



## 2010 STN Spring Nationals

### Overview and Rules

Spring has sprung, the clocks have been set ahead one hour and we are all ready for the STN Spring Nationals. Some of the categories have changed, we have added several new categories suggested by affiliates, and we are eagerly anticipating the excellent work submitted for our judges.

Entries that were produced and aired between November 21, 2009 and April 12, 2010 are eligible for entry in the Spring Nationals. For the purposes of this contest, "aired" means broadcast or cablecast, or shared with an audience of students, or presented to the community via closed-circuit or other playback device.

Each school program may submit one entry in each category. Each entry costs \$10. All entries must be uploaded by the affiliate advisor to STN Upload Site by 5:00 pm Pacific Time on April 12, 2010. Students may not use the upload site.

Entries must be a .mov file in the Quicktime format and compressed to 100mb or less. This is a requirement and entries exceeding 100mb will be disqualified. The recommended size for ease in upload and viewing is 50mb or less. Please do not upload raw dv footage or any other format. We have provided explicit instructions for uploading and we have learned from experience that if you read and follow these instructions, you will have a smooth and rather easy upload experience. Please upload each entry individually and when finished, please click "submit" before entering the next submission.

You are responsible for uploading your entry correctly. Please check your entry to make sure it plays back smoothly. A "Test" category has been added to allow you to test the system before the deadline. Any entries that do not follow the guidelines may be disqualified without refund. If you are having trouble, please re-read the directions since we have found that the directions are clear and easy when followed. We are happy to help you with problems but please take the time to troubleshoot before calling.

As a professional organization, Student Television Network strives to teach students the real world policies of broadcasting. Contest entries are subject to United States Copyright Laws and may lose points or be disqualified for disregarding these laws. In some cases, Fair Use (as defined by the Student Press Law Center) may be accepted, but that is at the sole discretion of the judges. Please refer to these policies at [studenttelevision.com](http://studenttelevision.com).

*Entries must be submitted by April 12, 2010*

**UPLOAD** to the STN Upload Site by 5:00 pm Pacific Time April 12, 2010. Please do not wait until the last minute – give yourself time to work through the process.

NO mini-dv tapes or other formats will be accepted for these contests.

**All entries are \$10 per entry.**



## 2010 STN Spring Nationals

### *High School Categories – Short Descriptions*

(Note: Middle schools may NOT enter high school categories)  
(Note: Each school may submit only one entry in each category.)  
(Note: Individual category descriptions and judging criteria follow.)

- S1001     **Experimental**  
Creatively uses video images and audio to explore the aesthetic nature of the video medium. Maximum length: 3 minutes.
- S1002     **Fantasy/Sci-Fi**  
Create a fictional story using a fantasy or Sci-Fi world. Maximum length: 3 minutes.
- S1003     **Feature Story**  
Produce a story about a non-fiction topic. Maximum length: 3 minutes.
- S1004     **Humorous Production**  
Produce any parody, satire, original scene, etc. designed to entertain or evoke laughter. Maximum length: 3 minutes.
- S1005     **Interview**  
To conduct an unedited “in studio” interview (live or taped live) with a guest within the context of a news program. Maximum length: 3 minutes.
- S1006     **Lifestyle Reporting**  
A non-fiction account about lifestyle issues such as fashion, food and entertainment. Maximum length: 3 minutes.
- S1007     **News Story**  
Create a package that features what might be considered a traditional hard news or soft news story. Maximum length: 3 minutes.
- S1008     **Special Effects**  
Create a fictional story that includes special effects. Maximum length: 3 minutes.

- S1009      **Sports Feature Story**  
A feature story that focuses on an athlete, team or individual connected to sports. Maximum length: 3 minutes
- S1010      **Sports News Story**  
A story that focuses on an individual game or other sporting event.  
Maximum length: 3 minutes
- S1011      **Weather**  
Create an original weathercast using a variety of resources to predict local weather events. Maximum length: 3 minutes.

