

CALL FOR ENTRIES



**Investigative Reporters and Editors, Inc.**

**IRE AWARDS 2008** **CALL FOR ENTRIES**

The annual contest of Investigative Reporters and Editors, Inc.

The contest recognizes the best in investigative reporting – by print, broadcast and online media.

Upon receipt, all entries are placed in IRE's Resource Center story library so IRE members may learn from others' triumphs and troubles.

The contest identifies techniques and resources used by the entrants.

**Postmark Deadline: Jan. 7, 2009**

**[www.ire.org/resourcecenter/contest](http://www.ire.org/resourcecenter/contest)**

CALL FOR ENTRIES



**DEADLINE FOR ENTERING THE IRE AWARDS:**

Entries must be postmarked by Jan. 7, 2009.

**ENTRY FEES: (MEMBERSHIP MUST BE CURRENT THROUGH FEB. 1, 2009)**

**PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY ENTRY. FEES ARE NOT REFUNDABLE.**

\$55 per entry for current IRE members

\$115 per entry for nonmembers (includes one-year IRE membership)

\$25 per entry for nonmember students (includes one-year IRE student membership)

Free for students who are current IRE members!

**CONTEST PERIOD:**

All work must have been published or aired between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2008.

**JUDGING CRITERIA:**

Entries will be judged on the basis of the IRE definition of investigative reporting. "The reporting, through one's own initiative and work product, of matters of importance to readers, viewers or listeners. In many cases, the subjects of the reporting wish the matters under scrutiny to remain undisclosed."

Thus, entries will be judged on the following criteria. They must:

- be substantially the product of the reporter's own initiative and effort
- uncover facts that someone or some agency may have tried to keep from public scrutiny
- be about issues of public importance to the readers, viewers or listeners

**AWARDS:**

Newspaper, TV and Other Media: An IRE Medal for Outstanding Investigative Reporting or an IRE Certificate of Recognition.

IRE FOI Award: An IRE Medal honoring an individual or organization whose actions further open records or open government.

Tom Renner Award: An IRE Medal for Outstanding Crime Reporting and \$500.

Student Award: An IRE Certificate of Recognition and a \$250 cash scholarship for Outstanding Investigative Reporting.

**NUMBER OF ENTRIES ALLOWED:**

There is no limit to the number of entries you may submit, or the number of stories you may submit per entry, except for the Tom Renner Award, where there is a limit of 10 stories.

**ENTRY LANGUAGE:**

We accept entries in languages other than English but **require three (3) complete copies of printed translations for each entry.**

**INTERNATIONAL ENTRIES:**

International entries will be placed into appropriate categories by IRE staff. Contest judges can then move entries into other categories. IRE can award a special citation for deserving international work.

**WHERE TO SEND ENTRIES:**

Return this form with your entry, completed in compliance with the rules, to: 2008 IRE Contest, 138 Neff Annex, Missouri School of Journalism, Columbia, MO 65211.

**DISQUALIFICATIONS:**

Entries disregarding these rules will be subject to disqualification. Work that included a significant role by a current member of the IRE Board of Directors or by an IRE Awards judge may not be entered.

**STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?**

Please check the Frequently Asked Questions online at [www.ire.org/resourcecenter/contest/ireawardsfaq.html](http://www.ire.org/resourcecenter/contest/ireawardsfaq.html) and if you still have questions call the Contest Coordinator at 573-882-6668 or e-mail [rescntr@ire.org](mailto:rescntr@ire.org) for assistance.

## ENTRY PREPARATION

**2008  
IRE  
AWARDS**

**Keep packets simple.** Excess packaging will be discarded. Please don't go to the extra work of putting your entry in a binder, notebook, etc., because it will be discarded before it reaches the judges.

**Each entry must include entry fee** and one electronic copy of completed questionnaire on a CD.

**Special note:** If entering multiple categories, you must submit a separate entry packet for each.

	<b>Payment</b> (Check or Credit Card; MUST accompany entry)	<b>Electronic Questionnaire</b> (on CD)	<b>Entry Packets</b>	<b>Other</b>
<b>Book</b>	\$55 member/\$115 nonmember	1	3 copies that include: • entry form • questionnaire • book	
<b>Online</b>	\$55 member/\$115 nonmember	1	3 copies that include: • entry form • questionnaire • printed copy of web pages (including URL)	Include web files on CD w/ electronic questionnaire
<b>Print</b>	\$55 member/\$115 nonmember	1	3 copies that include: • entry form • questionnaire • story(ies)*	PDF of story package if electronically prepared (included on CD w/ electronic questionnaire)
<b>Radio</b>	\$55 member/\$115 nonmember	1	3 copies that include: • entry form • questionnaire • story(ies) on CD • transcripts	
<b>Television</b>	\$55 member/\$115 nonmember	1	3 copies that include: • entry form • questionnaire • story(ies) on DVD • transcripts	

\* Preferred format: Three (3) printed copies of electronically prepared entry formatted for 11x17" paper (prepared in InDesign or similar program). Include PDF file of story package on CD with the electronic questionnaire. For 2008 IRE Awards, we will continue to accept stories cut and paste to 8.5x11" paper.

