

NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATED PRESS ASSOCIATION

2008-2009 PHOTO COMPETITION

The New York State Associated Press Association annual photo contest will accept only digital entries. The photographs may have originally been shot on film or with a digital camera, but entries must be submitted as JPG files. **No slide or print entries, and no altered photographs will be accepted.**

ELIGIBILITY: All photographs must be the work of photographers or photo editors who work for an AP member daily newspaper published in New York state. This work must have been first published in a member newspaper between June 1, 2008, and May 31, 2009.

Generally, a photo that was entered in a previous NYAPA contest year may not be entered again.

However, a photo that was entered in a previous year's NYAPA contest may be included if it is part of a photo gallery or a retrospective package. If a previously entered photo is included in coverage that was entered in a subsequent contest year, the entrant is asked to identify it as such. This is not intended to exclude the package from consideration, but to prevent that single image from being considered for special recognition, such as "Best in Show."

DEADLINE: Entries must be postmarked by Monday, June 15, 2009.

AWARDS: Winners will be notified by wire advisories. The awards will be presented at the annual banquet on Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2009, at The Genesee Grande Hotel in Syracuse, N.Y.

SPECIAL AWARDS:

The **Bernard J. Kolenberg Award** will be presented for the best photo in the show. The Kolenberg award is named for an Albany Times-Union photographer killed in a plane crash in Vietnam while he was covering the war for The Associated Press. Photo Essay entrants must specify a single picture within the essay to be judged for the Kolenberg Award. The prize is a wooden plaque with a sterling silver nameplate and a check for \$500.

The **Cromie Award** recognizes the best photo transmitted by a member newspaper photographer to Associated Press members. The award is named for the late Bruce Cromie, an Albany photographer killed in an automobile accident while on assignment for a member newspaper. It honors the newspaper photographer whose work is judged best among the winners of the AP's monthly photo incentive contest. The prize is a plaque and a check for \$500.

FEES: Each entrant may submit a maximum of **six** entries for categories 1-7. Photo essay or series will count as one entry. There is an entry fee of \$5 per entry. The checks should be made **payable to Associated Press Associations.**

ENTRIES: Are based on newspaper's daily circulation. There are two classes: Over 50,000 circulation and Under 50,000 circulation. Please mark the enclosed entry blank with the appropriate circulation.

CATEGORIES:

1. SPOT NEWS

Photos involving breaking news events that are not under the control of the photographer and are produced under deadline pressure. Either in print or online.

2. FEATURES

A single whimsical, evocative or human-interest photo of general interest, which is not staged or posed. (See photo illustration category for posed photos). Either in print or online.

3. SPORTS

A spot or feature photo of a sports event or sports personality. Either in print or online.

4. PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

A pre-conceived photo that illustrates a story by making a point, such as in a posed studio picture. Photo composites and computer-generated images must be submitted in the graphics contest. Either in print or online.

5. PORTRAITS & PERSONALITIES

A single photo of a person or persons that portrays character, emotion, or other aspects of the individual's personality. Either in print or online.

6. PHOTO ESSAY OR SERIES

A group of photos that tells a story, either in print or online. Each entry may include up to a maximum of 26 photos that were published together as a photo essay or series. **EITHER A TEAR SHEET MUST BE ATTACHED TO THE PHOTO ESSAY OR SERIES ENTRIES FOR PRINT** (tear sheets are not required in other categories) **OR include live Web links, archived Web pages, CDs, screen captures, etc. for online entry.**

7. VIDEOS AND SLIDE SHOWS

This is a web exclusive entry, including audio slideshows, videos, photo galleries, etc. Materials to include in the entry can be through live Web links, archived Web pages, CDs, screen captures, etc.

PREPARING THE IMAGES:

You will need to use Adobe Photoshop 3.0 or higher to prepare your images. We will accept Macintosh or PC-formatted disks, Zips, or CD-ROMs. The image orientation must read in normal viewing position, with top of the image actually being at the top. We will not flop or rotate images.

CHOOSING YOUR ENTRY CODE:

You must choose your unique photographer's code. This is important, as you will use this code in naming all your files. You must use a lower case five-letter sequence. Every photographer must have a unique code so do not spell words or names and if you are preparing entries for multiple photographers, be sure their codes vary.

A photographer's code might contain initials or abbreviations and look like this: mggab (but don't use this exact code).

SIZING YOUR IMAGES:

Set your resolution to 200 dpi; the largest image dimension must be less than 10 inches.