***Middle School Categories – Short Descriptions***

- (Note: Middle schools may NOT enter high school categories)  
(Note: Each school may submit only one entry in each category.)  
(Note: Individual category descriptions and judging criteria follow.)

- S1012M      **Feature Story – Middle School**  
Produce a story about a non-fiction topic. Maximum length: 3 minutes.
- S1013M      **Humorous Production – Middle School**  
Produce any parody, satire, original scene, etc. designed to entertain or evoke laughter. Maximum length: 3 minutes.
- S1014M      **News Story – Middle School**  
Produce a story to inform the viewers about a local event. Maximum length: 3 minutes.
- S1015M      **Sports News – Middle School**  
Produce a story to inform the viewers about a local sporting event.  
Maximum length: 3 minutes.



Category: S1001 - Experimental  
High School Division  
Spring Nationals 2010

### Contest Guidelines

**Objective:** Creatively uses video images and audio to explore the aesthetic nature of the video medium.

- Maximum Length: 3:00
- One entry per school in this category
- Final product must be uploaded as a self contained QuickTime .mov file.
- Entries must follow the general Overview and Rules guidelines.

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#### **Judging Criteria for Experimental**

The judges will be focusing on creativity, use of medium, editing, exploration of central idea/theme and artistic integrity. Stories that exceed 3 minutes in length may be penalized at the judges' discretion.



Category: S1002 Fantasy/Sci-Fi  
High School Division  
Spring Nationals 2010

## Contest Guidelines

**Objective:** Create a fictional story using a fantasy or Sci-Fi world.

- Maximum Length: 3:00 minutes
- One entry per school in this category
- Final product must be uploaded as a self-contained QuickTime .mov file.
- Entries must follow the general Overview and Rules guidelines.

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### **Judging Criteria for Sci-Fi Production**

The judges will be looking for stories that get the viewer's attention and keep it. The idea of the fantasy/sci-fi story must remain consistent through the story. Judges will also be looking for overall creativity and originality of work as well as consistent character development. Overall impact of the piece will be the major criteria in the evaluation process. Stories that exceed 3 minutes in length may be penalized at the judges' discretion.



Category: S1003 - Feature Story  
High School Division  
Spring Nationals 2010

## Contest Guidelines

**Objective: Produce a story about a non-fiction topic.**

- Maximum Length: 3:00 minutes
- One entry per school in this category
- Final product must be uploaded as a self-contained QuickTime .mov file.
- Entries must follow the general Overview and Rules guidelines.

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### **Judging Criteria for Feature Story**

The judges will be looking for stories that get the viewer's attention and keep it. Beginning, middle, end, and overall pacing are very important. The sound bites need to provide insight and the visuals must be compelling. Overall impact of the piece will be the major criteria in the evaluation process. Judges will want to be left with a clear, concise and strong impression. Stories that exceed 3 minutes in length may be penalized at the judges' discretion.



Category: S1004 - Humorous Production  
High School Division  
Spring Nationals 2010

### Contest Guidelines

**Objective: Produce any parody, satire, original scene, etc. designed to entertain or evoke laughter**

- Maximum Length: 3:00 minutes
- One entry per school in this category
- Final product must be uploaded as a self-contained QuickTime .mov file.
- Entries must follow the general Overview and Rules guidelines.

Entries that were produced and/or aired between November 21, 2009 and April 11, 2010 are eligible for entry in the Spring Nationals. For the purposes of this contest, "aired" means broadcast or cablecast, or shared with an audience of students, or presented to the community via closed-circuit or other playback device.

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5:00 pm Pacific Time on or before April 12, 2010.***

### **Judging Criteria for Humorous Production**

The judges will be looking for stories that get the viewer's attention and keep it. Beginning, middle, end, and overall pacing are very important. The sound bites need to provide insight and the visuals must be compelling. Overall impact of the piece will be the major criteria in the evaluation process. Judges will want to be entertained or left laughing. Stories that exceed 3 minutes in length may be penalized at the judges' discretion.



