

What is the Association of Food Journalists Awards Competition?

Started in 1986, AFJ's awards competition is the oldest still-functioning contest for food journalists. It's one of only a few contests honoring the work of food journalists.

Who is eligible to enter?

Anyone who produced a piece of journalistic work centered on food – a story, column, review, section, special project, video, etc. – in the previous calendar year at a qualifying publication can enter their work in one of the contest's categories. Aside from the Spanish-language story category, the work has to have been published in English, whether in the United States or another country. Membership in AFJ is not a requirement.

Can students enter?

Yes. Students enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate degree-granting program or culinary school at the time the work was published can enter the contest. There is no fee for entry in the student writing category. Students can enter in other categories but will have to pay the entry fee.

When are categories and rules announced?

The competition's Call for Entries typically is released in January. Rules are posted [here](#).

When are entries due?

Entries must be submitted (or postmarked, if mailed) by midnight EST on March 1.

What does it cost to enter?

The fee is \$45 (USD) *per entry* for AFJ members who have paid their 2018 dues prior to entering.

Food journalists employed at a publication where there is an AFJ member in good standing also may enter at the member rate.

AFJ members submitting multiple entries pay \$45 (USD) each for their first three entries; a fourth entry can be submitted free of charge.

Non-AFJ members pay \$55 (USD) per entry.

How can I join AFJ?

Just fill out the membership application form found [here](#) and submit payment. Memberships run from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31.

Who judges the entries?

Editors, writing coaches and other journalists from newspapers, magazines or online publications, as well as faculty from colleges and universities, judge the entries. Each category is assigned two judges.

Who oversees the contest?

The awards competition committee is responsible for producing the Call for Entries, updating categories and rules each year based on input from members; publicizing the contest within AFJ and outside; writing and distributing press releases listing the finalists and winners; and planning and emceeing the awards ceremony at the annual conference.

All hands-on contest duties — collecting and processing entries, securing judges, communicating with judges, tallying results, paying judges, etc. — are carried out exclusively and confidentially by AFJ's awards manager with financial transactions executed by AFJ's treasurer.

When are winners announced?

Finalists are announced in May. The places earned by each finalist -- first, second or third – are announced at AFJ's awards reception at its annual conference in the fall. The 2018 conference will be held Sept. 26-28 in Phoenix.

Are there prizes?

First-place winners earn \$300. All winners receive a certificate.

Whom do I contact with questions?

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