



CITIZEN AND STUDENT JOURNALISM CONTEST

ABOUT TIM GILL CENTER for PUBLIC MEDIA: Tim Gill Center for Public Media, or TGCPM, is a hub that represents the work of 21 partner organizations, all working to connect people, expertise and resources to create and distribute new content that tells stories that would otherwise go untold. Through TGCPM, residents have the opportunity to become invested citizens of our communities through the practice of storytelling in four different roadmap projects. These roadmap projects provide opportunities for citizens and students to become more engaged in our communities, develop skills in journalism and storytelling, and share their stories with a broader audience. The Citizen and Student Journalism Contest is the first joint project to be launched to the public.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION and GOALS: In partnership with community organizations, led by Rocky Mountain PBS and the Pikes Peak Library District, the Citizen and Student Journalism contest seeks to tell stories from our community that have not yet been told to a broader audience. The Contest provides citizen and student journalists opportunities to gain skills in storytelling and journalism, while providing our media partners with higher quality content from students and citizens to compliment the work being done by professional staff. In its first year, the contest will be open to residents in El Paso, Teller, and Pueblo Counties.

TIMELINE: Submissions are accepted September 9 - December 6, 2013. A panel of judges will evaluate submissions throughout the month of December. Winners will be announced at a reception on January 15 from 5-7pm at the Tim Gill Center for Public Media and winning entries will be published in January 2014.

CATEGORIES:

- 1.) Middle and High School
 - a. Audio/Video
 - b. Written Stories
 - c. Photojournalism

- 2.) College
 - a. Audio/Video
 - b. Written Stories
 - c. Photojournalism

- 3.) Community (*Individuals 18 years and older who are not currently enrolled in an educational institution*)
 - a. Audio/Video
 - b. Written Stories
 - c. Photojournalism

**Judges may award a special prize to best multi-media entry (i.e. submissions on one topic that include a written piece along with a photo, podcast and/or video).*

RULES: In conjunctions with this year's All Pikes Peak Reads theme of "My Voice - Our Future," the Contest is seeking submissions that illuminate the unique voices that make up our community. Share a story, a video, an audio podcast, or a photograph that highlights your unique perspective on our vibrant and growing community.

1.) Content Parameters:

- a. Videos and Audio Podcasts must be less than 6 minutes
- b. Written stories for print/online must be less than 1,000 words. Each written story may include up to two photos, graphics or illustrations (optional).
- c. Photo(s)
 - i. Photojournalists may submit up to 6 photos per entry and are encouraged to include a caption or short essay (up to 250 words) detailing the narrative and/or back story behind image(s).
 - ii. Where individuals can be easily identified, photojournalists should include full names of those featured in the photo listed from left to right
 - iii. Photos must have a minimum resolution of 300 dpi and submitted in jpeg

2.) Participants are allowed to submit multiple entries, but no more than three per category.

3.) Multi-media entries are encouraged (i.e. a written piece accompanied by a photo, podcast and/or video). Such entries may be eligible for a special award of \$500.

4.) Team submissions are welcome (i.e. submissions where multiple individuals contribute to the content submitted)

5.) Stories may not be advertisements or endorsements for a business or organization

6.) All entries must be produced or composed during the calendar year 2013

7.) Student submissions that have been previously published in student newspapers are welcome; however, we will not accept professionally published work

8.) Professional journalists/photojournalists currently working in the field are not eligible to participate

9.) Contest accepts animation and editorial cartoons. Animation can be submitted through audio/video category and editorial cartoons can be submitted through photojournalism

10.) Rules include the following disclaimer:

Those submitting entries accept that all information submitted can be used without payment by contest organizers and its affiliated/allied organizations. Such content includes all services and software displayed on, transmitted through, or used in connection with each submission,

including, for example, news articles, opinions, reviews, text, photographs, images, illustrations, audio clips, video, html, source and object code, software, data, and the like (collectively, the "Content"), as well as its selection and arrangement, is owned by contest organizers and its affiliated organizations. The Service is protected by copyright, trademark, and other intellectual property laws of the United States of America and applicable international intellectual property laws.

GUIDELINES FOR JUDGING:

- 1.) Accuracy of content:** Judges are looking for well-researched materials and authors that have taken the time to gain experience and skill about their respective topic(s).
- 2.) Relevance to our community:** Think of stories that are impacting local neighborhoods, an individual in the community who is making a difference, a struggling business owner who's been affected by the economy, etc. Thinking small and asking a lot of questions can lead you to a powerful story about the people in your community.
- 3.) Fairness:** Telling a powerful and effective story means providing a wide variety of perspectives on the topic. Stories should have a theme or message, but should be done so objectively and fairly in a factual and non-partisan way. Citizen and student journalists should include at least two living and breathing sources when applicable, with the intention of providing a variety of perspectives.
- 4.) Quality:** Judges are looking for high quality work. All printed stories should be edited with no grammatical or spelling errors. Filmmakers/videographers should pay special attention to lighting, video quality, and sound. Audio should be easily heard and clear.

PRIZES (\$9,500 total):

First Place: \$500

Second Place: \$350

Third Place: \$150

*Special multi-media prize: \$500

WINNING ENTRIES IN EACH CATEGORY WILL BE PUBLISHED BY ONE OR MORE OF THE CONTEST PARTNERS. OTHER SUBMISSIONS MAY BE PUBLISHED THROUGHOUT THE CONTEST AS THEY ARE RECEIVED.

CONTENT CREATION STATIONS:

Community libraries throughout the region will have Content Creation Stations available, loaded with video/audio editing software. PPLD can provide technical assistance if needed.

JUDGES: Judges represent our partner organizations and include professional journalists working in the field today.

PARTNERS:

Colorado Springs Independent
Colorado Springs Business Journal
Colorado Springs Gazette
Independent Film Society of Colorado
Colorado College
Rocky Mountain PBS

KRCC 91.5FM Radio Colorado College
University of Colorado, Colorado Springs
Pikes Peak Community College
Colorado High School Press Association
Pikes Peak Library District
Rocky Mountain Community Radio