



Television Categories & Criteria

Breaking News

This category requires overall station entries (as opposed to individual entries from reporter-photographer teams). It may be several stories aired in tandem (compilation) relating to a single, unplanned news event.

Time limit: 20 minutes

Continuing Coverage

Ongoing coverage of a single topic over the course of a series of time longer than 24 hours. Editing for time is allowed.

Time Limit: 15 minutes

Deadline Editing / General News

May include daily news, features, series, or specials. Entry must have been broadcast within 24 hours of newsgathering. The story must have been edited by one person. No re-editing of stories is allowed.

Time Limit: 7 minutes

Documentary / TV Special

Must air outside a regularly scheduled newscast/sportscast/weathercast. Doesn't include any daily news content. Editing for time is allowed.

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

Evening Newscast

Must air between (4 PM-12 AM). Please include the time of newscasts. Entry dates will be at the choice of the station. Editing for time is allowed.

Time Limit: 20 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



Feature Editing / General News

May include natural sound packages, music pieces, etc. All special effects are allowed. The stories will be judged based upon how the addition of those effects enhance the final package. The story must have been edited by one person. No re-editing of stories is allowed.

Time Limit: 7 minutes

General Assignment

May be any general assignment story, sports, medical, business, etc.

Time Limit: 7 minutes

Individual Photojournalism

The category requires a portfolio of photographic work by an individual.

Time Limit: 15 minutes

Investigative Report

May include a single story or one part of a series 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 a 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 story telling.

Time Limit: 10 minutes

Morning / Mid-Day Newscast

Must air between (4:30 AM-1 PM). Please include the time of newscasts. Entry dates will be at the choice of the station. Editing for time is allowed.

Time Limit: 20 minutes

Multimedia / Digital Storytelling

Excellent use of multiple platforms to tell a story. Any specific spot news/topic/feature/unique content on your website. Please provide that link to your website, which should be archived to include any supporting materials mentioned below. Entry should represent a robust multimedia approach to storytelling and/or utility in covering a major news event, investigative project or feature subject. Entry should demonstrate a creative and effective use of a range of appropriate multimedia tools such as text, graphics, audio, video, still photography and interactivity that combine to produce a smart, high-impact package. Video not required.

Time Limit: 15 minutes

Multimedia Journalist

Recognizing those who write, shoot and edit their own stories.

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, as well as to handle regular news reports, features, etc. This is a compilation of work.

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 at least three to five examples of a reporter's work, including at least one live report and one feature.

Time Limit: 15 minutes

Specialty / Beat Reporting

Entries must include body of work, minimum of 3 stories on the same subject matter or beat. Each story must be on a different topic.

Time Limit: 15 minutes

Sports 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 sports events, as well as to handle regular sports reports, features, etc. This is a compilation of work.

Time Limit: 10 minutes

Sportscast

Editing for time is allowed. Please include the time of the sportscasts. Entry dates will be at the choice of the station.

Time Limit: 10 minutes

Sports Reporter

This individual award recognizes a reporter's ability to cover a variety of assignments within the sports beat. The entry should include at least three to five examples of a reporter's work, including at least one live report and one feature.

Time Limit: 10 minutes



Sports Special

Editing for time is allowed. Any extended coverage beyond a routine sportscast. It may fall within a scheduled newscast.

Time Limit: 15 minutes

Sports Story

Must be a single story, spot sports news item or feature. The entry will be judged on writing, creativity and presentation.

Time Limit: 10 minutes

Station Photojournalism

Entry must show the skill and depth of a station's photography staff. The entry may be produced and narrated.

Time Limit: 15 minutes

Weather Anchor

Must feature compiled weather reports from an individual. Entry should include examples of ability to detail current and upcoming weather conditions, explain the science behind them, as well as to ad-lib around breaking weather coverage. Can include feature weather or serious weather-related reporting.

Time Limit: 10 minutes

Weathercast / Best Weather Coverage

Please include the time of the weathercasts. Entry dates will be at the choice of the station.

Time Limit: 10 minutes



TV Overall Texas Broadcast Excellence

Overall Excellence – Television

- One station in each group (TV-Large, Medium and Small) 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. Station Photojournalism
6. Multimedia Storytelling
7. General Assignment

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