BEST IN BROADCASTING
CALL FOR ENTRIES
2026

May 22, 2026

Dear Idaho Broadcaster:

It is once again time to bring out your best to enter Idaho's Best in Broadcasting Awards. This year I hope you will be among those we honor for excellence in broadcasting. Remember, you cannot win if you do not enter.

All of your entries should have been on-air between May 21, 2025, and May 21, 2026—except the following:

News entries from radio and television will be required to enter one show in its entirety (please delete commercials*). **This year, if you plan to enter the "Best Local Newscast" category the day selected should be this year will be sent out later in May.***

The best anchor and best weather and sports segments in the Television division can be entered from any local newscast from May 21, 2025, to May 21, 2026**. These segments must be entered separately on the "Best in Media" website if you wish to enter.**

The following radio entries should be a 5-minute compilation of the best shows between May 21, 2025, and May 20, 2026.

- Best Personality (Non-Morning Show)
- Best Morning Radio Show
- Best Talk Show

ENTRY DEADLINE IS June 19, 2026. Entries will open May 25th on the Best in Media site (www.bestinmedia.com).

Material broadcast between May 21, 2025, and May 20, 2026, is eligible. Good luck to all of you. Questions? Call Lisa Owens at 345-3072 or email: isba@idahobroadcasters.org.

2026 "Best in Broadcasting" Awards Entry Process

As in the past, this year's awards will all be entered and judged electronically on the "Best in Media" website. www.bestinmedia.com. Please check and read carefully before starting the entry process.

QuickStart Guide: Note: This year, Best in Media has provided a QuickStart Guide that makes the entry process very easy. See link in email.

Entry Form: This years entry form will prompt you when and how to submit your media. Criteria for each category will also appear when you select the category

Videos: All videos must run from your YouTube account and be made public. Simply provide the URL on your entry form. Do not use a cloud storage account to stream any media.

Audio: Audio files need to be in mp3 format. You will be prompted on the form when and how to submit them to the site.

Images: Images can be either a jpeg or PNG file. You can also submit an image contained in a pdf file. You will be prompted on the form when and how to submit them to the site.

On-line: Online entries just require you to add the URL on the form. Again, the form will tell you how and when to do this.

Documents: Documents must be in a PDF format. You will be prompted on the form when and how to submit them to the site.

Other Information:

Create a new account: You must create a new account this year. You may use the same username / password from last year, but you need to create a new account for 2026. Using the link on the QuickStart Guide, create an account for 2026. You will be asked for your name, your email, and to create a username and password.

Emails going to Spam: Make sure that bestinmedia.com and cognitoforms.com are accepted by your email program.

Payments: Payments for entries will be made through Pay Pal. Make sure you have a Pay Pal account or a credit/debit card handy when you begin uploading your entries.

You may begin entering **May 25, 2026,** and entries will be open until **JUNE 19. NO EXTENSIONS**.

As mentioned above, Best in Media for 2026 has made the entry process very streamlined using the QuickStart guide linked here. As long as you follow the simple step-by-step process, it's simple and quick. Tech questions? Contact Tom Frazee at *tom@bestinmedia.com*

Competition General Information

Judging

Broadcasters from another state association will judge entries based on creativity, technical quality, execution, and overall effectiveness.

Judges will be asked to select a first, second and third place winner in each category entered, but are under no obligation to do so and may choose to award no prize in a category.

The decision of the judges will be final.

Liability

All materials submitted become the property of the Idaho State Broadcasters Association. The ISBA will not be financially responsible for any material submitted.

Entry Fees

The Best in Media site will request payment when you place your entries. Payments will be made via Pay Pal. Entries will not advance to judging without payment of entry fees. A separate entry fee will apply when the same commercial, promo, PSA, or program is entered in more than one category.

The following fees apply:

- **Members: First Entry Free for each station in each category.**
- **Each additional entry in each category—$10.00**
- **Non-Members: $40.00 per entry, Radio and TV**

Deadline

All entries must be completed on the website **no later than 5:00 P.M. June 19, 2026. NO EXCEPTIONS**

Submit entries to: www.bestinmedia.com

2026 "BEST IN BROADCASTING "AWARDS
GENERAL RULES AND INSTRUCTIONS

1. Only material produced and aired between May 21, 2025, and May 20, 2026, is eligible
2. Only Idaho FCC licensed broadcast stations are eligible to enter.
3. VIDEO ENTRIES: See instructions for entering, formats accepted and coding requirements on the Best in Media website and the last page of this publication.
4. AUDIO ENTRIES: MP3 formats only. See instructions on the Best in Media website and the last page of this publication.
5. Entries that are programmed for those who English is a second language are encouraged
6. All entries must contain only station-produced material (talent, scripts, art, etc.). Station music and sound effects libraries are permitted.
7. Subscription weather aids (satellite photos, radar reports, etc.) may be used as an enhancement to locally produced weather programs.
8. Talent used in entries must have actually performed in the station's studio or on location.
9. No announcements produced outside the station that contain only a locally produced "tag" will be accepted for judging.
10. Excerpts from syndicated programs and feature films are OK to use in program promotional announcements.
11. No maximum number of entries.
12. ENTRY FEE: First entry in each category free for ISBA members, $10.00 per entry thereafter, $40.00 per entry for non-members.

TV Station Categories

(No Maximum number of entries)

DIVISION A: NEWS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

1. Best Local Newscast (must be taken from designated day – TBD)
2. Best News Story (hard news)
3. Best News Story – multicultural (we encourage multicultural subjects and content)
4. Best Sports Story
5. Best News Weather Anchor or Meteorologist (5-minute compilation over opening & closing dates)
6. Best Investigative Report
7. Best Feature News Story
8. Best News Photographer (5-minute compilation over opening & closing dates)
9. Best Anchor (5-minute compilation over opening & closing dates)
10. Best Reporter (5-minute compilation over opening & closing dates)
11. Best talk-show or alternative program (non-news – 5-miunute compilation over opening & closing dates)

DIVISION B: LOCAL COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION

1. Best Commercial - Any Length
2. Best Public Service Announcement or Station Charitable Fundraiser message

DIVISION C: PROMOTION

1. Best Station Promotion
2. Best Station Website

Radio Station Categories

(No Maximum number of entries)

(Note: Entries that are programmed for those who English is a second language are encouraged)

DIVISION A: NEWS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

1. Best Local Newscast (Must be taken from designated day; TBD)
2. Best News Story – (may include sports, weather, etc.) (we encourage multicultural subjects and content)
3. Best Sports Play-By-Play (5 minutes) — Pick 1
4. Best Sports Talk (5 minutes)
5. Best Charitable Fundraiser
6. Best Podcast

DIVISION B: LOCAL COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION

1. Best Commercial - Any Length
2. Best Public Service Announcement or Station Charitable Fundraiser message

DIVISION C: PROMOTION

1. Best Personality — Non-Morning Show (5-minute compilation over opening & closing dates)
2. Best Morning Radio Show (5-minute compilation over opening & closing dates)
3. Best Talk Show (5-minute compilation over opening & closing dates)
4. Best Podcast