

Rules 2019
(for work completed in 2018)
Outdoor Writers Association of California
2019 EXCELLENCE IN CRAFT AWARDS CONTEST

Contest Rules

1. The purpose of this contest is to judge and reward exceptional "outdoor" writing, reporting, broadcasting, photography, and digital communications produced by Outdoor Writers Association of California (OWAC) members. Entries with clear connection to the outdoors, outdoor recreation, wildlife, wild lands and other outdoor subjects are sought.
2. All entrants are required to read and adhere to the Contest Rules and sign entry forms indicating that they have done so. Failure to do so can disqualify the entry.
3. *Each entry must include two copies and have a completed entry form attached to each copy. Separate entries submitted on the same entry form are not eligible for judging.*
4. Entry fees will not be refunded. It is the entrant's responsibility to submit entries correctly.
5. The fee to submit entries in all categories, except category 26, 27 and 28, is \$10. Checks are to be made payable to "OWAC". One check consolidating all paid entries can be submitted by an entrant.
6. There is no fee to submit an entry in categories 26, 27 and 28.
7. Categories 1 – 25 and 27 – 29 are open to all OWAC Regular members in good standing.
8. Category 26 is open to all Regular and Supporting members in good standing.
9. Entries must have been published, posted or broadcast during the 2018 calendar year.
10. With the exception of categories 9, 10 and 26, only one entry may be submitted per entrant in any given category. Two entries may be submitted in categories 9 and 10, and unlimited entries may be submitted in category 26.
11. Entries cannot be submitted in category 29. It will be chosen from the 1st place winners of categories 1 – 28.
12. Entries **must be postmarked** by February 15, 2019. Entries received with a postmark after that date will not be opened and will be discarded or, if a book, returned.
13. OWAC membership dues must be paid prior to entry and current in order to receive an award.
14. With the exception of category 26, entrants must have been paid for their work.
15. With the exception of categories 26 and 28, an entry in one category cannot be submitted in another category.
16. Members who are co-authors may submit different articles under their joint byline in the same category (one entry per co-author, per category), unless otherwise allowed or denied.
17. Categories will be judged by people who are highly experienced and respected journalists, photojournalists and broadcasters, *who may or may not be affiliated with OWAC*, and have no professional affiliation with any of the judged media. They may reside in or outside California.
18. Special awards (categories 26 - 29) are reviewed by the OWAC Awards Committee.
19. The authorship of entries in categories will be disguised from the judges.
20. OWAC Writer of the Year will be selected from entrants winning in categories 1 - 28.

Questions regarding this contest should be e-mailed to OWAC Awards Chairman Bob Semerau, Bob@Semerau.net, 949-466-3073

Entry Preparation

- Submit two copies of the published, posted or broadcast work:
 - Copy one must show name of medium, author's byline and date of publication/broadcast.
 - A second "Judge's Copy" must obscure the name of the author (such as cutting out or covering with piece of paper when copied to the best possible quality).
 - *The entry form prints one form complete with your name and a second form to attach to the judge's copy*

- Printouts from Internet sites are acceptable as the original work. It is not necessary to submit an original or clipping of the published work. Copies suffice if they are legible and clean. **Originals for photographs and layouts are best or superior, or submit high resolution print outs with the copies.** Xerox copies or poorly printed copies (bad color etc.) will not do the work justice and may affect the judges' perceptions.

- Photos entries and series must be submitted as .jpgs on a CD or flash drive as well. Each photo must be submitted on separate CD or flash drive with its own entry form if it is a single entry. If entering a series, all of the photos in the series should be on the disk. Include only the photos that have been printed. **Do not submit collections of photos for different awards on a single CD or flash drive.** Before mailing your entry, verify that the .jpg file on the CD or flash drive will open on a Windows operating system computer. If the entry does not open, judges are not obliged to contact the entrant to get a version that opens.

- For photo entries, photographs published in any medium (including those taken by lecturers and used in paid presentations) are acceptable.

- All writing entries must be submitted on 8 ½" x 11" paper, unless the format (such as calendars) makes this impossible. Tear sheets or clips (photocopies) of writing entries are acceptable, as long as they satisfy this size restriction and are legible. Please tape the copies down.

