



Apple Awards

DEADLINE

2/12/26

11:59 PM • EST

ENTRY FEE

\$20

CONTEST INSTRUCTIONS

Contest information:

(rules, categories, FAQ, etc.) is at <https://collegemedia.org/apple-awards/>

These are directions for preparing and submitting entries. Please read through the instructions before you begin.

- If you have questions about rules, eligibility, deadlines or updating contestant information, contact: CMA at info@collegemedia.org or (518) 463-8644.
- If you have questions about the BetterBNC platform (tech support questions), contact: BetterBNC 24/7 at www.betterbncsupport.com.
 - Click on "Start Trouble Ticket."
 - Or, call 360-427-6300 8a.m. – 5p.m. PST Monday through Friday.

IMPORTANT: BetterBNC is optimized for the Google Chrome browser; and Firefox for PC and Macintosh/Apple.

Please have a recent version downloaded and installed for the best contest experience.

1 Logging In

1. Go to <https://betternewspapercontest.com/login>
2. Click on **Contestant Login** - make sure to **Select the appropriate contestant type (see the tabs above the contest list):**
 - Contestant Manager** – Select this if you are the primary contact or administrator of your organization, who is responsible for submitting entries on behalf of your team.
 - Authorized Entrant** – Select this if you are an individual authorized by your media organization to submit entries.
3. **Select a Contest: 2026 Apples**
4. **Select Media Organization from the dropdown and enter your BNC APPLE password.**

IMPORTANT

If this is your first-time logging in: If it's your first time logging in meaning you have NOT entered Apples in a previous contest period, **use the temporary password: bnc (lowercase).**

After logging in with this temporary password, the system will prompt you to update your password. The new password will be used for this year's Apple Awards.

*** IF you are a new organization and have not entered a CMA contest in BNC- you must contact CMA HQ to have one set up for you, BNC support cannot create a profile for you. Email HQ: info@collegemedia.org**



2 Submitting Entries

1. Click “Submit Entry” from the Manage Entries page
2. Select a Division “APPLES”
3. Select a Category- each media outlet is limited to ONE entry per category
4. Enter the entry headline or title
5. Add entry content (may vary by category): if you need instructions on “uploading your entries” see gray box →
6. Add Comments, if appropriate
7. Enter Credits
8. Click “Submit Entry”

3 Payment

1. When all entries are submitted, log into your account
2. Navigate to the Manage Entries page
3. Click “Calculate Entry Fees”
4. Follow the on-screen instructions to pay for your entries

DIVISIONS

Division I: 10,000+

Division II: 3,000 – 9,999

Division III: under 2,999

Two-Year Schools

on campus undergraduate enrollment
(not including distance education)

Need Help Uploading?

To upload digital files (excluding audio/video):

- Click “Browse”, find your file, and click “Open.”
- Allowed file types: PDF, TXT, JPG, GIF, PNG
- To add more files to the same entry, click “Browse and Attach More Files.”
- Files should be under 20MB (we recommend keeping them around 5MB for easier access by judges).

If your file is larger than 20MB:

- Click the “RealView” icon on the Submit Entry page to create a free account, upload your file, and paste the URL in the Website URL field.
- You can also use other free hosting sites like: scribd.com

To add web, audio, or video content:

- Paste the link in the Website URL field.
- You can upload content to free sites like YouTube or ask your IT team to host it on your organization’s website.

Make sure your content is accessible online for the entire contest and awards process.

Test your links from outside your organization to ensure they work properly. You can upload audio and video content to free streaming sites like:

- Audio: kiwi6.com, soundcloud.com
- Video: youtube.com, vimeo.com

Important: Do not use links that are behind paywalls or require passwords.

Judges will not request access or wait for fixes. Entries that can’t be accessed will be disqualified.