING

An article on a person judged on the quality of reporting and writing.

## 46. COLUMN WRITING

Submit three columns by a single writer.

## 47. LIFESTYLE WRITING

An article about a lifestyle subject, such as home, fashion, travel or related topic.

## 48. FOOD FEATURE WRITING

An article or series focused on food judged on the quality of reporting and writing.

## 49. READER SERVICE

An article providing practical information for the reader in an easy-to-navigate format. Examples might include a gift guide, readers' choice competition or voter guide.

## 50. ARTS AND CULTURE WRITING

An article about performing arts, visual arts, music, musicians and artists judged on the quality of reporting and writing.

## 51. GRAPHIC/ILLUSTRATION

A single image created specifically for a magazine column, article or feature.

## 52. PAGE DESIGN, PROFILE

Submit a single page/spread for a profile of a person.

## 53. PAGE DESIGN, LIFESTYLE

Submit a single story/spread for a lifestyle subject, home, fashion, travel or related topic.

## 54. PAGE DESIGN, READER SERVICE

Submit a single story/spread for an article providing practical information for the reader in an easy-to-navigate format. Examples might include a gift guide, readers' choice competition or voter guide.

## 55. PAGE DESIGN, GENERAL

Submit a single page/spread that does not fall into one of the other magazine design categories.

## 56. MAGAZINE COVER

Include one cover.

## 57. PAGE DESIGN, PORTFOLIO

Submit four to six pages by one designer. May include covers.

## 58. GREAT PLAINS MAGAZINE WRITER OF THE YEAR

Include three to five articles by a single reporter. Entries will be judged on the quality of reporting and writing.

## 59. GREAT PLAINS MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR

Include three editions, including two consecutive issues and one free choice.

## ONLINE

## 60. ONLINE PROJECT

One story, video, package, or series of stories and/or videos on a single topic that required more than routine reporting. A brief letter explaining the reporting process is encouraged.

## 61. MULTIMEDIA GRAPHIC

An online graphic or related series of graphics that present information and data in a compelling, engaging manner.

## 62. BEST WEBSITE DESIGN, PROJECT

Design of group of pages online for a related topic. Include URL of the pages you want judged, up to five URLs, including the main landing page for the topic/project. Examples of topics include election coverage, a football team's season, the Olympics, the energy industry, etc.)

## 63. NEWS FEATURE VIDEO

A general news feature, or human-interest story. There is no deadline qualification for this category and can include long-term projects.

## 64. GREAT PLAINS WEBSITE OF THE YEAR

A news website of any size. Include URL.

## HEY STUDENTS!

### DAN HARRISON MEMORIAL STUDENT CATEGORIES

## 65. GREAT PLAINS STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Include three to five photographs or up to two videos or audio slideshows by a single photographer. Multimedia is encouraged. A letter of recommendation from an adviser is recommended but not required. Winner of this category is eligible for a \$2,000 scholarship.

## 66. GREAT PLAINS STUDENT EDITOR IN CHIEF OF THE YEAR

Include up to three editions and a letter of recommendation from an adviser. Winner of this category is eligible for a \$2,000 scholarship.

## 67. GREAT PLAINS STUDENT DESIGNER OF THE YEAR

Include three to five pages designed by a single designer. A letter of recommendation from an adviser is recommended but not required. Winner of this category is eligible for a \$2,000 scholarship.

## 68. GREAT PLAINS STUDENT WRITER OF THE YEAR

Include three to five stories by a single writer. A letter of recommendation from an adviser is recommended but not required. Winner of this category is eligible for a \$2,000 scholarship.

## 69. GREAT PLAINS STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Include three editions. Entries will be judged on the quality of content, design and editing.

## 70. GREAT PLAINS STUDENT MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR

Include up to three editions. Entries will be judged on the quality of content, design and editing.

## 71. GREAT PLAINS STUDENT WEBSITE OF THE YEAR

Include link to home page and three to five links to individual pages.

## 72. GREAT PLAINS STUDENT BROADCASTER OF THE YEAR

Include three to five segments from any student broadcast. No more than three to five minutes each. Winner of this category is eligible for a \$2,000 scholarship.

## 73. GREAT PLAINS STUDENT BROADCAST OF THE YEAR

Submit URL to one entire newscast or show, with the air date. Specify if the show is daily or weekly, live or taped. Please remove commercials. 60-minute maximum.