

# SPJ Louisville Metro Journalism Awards: Recognizing 2024

## CATEGORIES

### Journalist of the Year

The Society of Professional Journalists Louisville Pro Chapter **Journalist of the Year Award** recognizes excellence in reporting and storytelling that had a significant impact on the Louisville area or Kentucky at large. Judging will be based on originality, impact, quality and initiative of the work.

An entry consists of up to three examples of original reporting published or aired during 2024 that exemplifies excellence and has a strong community impact component. If your primary entry is part of a package or series, up to two additional supporting items can be submitted to provide additional context. All entries must include a 'Statement of Impact,' no more than 400 words, that outlines how the submitted work made a significant impact on the community.

### Rookie of the Year

The Society of Professional Journalists Louisville Pro Chapter **Rookie of the Year Award** recognizes excellence in reporting and storytelling for a journalist with less than two years of professional experience. Judging will be based on originality, impact, quality and initiative of the work.

An entry consists of up to three examples of original reporting published or aired during 2023 that exemplifies excellence and has a strong community impact component. If your primary entry is part of a package or series, up to two additional supporting items can be submitted to provide additional context. All entries must include a 'Statement of Impact,' no more than 400 words, that outlines how the submitted work made a significant impact on the community.

### A-Mark Prize for Journalism and Investigative Reporting

An article, series or package that is well-researched and brings an important issue to light. Submissions should be grounded in strong journalistic principles, such as accuracy, fairness and accountability.

Entries may be published on any platform (newspaper, broadcast, magazine or online) but must have a Kentucky connection. A "Kentucky connection" means one or more of the following:

- (1) The reporter is based in Kentucky.
- (2) The newspaper or media outlet is based in Kentucky.
- (3) The work covers Kentucky.

### Print/Online

*Previously known as “Metro Louisville division” this division is cross-platform and open to any media organization or freelance journalist(s) in the metro area. Any work published in the Louisville or surrounding regional area can be entered.*

**Best Kentucky Derby story:** Submit one example of original reporting on coverage of or leading up to the Kentucky Derby. Sidebars, videos and use of social media may be included.

**Continuing Coverage:** Submit up to three examples of original continuous reporting of a single topic.

**Enterprise / Investigative reporting:** An article, series or package that demonstrates considerable in-depth reporting. Please submit no more than three examples.

**Business/technology reporting:** Submit up to three examples of original reporting of business, finance, economics or consumer issues.

**Government / Politics reporting:** Submit up to three examples of original reporting of local, state or national governments and/or political issues, coverage or trends.

**Crime / courts / criminal justice reporting:** Submit up to three examples of original reporting focused on crime, courts and criminal justice.

**Education reporting:** Submit up to three examples of original reporting related to education trends or issues.

**Health reporting:** Submit up to three examples of original reporting related to health trends or issues.

**Social Justice Reporting:** Submit up to three examples of original reporting related to minority, women’s affairs or environmental trends or issues.

**Personality / profile writing:** Submit up to three examples of original writing on portraits of people.

**Feature writing:** Submit up to three examples of original reporting of events or subjects that would not be considered “hard news.”

**Column writing:** Submit up to three examples of original writing where the author expresses their observations or opinions on a subject of interest. Critical reviews of products, services or experiences are included in this category.

**Editorial writing:** Submit up to three examples of original writing expressing an opinion on issues or concerns to the community.

**Sports reporting:** Submit up to three examples of original reporting of sporting events, issues or sport personalities.

**Sports feature writing:** Submit up to three examples of original reporting of sports events or subjects that would not be considered “hard news.”

**Sports column writing:** Submit up to three examples of original writing where the author expresses his/her observations or opinions on a subject of interest

**Best Special Section:** Best design and content of a special section (a once-yearly publication or standalone publication covering a single event).

## **VISUAL**

**General News photography:** A single image of a scheduled or organized event or spot news.

**Feature photography:** A single image of a found situation with strong human interest; a fresh view of an everyday scene

**Sports Action photography:** A single image showcasing action of a game or athletic event

**Sports Feature photography:** A single image that does not include action but has a strong human interest and shows a fresh view of an event

**Best picture story:** A collection of photos with a single theme. Up to 10 images.

**Best video (non-broadcast):** A piece that may consist of still photos and audio or video and requires no user interaction other than start/stop. Maximum of two entries per contestant.

