2026 News Contest Divisions

Competition will take place in six divisions:

- DIVISION A: Large daily newspapers and Division A online publications
- DIVISION B: Mid-size daily newspapers
- DIVISION C: Small daily newspapers
- DIVISION D: Large weekly and monthly newspapers and Division D online publications
- DIVISION E: Mid-size weekly and monthly newspapers
- DIVISION F: Small weekly and monthly newspapers

Your division will auto-fill in the digital contest platform after you select your news organization.
The contest division in which your newsroom competes is determined by the following:

- Daily newspapers – Based on current U.S. Census Bureau data on county population size
- Weekly and monthly newspapers - Circulation based on your most recent USPS Statement of Ownership or Distribution Affidavit
- Online publications - Based on page views

If you think your news organization is in the wrong division, contact SCPA immediately.

News organizations are allowed to compete in a larger division. If you are interested, contact SCPA before submitting entries.

Division A: Large daily newspapers and Division A online publications	
County population above 430,000 OR online publication over 200,000 views	
The Post and Courier	Charleston
Cola Daily	Columbia
Columbia Urban Broadcast Network (CUBNSC)	Columbia
South Carolina Daily Gazette	Columbia
The State	Columbia
Greenville News	Greenville
GoLaurens.com	Laurens
Division B: Midsize daily newspapers	
County population 150,000-430,000	
Aiken Standard	Aiken
Independent Mail	Anderson
The Beaufort Gazette	Beaufort
The Island Packet	Hilton Head Island
The Sun News	Myrtle Beach
The Herald	Rock Hill
Herald-Journal	Spartanburg
Division C: Small daily newspapers	
County population under 150,000	
Morning News	Florence
Index-Journal	Greenwood
The Times and Democrat	Orangeburg
The Journal	Seneca
The Sumter Item	Sumter

Division D: Large weekly/monthly newspapers and Division D online publications	
Newspaper circulation over 6,500 OR online publication under 200,000 views	
Lowcountry Weekly	Beaufort
The Island News	Beaufort
Bluffton Today	Bluffton
The Bluffton Sun	Bluffton
Charleston City Paper	Charleston
The Link	Cheraw
The Post and Courier Columbia/Free Times	Columbia
The Dillon Herald	Dillon
Fort Mill Prep Sports	Fort Mill
GoFountainInn.com	Fountain Inn
GAB News	Georgetown
Greenville Journal	Greenville
The Hilton Head Sun	Hilton Head Island
Island Vibes	Isle of Palms
North Myrtle Beach Times	North Myrtle Beach
North Strand News	North Myrtle Beach
Orangeburg Leader	Santee
The Summerville Journal Scene	Summerville
The Aiken Leader	Wagener
Division E: Midsize weekly/monthly newspapers	
Newspaper circulation 3,000-6,500	
The Press and Banner	Abbeville
Bamberg County Leader	Bamberg
The Country Chronicle	Blythewood
Carolina Panorama	Columbia
The Columbia Star	Columbia
The Horry Independent	Conway
The Daniel Island News	Daniel Island
Darlington County News & Press	Darlington
The Gaffney Ledger	Gaffney
Georgetown Times	Georgetown
The News-Era	Kershaw
The Lancaster News	Lancaster
Loris Times	Loris
The Community Informer News & Media LLC	Mauldin
The Journal Messenger & Reporter	McCormick
Moultrie News	Mt. Pleasant
Carolina Forest Chronicle	Myrtle Beach
Myrtle Beach Herald	Myrtle Beach
The Black Voice	North Charleston
Coastal Observer	Pawleys Island
Pickens County Courier	Pickens
Jasper County Sun Times	Ridgeland
Simpsonville Sentinel	Simpsonville
Union County News	Union
The Voice of Fairfield County	Winnsboro

Division F: Small weekly/monthly newspapers	
Newspaper circulation under 3,000	
The People-Sentinel	Barnwell
The Twin-City News	Batesburg-Leesville
Herald-Advocate	Bennettsville
Lee County Observer	Bishopville
The Voice of Blythewood	Blythewood
Chronicle-Independent	Camden
The News & Reporter	Chester
The Clinton Chronicle	Clinton
The Easley Progress	Easley
The Edgefield Advertiser	Edgefield
The Community Times	Florence
The Hampton County Guardian	Hampton
The Hartsville Messenger	Hartsville
The News	Kingstree
Laurens County Advertiser	Laurens
Lexington County Chronicle	Lexington
The Loris Scene	Loris
The Manning Times	Manning
Marion Star & Mullins Enterprise	Marion
The Berkeley Independent	Moncks Corner
The Newberry Observer	Newberry
The Post and Courier North Augusta/The Star	North Augusta
Pageland Progressive-Journal	Pageland
The Calhoun Times Leader	St. Matthews
Tega Cay Sun	Tega Cay
The Press and Standard	Walterboro
The Journal	Williamston
The Woodruff Times	Woodruff