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## A-Mark Prize for Investigative Journalism in South Dakota with cash awards totaling \$15,000

Administered by South Dakota NewsMedia Association

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) is a nonpartisan 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization incorporated in 1997.

## **2025 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 staff members who reside in South Dakota and includes all South Dakota-based newspapers, broadcast outlets and digital-only platforms. Freelance journalists who reside in South Dakota and whose reporting is published or aired by South Dakota-based news media organizations also are eligible to enter. Entries must have been published or aired during 2025 (Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2025). 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 entry may also enter his or her own stand-alone entry.

DEADLINE TO ENTER: 11:59 p.m. Central; Friday, January 23, 2026

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