

# SPECTRUM AWARDS

**FOR THE BEST IN BROADCASTING**

## RULES

1. The Spectrum Awards competition is open to all IBA Member and FCC-licensed radio and television stations in Indiana. All entries must have been produced and broadcast between August 1, 2025 to July 31, 2026.
2. All entries must be produced by the station. Entries may not be produced with outside advertising or production agency equipment, assistance or direction.
3. Entries are limited to three (3) per station in each category.
4. Each Award entry is \$20.
5. All entries are due by Friday, July 31, 2026 at 11:59PM

## MARKET DEFINITIONS

Market is defined by the size of the market your station serves. Simulcast stations can enter only in the largest market they serve.

| Radio      |   |
|------------|---|
| Market 1   | Indianapolis Metro Area, Evansville, Fort Wayne, South Bend |
| Market 2   | All Other Markets   |
| Television |   |
| Market 1   | Indianapolis Metro Area                                     |
| Market 2   | All Other Markets   |

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSIONS

After submitting payment for your entries on [IndianaBroadcasters.org](http://IndianaBroadcasters.org) you will be redirected to [RockOurAwards.com](http://RockOurAwards.com) to submit your entries.

Acceptable file types for entries include: .png, .gif, .jpg, .mp3, .mp4, .avi, .mov, .wmv, .doc and .pdf.

Video submissions must be submitted via link on YouTube or Vimeo. Videos must be available for download and viewing in order to be considered a valid entry.

**ALL ENTRIES ARE DUE  
 BY FRIDAY AT 11:59 PM**

★ **July 31, 2026** ★

## ADVICE FROM THE JUDGES

Content and presentation are being judged. Make sure to take the time to properly edit your entries.

Showing what you do for your communities is key to a winning entry.

Let the judges see what your station has accomplished by including images, video, and audio whenever possible.

Our judging team is from outside Indiana. Don't assume they understand the context for your entry. If your entry needs explanation, make sure you have a voice-over introduction or written introduction.

**If you have any questions or concerns please contact us via email:**

[admin@indianabroadcasters.org](mailto:admin@indianabroadcasters.org)



## RADIO CATEGORIES:

### 1. Radio Station of the Year

No submissions are required in this category. Station of the Year will be calculated on the following formula: One point is awarded for each category your station enters. If a station enters a given category the maximum of 3 times you will still only receive 1 point per category. Five points are awarded for each third-place result. Ten points are awarded for each second-place result. And each first-place result will be awarded fifteen points. In the event of a tie, the station with the most highest placing awards will be awarded Station of the Year. If a tie remains, the station who placed highest in the Local Community Impact will be awarded Station of the Year.

### 2. Best Radio Broadcast Personality or Team

Audio samples of on-air work from an individual or a group of people for news, entertainment, or sports - but not sports play-by-play. (Submissions should be no more than 5 minutes in length.)

### 3. Best Radio Newscast

The IBA will communicate a specified "Contest Day" so that all newscast submissions will be drawn from the same day during the week of June 14-20, 2026. Locally originated newscasts will be judged on presentation, production values, interest of stories presented and overall impact of the full newscast. Submissions must have previously aired on AM/FM radio. (Submissions should be no more than 5 minutes in length.)

### 4. Best Radio General News Story

Designed to honor the work of a general assignment reporter, this includes coverage of a single news story, gathered and aired in the same day. This category does not include spot news, investigative, or feature stories. Submissions must have previously aired on AM/FM radio. (Submissions should be no more than 5 minutes in length.)

### 5. Non-Commercial Public Radio Program of the Year

A stand-alone radio program, or a show produced by a non-commercial public radio station as part of an ongoing series. Evaluation will be based on creativity, imagination, substance, and production quality. Regularly scheduled newscasts are not eligible in this category. Submissions must have previously aired on AM/FM radio. (Submissions should be no more than 5 minutes in length.)

### 6. Best Radio Investigative Reporting

Coverage of a single story or series of stories that required in-depth, original research and discovers new findings to enhance the public's understanding of an issue or event. Submissions must have previously aired on AM/FM radio. (Submissions should be no more than 5 minutes in length.)

### 7. Best Radio Sports Show or Sports Story

This award recognizes excellence in sports broadcasting on terrestrial radio, focusing on presentation, production values, and the variety of stories presented. Submissions must have previously aired on AM/FM radio and showcase outstanding local sports coverage. (Submissions should be no more than 5 minutes in length.)

### 8. Best Local Radio Sports Play-by-Play Coverage

Honoring outstanding locally produced play-by-play coverage of sporting events, this award celebrates broadcasters who provide engaging, accurate, and compelling live game narration. Eligible entries must have previously aired on AM/FM radio. (Submissions should be no more than 5 minutes in length.)



## 9. Best Local Sports Play-by-Play Video Stream

NEW

Honoring outstanding locally produced video streaming of play-by-play coverage of sporting events, this award recognizes excellence in delivering engaging play-by-play with high-quality visual presentation. This award celebrates broadcasters who effectively extend their coverage beyond traditional radio by integrating live streaming video. Eligible entries may have been simulcasted with radio or produced specifically for video streaming and distributed via digital or video streaming platforms. (Submissions should be no more than 5 minutes in length.)

