



ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION, RULES AND ELIGIBILITY

PURPOSE: To recognize outstanding achievements in television and allied media by conferring annual awards of merit in the Chapter's designated award region. The presentation of these awards is intended to be an incentive for the continued pursuit of excellence for those working in the television and media industry and to focus public attention on outstanding cultural, educational, technological, entertainment, news, informational programming and craft achievements in television and online.

ELIGIBILITY AREA: The Mid-America chapter includes the television markets primarily in Missouri, Arkansas and Illinois and surrounding DMAs: St. Louis, Kansas City, Little Rock, Springfield (MO), St. Joseph, Columbia-Jefferson City, Joplin-Pittsburg, Quincy-Hannibal-Keokuk, Ottumwa-Kirksville, Davenport-Rock Island-Moline. Paducah-Cape Girardeau-Harrisburg, Champaign-Springfield-Decatur, Fort Smith-Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, Jonesboro, Monroe-Eldorado and Shreveport (LA).

ELIGIBILITY PERIOD: Awards are presented for entries produced for the Mid-America chapter, and were broadcast or cablecast for the first time during the period from April 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017.

ELIGIBILITY: To be eligible, original entries must have been transmitted to the general public by a television station, a cable company, satellite, the Internet or other digital delivery medium. Digital is defined as multimedia projects that combine various forms of traditional media with social media and interactivity, as well as linear programming delivered online (over the Internet, via various mobile platforms). Eligibility is limited to digital and telecast/cablecast programming that was originally made available during the Chapter's eligibility year. Re-purposed material is not eligible unless it is determined to have been given a new and unique treatment.

Broadcast entries must have been intended to be of 'primary interest' to a regional audience, within the Chapter's designated awards area and must have had their first transmission in that awards area during the eligibility period. Entries must not have been available for viewing by more than 50% of the U.S. television homes during the eligibility year. Entries that are available to more than 50% of the U.S. television homes should be submitted to NATAS' national awards (see exceptions) on next page.

Broadband entries must have been intended for consumption and be 'of primary interest' to a regional audience, within the Chapter's designated awards area. It is advised that broadband content intended for a wider audience (a national audience) be submitted for consideration in The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences' national awards. (<http://www.emmyonline.org>)

Cablecast entries are deemed available for an entire market if the cable channel on which they appear is generally available to that market, regardless of the actual number of subscribers the cable channel may have in the market.

However, entries which are specifically designed exclusively for their local market may be accepted for regional judging, even if the retransmitting of the station's signal by cable systems make it available to more than 50% of the American television households. This may include regional newscasts or programs dealing with issues specifically related to the local community.

For entries/programs that have been syndicated and aired in regional markets other than Mid-America, the entrant(s) must provide a "carriage/distribution summary." The summary must indicate all markets that carried the show, how many runs it had, and the percentage of coverage.

EXCEPTIONS TO THE 50% RULE

1. Local station news coverage that may receive national exposure should be submitted to regional EMMY® Award competitions.
2. Entries are eligible for regional competition if the treatment was of a local community issue, with the content primarily intended for distribution in the Chapter's designated awards area. Works accepted for regional judging under this exception may not be submitted for national consideration.
3. A local program that later receives national distribution may compete in both regional and national awards competitions, but not in the same eligibility year.
4. Local segments that are eligible to participate as entries in national EMMY® Award competitions (i.e. News & Doc, Community & Public Service) may compete in both regional and national awards competitions under prevailing rules.



Program length commercials (infomercials) and closed circuit programs are not eligible.

Pornographic, violent, defamatory or offensive material is not accepted. The interpretation of the Awards Committee is final and absolute. Entries must be submitted as originally shown. There may not be any post-broadcast changes except as noted in the category descriptions.

No entry may be submitted to more than one Chapter's awards.

Different episodes from the same program or series can only be entered in one Chapter's awards.

Ineligible entries may be disqualified during any phase of the competition.

ORIGINAL MATERIAL: At least two-thirds of an entry must consist of original material, unless previously produced material has been given some unique and creative treatment that, in the opinion of the Chapter Awards Committee, results in an original program. Entrants must identify all non-original or sponsored material, including its location in the program. Re-purposed material is not eligible.

ENTRY QUOTA: In order to sustain a high level of award excellence, Chapters must continue to self-regulate their entries, making sure only the appropriate individuals are recognized. To maintain this consistency, there is a maximum quota of 10 eligible names allowed on each entry. Any name(s) added beyond this number will require written authorization from the primary responsible entrant detailing the additional job title and responsibility. Chapters would then have the option of accepting these additional entrants or not.