**Web graphics/use of data:** Submit original website graphics that use data.

**Page graphics/illustrations:** Illustrations or graphics on a printed page, including data tables, charts, editorial cartoons and others.

**Page Design:** Best overall design for a news, business or sports pages.

## Broadcast

*This division is specific to broadcast media, and only the broadcast version of the journalism will be judged. Any work aired on Television or on Radio in the Louisville area can be entered. Note: video entries are best uploaded for judging via YouTube links*

**Best Kentucky Derby story:** Submit one example of original reporting on coverage of or leading up to the Kentucky Derby. Social media may be included.

**General/spot news reporting:** Submit up to three examples of original on-air reporting of an event.

**Government / politics reporting:** Submit up to three examples of original reporting of local, state or national governments and/or coverage of political issues.

**Crime / courts / criminal justice reporting:** Submit up to three examples of original reporting focused on crime, courts and criminal justice.

**Enterprise / Investigative reporting:** A series or package that demonstrates considerable in-depth reporting. Please submit no more than three pieces.

**Business / technology reporting:** Submit up to three examples of original reporting of business, finance, economics or consumer issues.

**Public Affairs reporting:** Submit up to three examples of original reporting that covers minority or women's affairs, health care, education, environmental or service issues.

**Feature reporting:** Submit up to three examples of original reporting of a human interest or profile subject that is not spot news or investigations, but in which the topic is light-hearted, quirky or serious.

**Best Continuing Coverage / series reporting:** Submit up to three examples of original reporting of a single topic. May be hard news or features.

**Sports reporting:** Submit up to three examples of original reporting and videography of sporting events, issues or sport personalities.

### BROADCAST VISUAL

**General news videography:** Video from a scheduled or organized event or spot news shot and edited within 24 hours.

**Feature videography:** Video from a story situation with strong human interest; or a fresh view of an everyday scene.

**Sports Action videography:** Video showcasing action of a game or athletic event.

**In-depth/Investigative videography:** Video stories in which a photojournalist puts considerable time and effort into planning or production. These entries are linked to issue or investigative reporting.

**Natpackage/Video Essay:** Video stories in which a photojournalist uses natural sound (no reporter track) to tell a story.

**Newscast:** Submit two regularly scheduled newscasts in their entirety. All commercial breaks must be edited out.

## Student

*Any work published by a college or high school student in the Louisville or Kentuckiana area can be entered.*

**Best News story:** Submit one example of original reporting on a hard news event.

**Best Enterprise / Investigative reporting:** An article, series or package that demonstrates considerable in- depth reporting. Please submit no more than three examples.

**Public Affairs reporting:** Submit up to three examples of original reporting that covers minority or women's affairs, health care, education, environmental or service issues.

**Government / politics reporting:** Submit up to three examples of original reporting that covers student government, local and/or coverage of political issues.

**Feature writing:** Submit up to three examples of original reporting of events or subjects that would not be considered "hard news."

**Column writing:** Submit up to three examples of original writing where the author expresses his/her observations or opinions on a subject of interest, including news or sports or reviews.

**Sports writing:** Submit up to three examples of original reporting of sporting events, issues or sport personalities.

**Editorial writing:** Submit up to three examples of original writing expressing an opinion on issues or concerns to the community.

**News/feature photography:** Submit one single image. Category includes general news, feature or breaking news photography.

**Sports photography:** A single image showcasing action of a game or athletic event

**Best picture story:** A collection of photos with a single theme. Up to 10 images.

**Best video (non-broadcast):** A piece that may consist of still photos and audio or video and requires no user interaction other than start/stop. Maximum of two entries per contestant.

**Best Special Section:** Best design and content of a special section (a once-yearly publication or standalone publication covering a single event).

**Page graphics/use of data:** Illustrations or graphics on a printed page, including data tables, charts, editorial cartoons and others.

**Web graphics/use of data:** Submit up to three examples of original reporting or storytelling that was significantly improved by the use of data.

**Page Design:** Best news, business, sports or features page design.