## 10. Best Radio Local Community Impact

This category involves only one subject and may be any public service announcement locally produced by the station, a public service activity coordinated by the station, or any form of gratis community outreach that is a public service of the station to serve its local community. Submit any recorded promos along with any supporting promotional materials such as photos of events or website link to highlight the station's involvement. (Submissions should be no more than 5 minutes in length and include written materials.)

## 11. Best Radio Station Digital Media Presence

Social media and station websites can be excellent ways for a station to further amplify its daily broadcasts, to strengthen connections with viewers and listeners. Entrants in this category should provide a video explaining how the station uses digital media. Submissions should also include a summary of analytics and results, links to successful posts and videos, and other elements that demonstrate how the station best uses digital media tools. Judges will evaluate audience engagement and station creativity on digital platforms. Content must be maintained by station personnel. (Submissions should be no more than 3 minutes in length.)

## 12. Best Individual Radio Commercial

A single station-produced commercial that persuades the listener to do or believe something about the client or product. This may be any commercial announcement written and produced by station personnel. May not include announcements produced with outside advertising or production agency assistance or direction. Submissions must have previously aired on AM/FM radio. (Submissions should be no more than 1 minute in length.)

## 13. Best Radio Advertising Campaign

Stations may submit edited audio (and video, if relevant) depicting a station-produced advertising campaign for a local client. Explanatory narratives should be no more than 150 words. Produced spots, live reads, digital media, remotes, and other supporting elements will be considered. Submissions must have previously aired on AM/FM radio. (Submissions should be no more than 5 minutes in length.)

## 14. Best Radio Election Coverage (May 2026)

Entries may include a single story or collection of stories related to coverage of local, state or national political races or issues during the campaign cycle. Content must have been generated to inform about the May 2026 primary. Submissions must have previously aired on AM/FM radio. (Submissions should be no more than 5 minutes in length.)

## 15. Signal of Freedom Award

NEW

Recognizing outstanding locally produced radio content that celebrates, reflects on, and honors the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United States through compelling storytelling, meaningful community engagement, and thoughtful historical perspective. Entries in this category should highlight creative approaches to commemorating America's semiquincentennial, including special programming, campaigns, or initiatives that connect audiences to the nation's history, values, and shared experiences while inspiring reflection on its future. (Submissions should be no more than 5 minutes in length.)



## TELEVISION CATEGORIES:

### 1. TV Station of the Year

No submissions are required in this category. Station of the Year will be calculated on the following formula: One point is awarded for each category your station enters. If a station enters a given category the maximum of 3 times you will still only receive 1 point per category. Five points are awarded for each third-place result. Ten points are awarded for each second-place result. And each first-place result will be awarded fifteen points. In the event of a tie, the station with the most highest placing awards will be awarded Station of the Year. If a tie remains, the station who placed highest in the Local Community Impact category will be awarded Station of the Year.

### 2. Best TV Newscast

The IBA will communicate a specified "Contest Day" so that all newscast submissions will be drawn from the same day during the week of June 14-20, 2026. Locally originated newscasts will be judged on presentation, production values, interest of stories presented and overall impact of the full newscast. (Submissions should be no more than 5 minutes in length.)

### 3. Best TV News Feature

A single report that aired in a newscast as relief or contrast to other news reporting, or a long form program. Criteria: Shot in Indiana on an Indiana subject; human interest subject portrayal, creative writing, entertainment value, effective use of medium with audio, video, and editing. (Submissions should be no more than 5 minutes in length.)

### 4. Non-Commercial Public Television Program of the Year

A stand-alone TV program, or one produced by a non-commercial station as part of an ongoing series. Evaluation will be based on creativity, imagination, substance, and production quality. Regularly scheduled newscasts or newscast series are not eligible in this category. (Submissions should be no more than 5 minutes in length.)

### 5. Best TV Investigative Reporting

Coverage of a single story or series of stories that required in-depth, original research and discovers new findings to enhance the public's understanding of an issue or event. (Submissions should be no more than 5 minutes in length.)

### 6. Multimedia Journalist of the Year

Recognizes the hard work of an individual who produces much of his or her own work. A compilation clip of 3-5 events showing applicant's best work should be submitted. Criteria include creativity, continuity, and technical production. Entries should not be the work of the station's investigative journalism unit. (Submissions should be no more than 5 minutes in length.)

### 7. Best TV Weather Coverage

A locally originated, regularly scheduled weather broadcast. Criteria includes: clear presentation of facts, delivery/communication skills, and effective use of available technology to enhance audience understanding. (Submissions should be no more than 5 minutes in length.)

### 8. Television Weathercaster of the Year

A composite of live work by a TV weather anchor. Entries should demonstrate the weathercaster's ability to present weather and give a clear, concise, on-the-air report. Judges will consider writing and language skills as well as production ability. (Submissions should be no more than 5 minutes in length.)



### 9. Best TV Sports Show

Recognizes excellence in a regularly scheduled local sports program, including Friday night high school broadcasts or Sunday night weekly wrap-ups. Entries are judged on presentation, production quality, and the range and variety of stories covered. (Submissions should be no more than 10 minutes in length.)

### 10. Best TV Local Community Impact

The category involves only one subject and may be any public service announcement locally produced by the station, a public service activity coordinated by the station, or any form of gratis community outreach that is a public service of the station to serve its local community. Submit recordings of any promos along with any supporting promotional materials such as photos of events or website to highlight the station's involvement. (Submissions should be no more than 5 minutes in length and include written materials.)

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