**NEWSPAPER CATEGORIES:** For outstanding investigative reporting at a daily or weekly newspaper. (Use highest one-day circulation of the week.)

**Categories are:** Circulation less than 100,000; Circulation of 100,000-250,000; Circulation of 250,000-500,000;

Circulation above 500,000 and Local-circulation weekly. (Wire service entries fall under the largest newspaper category.)

**For JOAs:** Please select the category based on highest single day circulation for when the story(ies) ran.

**TELEVISION CATEGORIES:** For outstanding investigative reporting by a television outlet.

**Categories are:** Network or syndicated program; Top 20 market; and Below Top 20 market.

\*International entries will be placed into appropriate categories by IRE staff. Contest judges can then move entries into other categories. IRE can award a special citation for deserving international work.

**OTHER MEDIA CATEGORIES:** For outstanding investigative reporting in other mediums such as Magazine/Specialty Publication, Book and Radio.

**ONLINE CATEGORY:** For outstanding investigative journalism which originated or was primarily published on the Internet.

### SPECIAL CATEGORIES:

**Tom Renner Award:** For the best investigative reporting, whether a single story or a lifetime body of work, in print, broadcast or book form, covering organized crime or other criminal acts. (Limited to 10 stories)

**IRE FOI Award:** Honors an individual or organization whose significant actions further open records or open government.

**Student Work:** Outstanding investigative reporting by a student in a college-affiliated newspaper, magazine or specialty publication (or while serving a print internship), or broadcast work that has been publicly reviewed, screened or aired.

**NOTE: JUDGES RESERVE THE RIGHT TO GIVE MORE THAN ONE AWARD IN A CATEGORY OR TO DECLARE NO WINNER IN A CATEGORY.**

## QUESTIONNAIRE

**2008**  
**IRE**  
**AWARDS**

Use another sheet (or sheets) to answer the following questions, using the numbering of each question on the form. **You must include an electronic copy of your answers on a CD or floppy disk.**

**An electronic version of this questionnaire is available online at:**

*[www.ire.org/contest/questionnaire.txt](http://www.ire.org/contest/questionnaire.txt)*

- 1. Title of story, collection of stories, or series and names of people who worked on this story.**
- 2. Date(s) published or aired.**
- 3. Topic and synopsis of story or series, including major findings.**
- 4. How the story got started (tip, assignment, etc.).**
- 5. Major types of documents used and if FOI requests were needed.** Did you have difficulties obtaining any electronic information you used? How did you resolve this? Did you use FOIA for data under state or federal law?
- 6. Major types of human sources used.**
- 7. Results (if any).**
- 8. Follow-up (if any).** Have you run a correction or clarification on the report or has anyone come forward to challenge its accuracy? If so, please explain.
- 9. Advice to other journalists planning a similar project.**
- 10. Difficulty, uniqueness of effort, or other special circumstances related to this subject.**
- 11. Length of time taken to report, write and edit the story.**
- 12. If you extensively used computer-assisted reporting skills, please answer the following:**
  - a. Did you extensively use any Internet sources? If so, please list address(es) and explain how the site(s) was useful.
  - b. Did you obtain or build any electronic databases? If you obtained data, what was its name and source? What was the cost? If you created your own database(s), what records did you use?
  - c. Did you have difficulties with the data itself? How did you overcome them?
  - d. Was any analysis done? If so, what?
  - e. Was data analysis done by your own staff or was outside assistance used? Who?
  - f. What specific software did you use?
  - g. Did this include mapping software?

**JUDGING WILL BE COMPLETED BY APRIL 2009.**

**WINNERS WILL BE NOTIFIED AND A LIST POSTED AT [WWW.IRE.ORG](http://WWW.IRE.ORG)**

QUESTIONNAIRE

# OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM



(CHECK ONE CATEGORY ONLY)

**FOR OUTSTANDING INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING IN:**

**NEWSPAPERS** Highest single day circ: \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_ Circulation less than 100,000
- \_\_\_\_ 100,000-250,000 circulation
- \_\_\_\_ 250,000-500,000 circulation
- \_\_\_\_ More than 500,000 circulation (or wire service)
- \_\_\_\_ Local-circulation weekly

**TELEVISION** Market size: \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_ Network or syndicated program
- \_\_\_\_ Top 20 market
- \_\_\_\_ Below Top 20 market

\*International entries will be placed into appropriate categories by IRE staff. Contest judges can then move entries into other categories. IRE can award a special citation for deserving international work.