- For Newspaper and Magazine entries, judges will only take the quality of writing into consideration. Judges will not consider layouts and photos.

- For Outdoor Medium, Newsletter and Book entries, writing, photography and layout will be considered. This is where presentation will make a significant difference. Present originals for the judges if possible.

- For Outdoor Medium, the entire content of outdoor sections of the medium will be judged, not just the writing of the OWAC member. This is an award to the medium (e.g., newspaper, radio station, magazine, TV station, website, or other outdoor medium) for the overall excellence of its outdoor reporting. Therefore, representative samples of the entire medium must be submitted. The OWAC member will be recognized for having submitted the winning entry, but this is not an award to the submitting individual.

- For radio entries, submit radio show or features in an audio file on a CD or flash drive.
- For TV/video entries, submit entries in a video file on a DVD or flash drive.
- For newsletter entries, entrant should identify their role in publication as editor, writer, photographer, publisher, or multiple skills, as appropriate. Three separate issues unless it is only a bi-annual publication – then two.
- For book, a revised edition of a previously published book is acceptable, but it must be the first time the book in any edition has been entered in the OWAC contest. Two copies are required.
- For website or app, submit URL or link. Recognizing that website content changes regularly, it is not necessary to submit a screen capture of the site at a point in time during the judged calendar year, as long as the website was created or updated during that year.
- For web-only stories, submit printouts of entry, with same guidelines as for newspaper feature, as well as URL. For E-Books, provide a complete copy of the book on a CD or flash drive, along with the distribution URL and sales information.
- No entries, other than books, will be returned. The condition of returned books, due to shipping, cannot be guaranteed. As available, judge’s comments will be provided to entrants.

Send Entries To:

**OWAC Awards
c/o Bob Semerau
P.O. Box 50136
Oxnard, CA 93031**

E-mail: bob@semerau.com

Number of Awards to be Given

Unless the entries in each category are not meritorious, the minimum number of awards that will be given per category are as follows:

- 1 – 3 entries – 1 award
- 4 – 5 entries – 2 awards
- 6 – 10 entries – 3 awards
- 11 – 14 entries – 4 awards
- 15+ entries – 5 awards

Additional awards in any category can be given, if in the opinion of the judge/s, they are deserving of recognition. In such circumstance, awards should be given in succession of merit: e.g., second place, third place, fourth place, fifth place. Certificates of Merit may also be given to entries deserving of recognition, as determined by the judges.

There is no obligation that an award be presented, just because there were entries. Judges may elect to not award a prize or certificate in any category.

Categories and Descriptions

1. *Best Outdoor Medium* – An outdoor medium is the whole or any regularly scheduled section that is devoted to outdoor news and feature articles, submitted in any medium (print, online or broadcast). This is an award to the medium, not to a writer, though writers are encouraged to submit their media for consideration. **Best Outdoor Medium is considered to be one of OWAC's most prestigious awards.** Three examples of the entire outdoor medium or its specific section must be submitted.
2. *Best Outdoor News Article*- A news article is a straight-forward story, without spin and free of all faction, in which the reporter delivers factual, attributed information that is verifiable, submitted in any medium (print, online or broadcast).
3. *Best Outdoor Series* - A series of news articles connected by subject and numbered Part 1, Part 2, Part 3, etc., with thematic unity from start to finish and published consecutively, submitted in any medium (print, online or broadcast).
4. *Best Outdoor Newspaper Feature Story* - A newspaper feature is a story that covers a select issue, person or event in depth and usually focus on human-interest elements of a situation, adventure or event, published in a newspaper or on a newspaper website.
5. *Best Outdoor Newspaper Column* - A column is regular section of a newspaper or newspaper website that gives the writer's perspective or opinion, such as an essay or first-person report, often on an issue of the day. **Three separate examples of the column must be submitted** – this means different columns, printed on different days. Sending only three copies of the same column will result in disqualification.
6. *Best Outdoor Magazine Feature* - A magazine feature is an article that covers a selected issue, person or event in-depth and usually focuses on the human-interest elements of a situation, adventure or event, published in a magazine or on a magazine website.
7. *Best Outdoor Magazine Column* - A column is a piece of writing that gives the perspective or opinion, such as an essay or first-person report, usually on an issue of the day, published in a magazine or on a magazine website. Three separate examples of the column must be submitted - this means different columns, printed in different issues. Sending only three copies of the same column will result in disqualification.
8. *Best Outdoor Newsletter* - A newsletter is a report that is published at least three times a year and that contains news or information of interest to a specific group. Three examples of different editions must be submitted.
9. *Best Outdoor Book* - This award is specifically for non-fiction and fiction outdoor books other than guidebooks. It includes, such as: memoirs, novels, history, and photography books. Two copies of each entry must be submitted (to be returned by mail).