**Category: S1005 - Live (or Taped Live) Interview  
High School Division  
Spring Nationals 2010**

### **Contest Guidelines**

**Objective: To conduct an unedited “in studio” interview (live or taped live) with a guest within the context of a news program.**

- Maximum Length: 3:00 minutes
- One entry per school in this category
- Final product must be uploaded as a self-contained QuickTime .mov file.
- Entries must follow the general Overview and Rules guidelines.

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### **Judging Criteria for Interview contest**

The focus of this contest is on the “art of the live (or live on tape) interview.” Judges will be looking specifically at the reporter's ability to conduct a conversation with a guest within the context of a school broadcast. Specific judging criteria:

- Interviewer's ability to execute a beginning, middle and end to the interview.
- Interviewer's questioning style (open-ended questions versus yes/no questions).
- Interviewer's ability to conduct a conversational interview.
- Interviewer's ability to avoid moving from one question to the next without regard for the interviewee's response



Category: S1006 - Lifestyle Reporting  
High School Division  
Spring Nationals 2010

### Contest Guidelines

**Objective: A non-fiction account about lifestyle issues such as fashion, food and entertainment.**

- Maximum Length: 3:00 minutes
- One entry per school in this category
- Final product must be uploaded as a self-contained QuickTime .mov file.
- Entries must follow the general Overview and Rules guidelines.

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### Judging Criteria for Lifestyle Production

The judges will be looking for stories that get the viewer's attention and keep it. Judges will also be looking for overall creativity and originality of work as well as consistency and pacing. Overall impact of the piece will be the major criteria in the evaluation process. Stories that exceed 3 minutes in length may be penalized at the judges' discretion.



**Category: S1007 - News Story  
High School Division  
Spring Nationals 2010**

### **Contest Guidelines**

**Objective: Create a package that features what might be considered a traditional hard news or soft news story.**

- Maximum Length of 3:00 minutes.
- One entry per school in this category.
- Upload final product as a self-contained QuickTime .mov file.
- Entries must follow the general Overview and Rules guidelines.

Entries that were produced and/or aired between November 21, 2009 and April 11, 2010 are eligible for entry in the Spring Nationals. For the purposes of this contest, "aired" means broadcast or cablecast, or shared with an audience of students, or presented to the school community via closed circuit or other playback device.

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### **Judging Criteria for News Story Production**

Judges will be looking for excellence in content, storytelling, and topic coverage. The technical aspect will be judged on production values (sound, lighting, composition, art direction, camera handling), in editing, in use of music (if applicable), and appropriate use of graphics, effects, and the like. Judges will also look for sound bites, voice over and stand up material that shows use of background material, b-roll and topic research, which in turn is reflected in thoughtful and comprehensive writing. The news story should show the writer/reporter's exceptional journalistic integrity and courage as well as overall impact and professionalism. Stories that exceed 3 minutes in length may be penalized at the judges' discretion.



Category: S1008 Special Effects  
High School Division  
Spring Nationals 2010

### Contest Guidelines

**Objective: Create a fictional story that includes special effects. The growing use of computer animation and computer-generated imagery has produced increasingly elaborate and realistic visual effects – therefore, if necessary, a written explanation of used special effects may be included.**

- Maximum Length: 3:00 minutes
- One entry per school in this category
- Final product must uploaded as a self contained QuickTime .mov file
- Entries must follow the general Overview and Rules guidelines.

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#### **Judging Criteria Special Effects Production**

The judges will be looking for stories that get the viewer's attention and keep it. The idea of the story remains consistent through the story. Judges will also be looking for overall creativity and originality of work as well as consistent character development. Judges will look at how the special effects have an overall impact of the piece. Stories that exceed 3 minutes in length may be penalized at the judges' discretion.



Category: S1009 - Sports Feature Story  
High School  
Spring Nationals 2010

### Contest Guidelines

**Objective: A feature story that focuses on an athlete, team or individual connected to sports.**

- Maximum Length: 3:00 minutes
- One entry per school in this category
- Final product must be uploaded as a self-contained QuickTime .mov file.
- Entries must follow the general Overview and Rules guidelines.