STUDENT PRODUCTIONS: Students are not considered peer professionals and as such, their regional student productions are not eligible for EMMY® award recognition. If material is produced as part of a class, for which school credit is received, they are considered a student. If they are paid or working on a project with other "professionals," and want to enter the Chapter's award competition, they cannot enter as a student, but instead must pay the appropriate entries fees as an active NATAS member (or non-member). The student is then prohibited from entering subsequent student production categories with other classmates. Student award recipients from any NATAS Chapters' high school or college competitions may not use the EMMY® name or replica of the EMMY® figure in any form of commercial advertising or promotion for their recognition.

COMPOSITES: A composite is defined as a sampling of two or more representative segments or elements that convey to a judging panel the scope, breadth, or range of an individual's talents or of coverage of a special event. The elements within a composite, unless otherwise noted, are to be "as aired" with no internal edits or post production work, such as music or special effects. Demo reels or montages are not allowed. One to two seconds of black between cuts, with no audio or slates must be added to separate segments within the composite. Unless otherwise noted, a straight lift from a long work may be included as an element of a composite, but there must be no editing of the lift. For program entries, composite may only contain content from one episode of the series, not multiple installments.

DOUBLE-DIPPING: To avoid any confusion, the basic formula for "double-dipping" is the following: An individual entrant can only be recognized once for the same job function, utilizing the same program content.

No single entry may be submitted in its entirety in more than one programming category. Exceptions are given for content that was part of a full newscast, or included as an excerpt in the "Overall Excellence," "News Excellence," "Community Service," and "Journalistic Enterprise" categories. To be eligible for this exception in the newscast categories, the same entrant cannot be listed on the newscast entry and then use the same material and enter in another programming category.

Craft persons, like writers, photographers, editors, etc., are allowed to enter in programming categories if they directly contributed to the content of the program or segment, and have the permission of the primary producer. If a craft person does enter as a producer in a program category, he or she, may enter the same content again in their respective craft category.



EXAMPLES:

- If a craft person is a writer/photographer, he or she could enter the program category as only the writer and then the photographer craft category.
- If a craft person is not an entrant on the program entry, he or she could enter either the writer or photographer category, using the same material since the craft person would have performed different job functions.
- If the craft person lists him or her self as both writer and photographer on the program entry, he or she is ineligible to enter either the writer or photographer craft categories. The craft person cannot enter either craft category using the dual job title since one category is only for writer and the other only for photographer.

No single entry may be submitted in its entirety in more than one programming category. Exceptions are given for content that was part of a full newscast, or included as an excerpt in the “Overall Excellence,” “News Excellence,” and “Community Service” categories. To be eligible for this exception in the newscast categories, the same entrant cannot be listed on the newscast entry and then use the same material and enter in another programming category.

EXAMPLE:

- An investigative reporter is listed on a newscast entry. Under this “double-dipping” rule, a portion of the newscast content could be entered in “Investigative Report,” but the same reporter cannot be listed since his or her name already appeared on the newscast entry.

No one may enter the same material in both news and program categories.

EXAMPLES:

- Your entry is a four-part series, *Saving the Bay*. Part one of the series is entered in the “Informational/Instructional” category. Part three cannot be entered in the “Environment” category.
- Your program is called *Community Weekly*, an on-going weekly series. Though it is basically a “Public Affairs” series, episode 204 may be about music, episode 216 about sports, while other episodes are more generic. Under our rules, episode 204 could be entered in an “Entertainment” category, while episode 216 could be in “Sports.” Episode 222 could stay in “Public Affairs.”

Content produced as both a multi-part news series and a full-length program may be entered only once, regardless of the amount of new material added.

EXAMPLE: An investigative team does a three-part series within a newscast on gun control. Once the three parts have aired, and the same material is re-purposed as a news or program special, the team would need to decide if they should enter the original series or the special, not both.

If you enter a full program or episode from a series in a programming category, you cannot also enter a segment from the same show in another program category.

LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH: Spanish-language entries may be entered and will be judged by a panel of Spanish-speaking, peer judges in a separate contest from English language. The scores produced by these two panels are not combined; instead the scores are interpreted separately for final “cut-off” evaluation.

Programs in languages other than English or Spanish may also be entered; however judging of these entries in their native language is subject to the availability of qualified, peer judges who speak the language of the entry. Therefore, NATAS requires that these entrants submit their entries with English subtitles or with English on a second audio channel.

MEMBERSHIP: Membership in The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences is not required to enter the EMMY® Awards.