CAPTIONING YOUR IMAGES:

Using PhotoShop's File Info option (under the File menu), caption the photo in no more than 50 words. Enter this information in the Caption section of the File Info window. Following the caption, add your photographer's code and a title. **Do not** put your name or the newspaper name anywhere in the File Info section. Use only your entry code.

For example: Jane Doe and her daughter, Emily Doe, 6, watch as their dog, Buffy, races to catch a plastic flying disc during a day in Central Park. mggab JUMPING FOR THE DISC

Use the File Info option, not a captioning plug-in such as SCC. Even if your photos are already captioned using a

captioning plug-in, you must re-enter the information directly into File Info.

In addition to captioning the files you will need to submit hard copy versions of your captions on the enclosed **ENTRY BLANK**.

FILE COMPRESSION:

Save the image in RGB mode and compress the file using JPEG compression set to 5, or Medium with Format Option **ABaseline standard**. *Do not use Progressive JPEG option.*

NAMING YOUR FILES:

Name your picture files beginning with the one-digit category number, followed by your unique photographer's code, followed by sequential one-digit numbers corresponding to the number of photos you are entering in that category. Add sequential letters to the string for each photo in a picture story entry. End it all with .jpg (Sounds complicated, but it's not).

A single photo entry might have a file name like this: 2mggab1.jpg (2 is the category number for features, mggab is the photographer's code, 1 is your first entry within this category, and .jpg is the mandatory suffix). Other entries within the same category would be 2mggab2.jpg and 2mggab3.jpg.

Photos in a picture story entry might look like this: 6mggab1a.jpg, 6mggab1b.jpg, 6mggab1c.jpg (6 is the category number; mggab is the photographer's code; 1 is your first entry in the category; a, b and c indicate the first three photos in a picture story, and .jpg is the mandatory suffix).

SUBMITTING YOUR IMAGES:

Files may be submitted on floppies, Zip disks or CD-ROM. If you are submitting the work of more than one photographer and using floppies, please use a different diskette for each photographer. More than one photographer's work may be placed on a Zip or CD-ROM as long as each photographer's entries are placed in a clearly marked folder. Use the photographer's code to name the master folder for each photographer.

PHOTO ESSAY OR SERIES:

Picture stories may contain a maximum of 26 photographs. Place the files comprising a single picture story together in a folder. Title the folder with the category file name of the photos it contains. For example: 6mggab1a.jpg, 6mggab1b.jpg, 6mggab1c.jpg. The folder they are placed in would be titled 6mggab1. To clarify, if you have two Photo Essay or Series entries, you will have two folders, each folder containing the photos that make up a single entry.

Sample entry:

Here's how a hypothetical entry might look. Mike Groll photographer's code will be mggab. His submission to the contest consists of four single picture category entries, and a Photo Essay. He prepares and captions his files and names them:

1mggab1.jpg
1mggab2.jpg
2mggab1.jpg
3mggab1.jpg

Here is how the Photo Essay or series entry would look:

6mggab1a.jpg
6mggab1b.jpg
6mggab1c.jpg
6mggab1d.jpg
6mggab1e.jpg

PREPARING VIDEOS AND SLIDE SHOWS:

The entry can be through live Web links, archived Web pages, CDs, screen captures, etc.

CHECK YOUR DISKS:

Before sending us your disks verify their integrity by making certain that they are readable and do not contain any type of virus. *The AP reserves the right to disqualify any disk that is unreadable, defective or found to contain a virus or other suspicious files.*

LABELING YOUR DISKS, ETC.:

Label each disk with your unique photographer's code and your name. For Zip or CD-ROM, enclose a list of photographer's codes and their names. Label the disk, Zip or CD-ROM as MAC or PC.

ENTRY FORM:

Carefully fill out an entry form. Use one entry form per photographer. Send your entry form(s), images and payment to be postmarked no later than June 16, 2008. Disks will not be returned. Zips and CD-ROMS will be returned.

MAIL YOUR ENTRIES TO: Mike Groll, The Associated Press, PO Box 11010, Albany, NY 12211 **OR UPS or overnight delivery service to:** Mike Groll, The Associated Press, Capital Newspapers Building, INSIDE DELIVERY, 2nd FLOOR, 645 Albany Shaker Road, Albany, NY 12211.

QUESTIONS?

If you are confused by these rules you may contact us for clarification. The best method of communication is e-mail. Contact Mike Groll at Mgroll@ap.org or you can also telephone him at 1-800-424-4500.