

2026 WNSA BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST PHOTOGRAPHY DIVISION

- Submit a PDF of the full published page where the photo(s) appeared.
- **Title each entry with its photo caption;** if not specifically captioned on the page, provide a description of the photo (photo subject and/or location on the page) in the **Comments Field** to allow judges to find the appropriate photo(s).
- **For all files larger than 20MB,** save the file as a reduced size PDF to get it under the limit. If the file is still too large (multi-item entries, for example) upload the files to a third-party site such as Issuu.com, Google Drive, etc. Enter the third-party URL into the appropriate field when submitting your entry to the Better Newspaper Contest site. Please select **“allow download”** from the third-party site so judges may download the photo for viewing.
- **Eligible photos** must be the property of the sponsoring newspaper or, in the case of a freelancer’s work the paper must have limited reproduction rights. **Photos must have been published in print.**
- All photo entries may be black & white OR color (no separate BW photo category)
- An entry consists of a single photo (except Photo Essays and Photographer of the Year).
- May submit up to five entries per person per category (except Photographer of the Year)
- Submit one entry per person for **Photographer of the Year** category.
- Any photo published in a **Photo Essay** may be submitted in one additional category.
- Any photo entered for **“Photographer of the Year”** may be submitted in one additional category.
- Judges will consider news value or human-interest value, originality, imagination and technical quality, and any additional criteria mentioned in the category description.

#401: Photo Essay

An entry must consist of three or more photos used together to tell a story. Overall impact, appeal, balance, lighting, technique and quality of work will be considered in the judging. Any photo published in a Photo Essay may be submitted in one additional category. Color or B/W photo essays eligible. Online photo essays are entered in the Digital division.

#402: Breaking News Photo

The photographs for this category should be of unscheduled events for which no advance planning was possible, such as accidents, fires, natural disasters or other events. Color or B/W photos eligible.

#403: General News Photo

Photos should cover events for which advanced planning was possible. Examples include, but are not limited to, courtrooms, funerals, campaigns, protests, construction projects, etc. Color or B/W photos eligible.

#404: Feature Photo

Soft-news photos of the lighter side of life. Entry may be B/W or color.

#405: Portrait Photo

Portraits of people and/or animals. Entry may be B/W or color.

#406: Pictorial Photo

Scenery, plants, and images of abstract graphic appeal. Entry may be B/W or color.

#407: Sports Action Photo

Judges will consider capturing the sports active moment in addition to basic photo judging criteria. Entry may be B/W or color.

#408: Sports Feature Photo

This category is for sports images that are not of a peak-action nature. Includes feature photos of athletes, emotional reactions, or events that take place away from the games. Includes fan-related and human-interest shots related to sports. Winning photos will move beyond the standard approach to seeing sports. Entry may be B/W or color.

#409: Photographer of the Year

Enter your **ten** best photographs in a single portfolio; color and/or B/W. You may supplement your entry to include PDF pages with a single photo entry on each page. **Only one PDF upload permitted.**

INSTRUCTIONS:

Each photo entry in the portfolio must be submitted as a PDF of the full published page, and all pages compiled in a **single PDF entry**. If the final PDF file is larger than 20MB, save the file as a reduced size PDF to get it under the limit. If the PDF still exceeds the size limit, upload the PDF to a third-party site such as Issuu.com, Google Drive, Etc. Make sure the link is open to all who have the link. Enter the third-party URL into the appropriate field when submitting your entry on the Better Newspaper site. Please select "allow download" from the third-party site so judges may download your pages for viewing.

One entry per person. Any photo submitted as part of this portfolio may be submitted in one additional photography category.

NOTE: Use the **Comments Field** to title each photo entry with its photo caption; if not specifically captioned on the page, provide a description of the photo (photo subject and/or location on the page) to facilitate judging. Open competition across all circulation groups.