JUDGING PROCEDURE: Entries made to this Chapter will be judged by panels assembled by other NATAS Chapters. These panels should be comprised of no fewer than 7 judges who shall be certified as peers. No more than 3 judges on a panel may be employed by the same station or company. Judges may not have a conflict of interest, which is described as having a direct involvement in the production of an entry, or having a personal relationship with a member of the production staff of an entry. Group ownership, by itself, does not necessarily create a conflict of interest.

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NON-COMPETITIVE JUDGING: Entries are judged against a standard of excellence and do not compete against each other. There may be one award, more than one award or no award given in each category. Any exceptions will be noted in the category description.

JUDGING REQUIREMENT: The success of the EMMY® Awards process depends on the willingness of qualified professionals to serve as judges. Peers in other NATAS Chapters are serving this Chapter's entrants.

This Chapter will judge other Chapter's entries. By entering, you agree to serve as a judge when asked.

All entries sent to judges for screening are deemed to be eligible by the Chapter whose work is being judged. For that reason, judges are required to score each entry regardless if they feel it has been placed in the wrong category or might have technical problems. Forms are available online should judges wish to challenge any entry. On challenge entries, judges are asked to score without bias, even if they believe an entry is not in an appropriate category.

INTENTIONAL FALSIFICATION: The entrant warrants that he/she/they are the party(ies) most responsible for the award-worthiness of the entry. The intentional falsification of production credits or entry credits may be the basis for disqualification.

ENTRY ERRORS AND OMISSIONS: The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences assumes no responsibility for the acts or omissions of those individuals or entities submitting entries pursuant to this notice. All submitting entities and/or individuals are advised to review submissions with respect to correct name credits and other information. NATAS shall accept all submissions that are not in conflict with any of its rules and regulations.

COPYRIGHT: Each entrant agrees that any form of analog and/or digital recording, whether it be film, tape recording, screenshot or supplemental printed material that is furnished to NATAS in connection with an entry may be retained by the National Academy for file, reference and archival purposes and may be viewed partially or in its entirety for judging purposes. All of, or portions of, said content may be used on or in connection with the awards ceremony, any broadcast/teletext and other exhibition, including internet; as well as with promotional announcements or activities for any of the foregoing. If required, the entrant is further responsible for approval and clearances to the appropriate parties for any use of this copyright content.

WHO RECEIVES THE AWARD? Producers, craft persons and other eligible entrants as listed on the entry form receive the EMMY® statuette, except where noted. To be eligible, each entrant must have significant, creative involvement in the actual production. Pre and post production involvement, including proposal/grant writing, research, fundraising, producing partnerships, etc., though necessary and of major importance is not substantial enough to be considered. They must verify in writing their "hands on" involvement in order to be listed on the entry.

You cannot be added to an awarded entry as an additional recipient, nor purchase a statuette past the Chapter's deadline. Others who work on a nominated or recognized entry may order production certificates or plaques. Individuals who did not receive a statuette, but were eligible for production certificates and/or plaques are not considered EMMY® recipients.

CRAFTS ACHIEVEMENT: In the Crafts Achievement Awards, those who actually perform a specific discipline receive the EMMY® statuette. Supervising or directing the work of others does not qualify for Crafts Achievement Awards, except for achievements in directing categories.

AWARD OWNERSHIP: EMMY® Awards are presented to individuals, not to their employers. It is the individual entrant's achievement that is being judged and recognized. Ownership of the EMMY® statuette is retained by the individuals and The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, even if an employer pays entry fees.

COMMEMORATIVE STATUETTES: Stations, studios and production companies may order a commemorative statuette for public display at their place of business (up to a maximum of three per awarded entry). The statuette is engraved the same as the actual EMMY® Award, with the word "commemorative" added on the rear of the statuette. No additional or special wording is allowed.

PROMOTION: All publicity, advertising or any written reference undertaken by nominees and award recipients to the EMMY® Awards, must clearly state that the awarded achievement is for a Mid-America Regional EMMY® Award. The word "Regional" must appear in these instances. The Recipient of a nomination or an EMMY® Award may refer in advertising and publicity to the fact that they have been honored only for one year after the recognition was bestowed. They may use a replica of the EMMY® statuette in such advertising. Individuals who significantly contributed to the production or craft but were not honored with a statuette cannot specifically advertise they are an EMMY® award recipient.



They can only state they worked on the recognized program. The statuette itself may not be reproduced or used in any other commercial manner without written permission from NATAS. A ® registration mark and the appropriate copyright notice: © NATAS/Television Academy must accompany any portrayal of the EMMY® statuette or moniker.

ENTRY PREPARATION AND REQUIREMENTS

The Mid-America Chapter requires all entrants to use the EMMY® Express Online system for membership, entry material and video upload. After submitting your entry information and uploading your video(s), a confirmation e-mail will be sent to you with links so you can return to the site as often as you like to make changes and verify data until the entry deadline.

