



Radio Categories & Criteria

Best Local Talk Show

Must be a locally produced talk show airing as part of regular programming. The show must focus on a specific local or Texas issue, not reaction to a national/international issue with no connection to Texas. Can be edited.

Time Limit: 10 minutes

Breaking News

This category requires overall station entries. It may be a compilation or several stories relating to a single, unplanned news event. Must include sound from the scene but does not have to be live sound. Judging will include reporter's handling of story, ad-lib ability and delivery.

Time Limit: 5 minutes

Continuing Coverage

Ongoing coverage of a single story, more along the lines of hard news or breaking news. This is NOT a category for series involving human interest, lifestyle, or entertainment.

Time Limit: 10 minutes

Documentary

Editing for time is allowed. Any paperwork that helps to explain the scope of the project should be attached. Must be a study of a single subject or related subjects, with the documentary presented outside a regularly scheduled news program. The entry will be judged on writing, production and presentation.

Time Limit: 15 minutes

Election Results Coverage

Coverage of Texas candidates, campaign issues, and voting issues leading up to and including election night. Post election coverage also allowed.

Time Limit: 15 minutes

Feature (Light)

Must be a single light or humorous story. The entry will be judged on creativity, writing, production and presentation.

Time Limit: 7 minutes

Feature (Serious)

Must be a single story. The entry will be judged on creativity, writing, production and presentation.

Time Limit: 7 minutes

General Assignment

Any general assignment story, sports, medical, business, etc.

Time Limit: 10 minutes



Investigative Report

May include a single story or series of stories, which show initiative and in-depth research. A written presentation is required and may include what prompted the story, a chronology of the investigation, copies of records and documents obtained for the report, the effect of the story on the local community and/or summary of follow-up stories.

Judges will consider the written presentation and impact of the story on the local community along with the production values and quality of the storytelling.

Time Limit: 10 minutes

Multimedia / Digital Storytelling

Entry should display excellent use of multiple platforms to tell a single story on your broadcast, website or social media outlets. Please provide appropriate links or screenshots. Entry should represent covering a major news event, investigative project or feature subject. Entry should demonstrate a creative and effective use of graphics, audio, video, still photography and interactives.

Time Limit: 15 minutes

News Anchor / Anchor Team

Must feature compiled reports from an individual anchor or anchor team. Entry should include examples of ability to ad-lib around breaking news events, and handle regular news reports, features, etc. This is a compilation of work.

Time Limit: 5 minutes

Newscast

Please include the date/time of the newscasts (6 PM, 10 PM, etc.).

Time Limit: 10 minutes

Original Digital Content

This award recognizes the best content produced exclusively for digital platforms. Entries could include but are not limited to livestreams and podcasts.

Time Limit: 10 minutes.

Political Issues Coverage

Recognizes outstanding reporting and storytelling that explores the complexities of political issues affecting Texas communities. This category celebrates broadcast news segments that demonstrate journalistic integrity, depth of research, and impactful narratives.

Time Limit: 15 minutes

Reporter

This individual award recognizes a reporter's ability to cover a variety of assignments. The entry should include three to five examples of a reporter's work and be written, edited and produced by a full-time reporter in the news department.

Time Limit: 5 minutes



Specialty / Beat Reporting

Entries must include a body of work, minimum of three stories on the same subject matter or beat. Each story must be on a different topic but can be on the same beat (for example: reporting on farm/agriculture, courthouse, sports, etc).

Time Limit: 10 minutes

Sports Play-by-Play

Sports Play-by-Play originated by a local station. The entry must come from a single event and must be unedited, except for commercial removal.

Time Limit: 10 minutes

Sportscast

Editing for time is allowed. Please include the date/time of the sportscast (6 p.m., 10 p.m., etc.). Entry dates will be at the choice of the station.

Time Limit: 10 minutes

Sports Story / Series

Single story or multi-part series pertaining to sports.

Time Limit: 5 minutes

Sports Talk Show

Must be a sports talk show produced by the station and airing as part of regular programming. The show must focus on a specific team or Texas teams in general, not reaction to a national sports story with no connection to Texas. Can be edited.

Time Limit: 20 minutes

Use of Actuality-Production

Entries will be judged on quality of actuality, use of natural sound, creative editing, writing and production technique.

Time Limit: 5 minutes



Radio Overall Texas Broadcast Excellence

Overall Excellence - Radio

- One station in each group (Radio-Large; Radio-Other) will be recognized for Overall Texas Excellence.
- No separate compilation package is required.
- There's no separate fee to enter for Overall consideration.

To be considered for Overall Excellence, you must have an existing entry in five of the following categories

1. Investigative Report
2. Newscast
3. Continuing Coverage
4. Breaking News
5. Use of Actuality-Production
6. Sports Story or Series
7. Sportscast

Instructions on how to submit your Overall Excellence Entries

- In the platform:
 - Create a new entry
 - Choose Division: Overall Awards
 - Choose Category: Select your category (only one entry per qualified category may be entered)
 - Re-enter your chosen entry
- Repeat these steps until you have submitted five (5) entries for Overall Excellence



Carole Kneeland Award

Carole Kneeland Award

This award is given in memory of longtime Texas journalist [Carole Kneeland](#). Kneeland died in 1998 after a lengthy battle with cancer. At the time of her death, she was Vice President/News at KVUE-TV Austin.

Entries should focus on one story or a series of stories on one issue that was explored utilizing the Texas Public Information Act or Freedom of Information Act.

The reporting should note the information to which the public has or doesn't have access; legal action taken by the entrant in the interest of the public's right to know; and/or a continuing effort by the entrant on behalf of Freedom of Information issues.

The story or stories should or will lead to a change in public policy and/or enactment of new laws as a result. An entry should consist of no more than five (5) exhibits, pertaining to a story (or stories).

The first exhibit should be a letter outlining the FOI effort for which the station seeks recognition.

The remaining exhibits should support the information in the letter. The additional exhibits may include:

- (1) story and/or commentaries aired concerning the issue
- (2) court records or other documents such as TPIA or FOIA requests supporting the entrant's pursuit of the FOI issue.

NOTE: There will only be one first place winner awarded for all TV and Radio station groups combined.

Entry Fee: None

Time Limit: None

Steve Pieringer Award for Outstanding Valor in News Coverage

Steve Pieringer Award

The Steve Pieringer Award recognizes outstanding valor in the coverage of news.

Pieringer, a KRLD Dallas-Fort Worth reporter, died from injuries he received covering a gasoline storage tank explosion in 1968.

The award is given for an exemplary display of reporting above and beyond the normal call of duty and is only awarded if the review committee feels a nomination has merit.

NOTE: There will only be one first place winner awarded for all TV and Radio station groups combined.

Entry Fee: None

Time Limit: None