

A-MARK PRIZE FOR  
**Investigative  
Journalism**  
IN SOUTH DAKOTA



A-Mark  
Foundation



SDNA  
SOUTH DAKOTA  
NewsMedia  
ASSOCIATION

**South Dakota NewsMedia Association and the  
A-Mark Foundation have teamed up to create the  
A-Mark Prize for Investigative Journalism in South Dakota  
with cash awards totaling \$15,000.**

The first-place prize awards \$5,000 to the journalist and \$2,500 to the news organization. Second place awards \$3,000 to the journalist and \$1,500 to the news organization. Third place awards \$2,000 to the journalist and \$1,000 to the newsroom.

The contest for the A-Mark Prize for Investigative Journalism will be open to all journalists and all news organizations in South Dakota. (See details below.)

South Dakota NewsMedia Association represents the state's newspapers and various digital news outlets. The A-Mark Foundation ([amarkfoundation.org](http://amarkfoundation.org)) is a nonpartisan 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization incorporated in 1997.

### **2024 CONTEST CRITERIA**

This award will recognize excellence in investigative reporting. For this contest, investigative reporting will be defined as the development of information about government, organizations, businesses, institutions or individuals that is not readily available to journalists and requires exceptional skill and effort by the journalist. In many cases, the subjects of the reporting wish the matters under scrutiny to remain undisclosed. Information should be presented in a way that gives readers understanding and insight into subject matter that is not generally known to the public.

Entries will be judged on the following criteria:

- Substantially the work product of the journalist's own initiative and effort.
- Uncovers 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
- Shows enterprise and excellence in documentation, data, storytelling, production, online presentation, and reader or viewer involvement where appropriate
- Results.

This contest is open to all news media organizations based in South Dakota and their staff members and includes newspapers, broadcast outlets and digital-only platforms. Freelance journalists based in South Dakota whose reporting is published or aired by South Dakota news media organizations are also eligible to enter. Entries must have been published or aired during 2024 (Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2024). Entries must also include a written statement (500 words or less) outlining the background and scope of the entry and any potential outcomes resulting from the reporting. There is no fee to enter. Entries are limited to one per individual or team. An individual who is part of a team may also enter their own stand-alone entry.

**DEADLINE TO ENTER: 11:59 p.m. Central; Friday, January 24, 2025**

**Enter at [sdna.com](http://sdna.com)**