**OTHER MEDIA**

- \_\_\_\_ Magazine/Specialty Publication
- \_\_\_\_ Book
- \_\_\_\_ Radio
- \_\_\_\_ Online

**SPECIAL CATEGORIES:**

- \_\_\_\_ Tom Renner Award (any medium, any size)
- \_\_\_\_ IRE FOI Award (any medium, any size)
- \_\_\_\_ Student Work (any medium, any size)

(CHECK ENTRY FEE)

**MEMBER**

- \_\_\_\_ \$55 entry fee (Current IRE Member)
- \_\_\_\_ Free entry (Current Student Member)

**Name of member involved in entered work:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NONMEMBER**

- \_\_\_\_ \$115 entry fee (Non-IRE Member)
- \_\_\_\_ \$25 entry fee (Non-IRE Student Member)

**Payment must accompany entry.**

If checking nonmember entry, you must designate one of the contributing reporters listed below to receive one-year membership. Provide all contact information: (Please type or print clearly)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

News organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

By entering this contest, you and your news organization grant IRE permission to use the entry, including the information on this form and the questionnaire, for educational purposes. Such uses may include: 1) print, video or online resources, 2) IRE compilations, feeds or award tapes and 3) streaming video from IRE's Web site. The **authorized signature** of at least one entrant or the contest coordinator, by and/or on behalf of the respective news organization is **required** for contest entry.

**AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

**To be completed by person submitting the entry. (Please type or print clearly):**

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_ News organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Entry: \_\_\_\_\_ Length (time) of radio or TV entry \_\_\_\_\_

Reporters involved in effort: List significant contributors in the order they should appear on IRE plaques or certificates. If this entry is named a winner, only those people listed will be entered into our official records. Check the box next to the contributor if he or she is a current IRE member. Attach additional sheet if necessary.

Name	Title	Member
1. _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Payment may be made by personal or company check payable to IRE, or credit card. Please complete the section below regarding your payment method.

**Please do not submit entries without the required entry fees.**

AmEx \_\_\_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_\_\_ Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Check \_\_\_\_\_ Check Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## CHECKLIST

# YOU MUST INCLUDE ENTRY FEE WITH YOUR SUBMISSION.

### PRINT ENTRIES:

- One (1) electronic copy of completed questionnaire on CD. Please label with entry title and affiliation.
- Payment of entry fee by check or credit card
- Three (3) completed, collated entry packets, each containing:
  - Entry form (with authorized signature)
  - Questionnaire
  - Story(ies)

**NEW:** Preferred format: Three (3) printed copies of electronically prepared entry formatted for 11x17" paper (prepared in InDesign or similar program). Include PDF file of story package on CD with the electronic questionnaire. We will continue to accept stories cut and paste to 8.5x11" paper.

Please place the packets in an envelope or folder and write the title of the entry on the outside.

### TV ENTRIES:

- One (1) electronic copy of completed questionnaire on CD. Please label with entry title and affiliation.
- Payment of entry fee by check or credit card
- Three (3) completed, collated entry packets, each containing:
  - Entry form (with authorized signature)
  - Questionnaire
  - Transcript on 8.5" x 11" paper
  - DVD copy of the entry

Please label all three DVDs with the entry name and affiliation and length (time) of story(ies).

### RADIO ENTRIES:

- One (1) electronic copy of completed questionnaire on CD. Please label with entry title and affiliation.
- Payment of entry fee by check or credit card
- Three (3) completed, collated entry packets, each containing:
  - Entry form (with authorized signature)
  - Questionnaire
  - Transcript on 8.5" x 11" paper
  - Labeled audio CD copy of the entry

Please label all three (3) audio CDs with the entry name and affiliation and length (time) of story(ies).

### BOOK ENTRIES:

- One (1) electronic copy of completed questionnaire on CD. Please label with entry title and affiliation.
- Payment of entry fee by check or credit card
- Three (3) completed, collated entry packets, each containing:
  - Entry form (with authorized signature)
  - Questionnaire
  - Copy of the book

Please attach entry name and affiliation to all three (3) books.

### ONLINE ENTRIES:

- One (1) electronic copy of completed questionnaire on CD. Please label with entry title and affiliation.
- Payment of required entry fee by check or credit card
- Three (3) completed, collated entry packets, each containing:
  - Entry form (with authorized signature)
  - Questionnaire
  - Printed copy of the Web pages that includes the site's URL on 8.5" x 11" paper.
  - CD containing archived pages from the web.

Please label all (3) CDs with the entry name and affiliation.

## CHECKLIST