Access EMMY® EXPRESS through the chapter's website or here: http://emmyexpress.com/entry_login.php?c=4

PAYMENTS: Membership and Entries are to be paid separately. Entrants may pay for entries & membership dues by PayPal account or check. Failure to pay correct entry fees in full on or before the deadline will result in disqualification of entry. There are no refunds in the case of disqualification or overpayment.

Members receive reduced entry fees but membership must be activated prior to entry to get the reduction.

SUBMITTING A CHECK FOR MULTIPLE ENTRIES Make all checks payable to NATAS – Mid-America. Multiple entries from an individual, station or company may be paid using a single check covering all entries. Include a list of all entries (title plus category number) to be covered by that check to ensure proper credit.

Individual checks should include the category and entry # on the check to ensure proper credit.

Returned checks will result in an additional \$50.00 fee that must be paid upon notification, or the entry will be disqualified without refund.

FEES

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP \$70 per person

Note: Membership is in the name of the individual, not the corporation or business.

MEMBER ENTRY FEE \$85 for first entrant name, \$65 for each additional member name, per entry

NON-MEMBER ENTRY FEE \$200 for first entrant name listed, \$175 additional names listed, per entry

CHANGES TO WORDING ON AN ENTRY AFTER DEADLINE: Entrants may make changes to their entries (examples include title changes, misspelled names, changes to entry title) up to the deadline. After deadline the NATAS office must make the changes. These are the fees:

- \$25 per entry ~ April 30 through May 31
- \$50 per entry ~ June 1 through July 19

Payments can be via Paypal or check.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AND MAIL TO:

NATAS Mid-America • 3655 Olive • St. Louis, MO 63108

All Payments are due April 21, 2017

EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES: If you miss the April 17 entry deadline, you may have until April 21 to enter your work, but it will cost a \$75 late fee PLUS the regular entry fees.

If extenuating circumstances result in a qualified name being omitted from an entry, the name may be added to entry after Nominations are announced provided these criteria are met: a letter detailing the circumstances must be emailed to the office by July 31 for special consideration. If approved the entry fee is \$500 per name.

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EMMY® AWARD SHIPPING CHARGE: If your entry is awarded an EMMY® statuette and you cannot attend the awards ceremony, please arrange for a colleague to pick up your statue at the Gala. Statuettes not picked up the night of the Gala will be charged a \$25.00 handling fee plus actual shipping charges for each.

VIDEO UPLOADING

VIDEO UPLOADING: Entrants are responsible for the technical quality of their videos.

REFERRED FILE FORMAT: MP4 using H.264 video codec and AAC audio codec

For best quality, encode your video at its original size.

- 1920x1080p or 1280x720p is recommended
- Your video should be at least 720x480

Do NOT letterbox your video

SUPPORTED FILE FORMATS

The system supports nearly any format for uploading including: MP4, WMV, MOV*, 3GP, AVI, FLV |
Some MOV files contain additional features like edit lists that often result in audio-video sync issues.

VIDEO ENCODING GUIDELINES

FILE SIZE: For ease in uploading, we recommend keeping file size at 500MB or less. However, the system will accept larger files and longer videos (over 15 minutes) may need to be larger to maintain quality. Reduce the bitrate and use two-pass encoding to help reduce file size. Remember, the larger the file, the longer it will take to upload your video.

VIDEO SCALE (DIMENSIONS): The video player will have a 480x360 video display area. Video width should not be smaller than 480. If the video is smaller in size, it will not be upscaled. Smaller videos will be centered within the player video area. Again, the recommendation is to upload the best possible quality using the same dimensions as your original video. The transcoding process will resize the video as needed for judging.

ASPECT RATIO: The player uses 4:3 aspect ratio. Do not letterbox 16x9 videos during the encoding process. The video player will automatically adjust for 16x9 videos.

FRAME RATE: The number of frames per second should not be less than 24. It is recommended that the frame rate be 29.97 or 30 frames per second to provide the best quality possible.

VIDEO BITRATE: Higher bitrates provide less compression and better quality but will result in larger file sizes. Two-pass video encoding can help reduce file size. Videos under 15 minutes can be encoded at 4000kbps or higher. For longer videos, you'll need to use a lower bitrate if you want to reduce the file size. It is recommended to not go below 1000kbps if possible.

Don't have encoding software? Download Handbrake or MPEG Streamclip for free.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT: <http://support.jwplayer.com/customer/portal/articles/1433634-preparing-videos-for-upload>.