

# A-MARK PRIZE FOR Investigative Journalism IN SOUTH CAROLINA



## **S.C. Press Association and A-Mark Foundation announce the A-Mark Prize for Investigative Journalism in South Carolina with cash awards totaling \$15,000**

Investigative reporters are trained to follow the money, but it takes resources to follow the money. That's why the South Carolina Press Association and the A-Mark Foundation have created a new \$15,000 cash prize for S.C. reporters and their newsrooms.

**First place: \$5,000 for the journalist(s) and \$2,500 to the news organization**

**Second place: \$3,000 for the journalist(s) and \$1,500 to the news organization**

**Third place: \$2,000 for the journalist(s) and \$1,000 to the news organization**

The A-Mark Prize for Investigative Journalism is open to all journalists and all news organizations in South Carolina. The S.C. Press Association represents the state's newspapers and online news publications. The A-Mark Foundation ([amarkfoundation.org](http://amarkfoundation.org)) is a nonpartisan 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization incorporated in 1997.

**CRITERIA:** This contest recognizes an investigative story or series by a reporter or team of reporters on a single topic. Entries may include a single investigative story or multiple stories over a period of time. Entries should display original reporting revealing information otherwise not generally known that individuals, governmental agencies, businesses, elected officials or organizations do not want under public scrutiny. Judging criteria include depth of research, initiative, obstacles overcome, use of databases and public records, analysis of documents and records, use of multiple sources and impact on public policy. Entries must include a brief letter of explanation describing the actual or potential impact of the report.

**ELIGIBILITY:** This contest is open to all news media organizations based in South Carolina and their staff members to include newspapers, broadcast outlets and online news publications. Entries must have been published or aired between Nov. 16, 2023 – Nov. 15, 2024.

**HOW S.C. PRESS ASSOCIATION MEMBERS CAN COMPETE:** First, second and third place winners from all divisions of (28) Investigative Reporting will compete alongside SCBA member entries for the A-Mark Prize for Investigative Journalism in South Carolina. The deadline to enter is Dec. 6, 2024. Upload entries and letters of explanation at [scnewscontest.org](http://scnewscontest.org). There is no additional fee for SPCA members to enter this competition; (28) Investigative Reporting division winners will be automatically entered by SPCA.

**HOW S.C. BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION MEMBERS CAN COMPETE:** SCBA members will upload entries and letters of explanation at [bit.ly/sc-amark](http://bit.ly/sc-amark) by Jan. 3, 2025. Each entry is \$9. After uploading your entries, SCBA will review each entry and contact the news director with an invoice that can be paid online or by check. SCBA member entries will compete alongside SPCA member entries.

**JUDGING:** This contest shall be judged by a committee of retired S.C. newspaper and broadcast journalists, as well as representatives from the The Associated Press and University of South Carolina School of Journalism and Mass Communications.

**WINNERS:** Winners will not be announced until the S.C. Press Association Annual Meeting & Awards Presentation on April 4, 2025.

**CONTACT:** Call Jen Madden at (803) 750-9561 or email [jmadden@scpress.org](mailto:jmadden@scpress.org) for more details.