10. *Best Outdoor Guidebook* - A guidebook (includes travel and how-to books) provides details of a geographic area or a skill, often both, and is published with the intent to be the ultimate information source for that geographic area or skill. Two copies of each entry must be submitted (to be returned by mail).
11. *Best Outdoor Feature Photograph* - A feature photo covers a selected issue, person or place, and usually focuses on the human-interest elements of a situation, event or place.
12. *Best Outdoor Action Photograph* - An action photo captures a moment in time, a real-life event or adventure.
13. *Best Outdoor Photographic Series* - A series is a formal connection of photographs with thematic unity from start to finish and published as a single work. Not less than three, nor more than five photographs in a series can be submitted.
14. *Best Outdoor Radio Show Short Format* - A regularly broadcast or podcast feature covering the outdoors from 1- 5 minutes in length. **Three segments from different broadcasts must be submitted.**
15. *Best Outdoor Radio Show Medium Format* - A radio show is any broadcast of more than 10 minutes but less than one-half hour or longer in length. **Three segments from different broadcasts must be submitted.**
16. *Best Outdoor Radio Show* - A radio show is any broadcast of one-half hour or longer in length. **Three segments from different broadcasts must be submitted.**
17. *Best Outdoor Radio Feature* – A single radio feature is any broadcast or podcast of 1 to 10 minutes in length.
18. *Best Outdoor TV Show Segment*- A TV show segment is any broadcast of 1 to 15 minutes in length, regularly incorporated into a larger TV show. **Three segments from different broadcasts must be submitted.**
19. *Best Outdoor TV Show* - A TV show is any broadcast of 15 minutes or longer in length. **Three segments from different broadcasts must be submitted.**
20. *Best Outdoor TV Show Feature* - A TV show story or segment of less than 15 minutes broadcast once as part of a larger program.
21. *Best Outdoor Video Short* – A video short is any broadcast or Internet feature of one to five minutes in length.
22. *Best Outdoor Video Medium* – A video short is any broadcast or Internet feature of more than 5 minutes but less than 15 minutes in length.
23. *Best Outdoor Video Standard*– A video short is any broadcast or Internet feature of more than 15 minutes in length.
24. *Best Outdoor Internet Site* – An Internet site is any website, application software or mobile app, accessible through the World Wide Web. **The entire outdoor section of the site is**

judged. Note: Website entries should be for the entire website, not just a single page.

The submitter must have complete design, content management, imagery and maintenance authority – *the submitter does not need to have completed the technical programming*, can but does not have to, but he/she should be recognized as the manager of the site.

25. *Best Outdoor Internet Article* – An Internet article is an individual feature story, column or news report published solely on an Internet site.

26. *Best OWAC Conference-related Work* - Conference-related work is any work (print, web, photographic, video or broadcast) based on participation at any previous OWAC conference published or broadcast during 2017.

27. *Phil Ford Humor Award* - The Phil Ford Humor Award, named after OWAC charter member Phil Ford, honors work that exemplifies Phil's style of capturing the outdoor world with a wink and a grin.

28. *John Reginato Conservation Award* - The John Reginato Conservation Award is named after OWAC co-founder John Reginato and exemplifies his life-long passion to conserve fish, wildlife and other outdoor resources.

29. *OWAC Writer of the Year* – OWAC members cannot apply for this award. It is selected by the judges from winners of categories 1 – 28.

The Craft Awards Chair and Judges may move an entry to a category in which the entry is more appropriately suited. Judges may elect not to award in any category, regardless of number of entries. All decisions of the judges are final.

Good luck!