Entries that were produced and/or aired between November 21, 2009 and April 11, 2010 are eligible for entry in the Spring Nationals. For the purposes of this contest, "aired" means broadcast or cablecast, or shared with an audience of students, or presented to the community via closed-circuit or other playback device.

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### **Judging Criteria for Sports Feature Story**

Judges will be looking for news content, storytelling and coverage that are appropriate for the show's target audience and tell a story. Exceptional production values, including lighting, sound, art direction, appropriate use of effects and graphics, editing, and original music will be considered. Stories must have journalistic integrity and courage. Overall impact and professionalism. Stories that exceed 3 minutes in length may be penalized at the judges' discretion.



Category: S1010 Sports News Story  
High School  
Spring Nationals 2010

### Contest Guidelines

**Objective: A story that focuses on an individual game or other sporting event.**

- Maximum Length: 3:00 minutes
- One entry per school in this category
- Final product must uploaded as a self contained QuickTime .mov file.
- Entries must follow the general Overview and Rules guidelines.

Entries that were produced and/or aired between November 21, 2009 and April 11, 2010 are eligible for entry in the Spring Nationals. For the purposes of this contest, "aired" means broadcast or cablecast, or shared with an audience of students, or presented to the community via closed-circuit or other playback device.

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#### **Judging Criteria for Sports News Story**

Judges will be looking for news content, storytelling and coverage are appropriate for the show's target audience and tell a story. Exceptional production values, including lighting, sound, art direction, appropriate use of effects and graphics, editing, and original music. Stories must have journalistic integrity and courage. Overall impact and professionalism. Stories that exceed 3 minutes in length may be penalized at the judges' discretion.



Category: S1011 - Weather  
High School Division  
Spring Nationals 2010

### Contest Guidelines

**Objective: Create an original weathercast using a variety of resources to predict local weather events.** The weather report should include local weather forecasts using National Weather Service information. The report should tell the "weather story" using (still and/or motion) graphics incorporating green/blue screen graphics into the forecast. Could include 5-day forecast, maps, radar, satellite images, and small weather related video. Could also include graphics using the hydrological prediction center maps <http://www.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/noaa/>.

- Maximum Length: 3:00 minutes
- One entry per school in this category
- Final product must be uploaded as a self contained QuickTime .mov file.
- Entries must follow the general Overview and Rules guidelines.

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### Judging Criteria for Weather Production

The judges will be looking for weather reports that get the viewer's attention and keep it. They will also be looking for technique of the anchor using the green/screen and the delivery of information from the maps. The overall pacing of the weather report is very important. Overall impact of the graphics, reporting and pacing will be the major criteria in the evaluation process. Weather reports that exceed 3 minutes in length may be penalized at the judges' discretion.



Category: S1012M - Feature Story  
Middle School Division  
Spring Nationals 2010

## Contest Guidelines

**Objective: Produce a story about a non-fiction topic.**

- Maximum Length: 3:00 minutes
- One entry per school in this category
- Final product must be uploaded as a self contained QuickTime .mov file.
- Entries must follow the general Overview and Rules guidelines.

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### **Judging Criteria for Feature Story**

The judges will be looking for stories that get the viewer's attention and keep it. Beginning, middle, end, and overall pacing are very important. The sound bites need to provide insight and the visuals must be compelling. Overall impact of the piece will be the major criteria in the evaluation process. Judges will want to be left with a clear, concise and strong impression. Stories that exceed 3 minutes in length may be penalized at the judges' discretion.



**Category: S1013M - Humorous Production  
Middle School Division  
Spring Nationals 2010**

### **Contest Guidelines**

**Objective: Produce any parody, satire, original scene, etc. designed to entertain or evoke laughter**

- Maximum Length: 3:00 minutes
- One entry per school in this category
- Final product must be uploaded as a self-contained QuickTime .mov file.
- Entries must follow the general Overview and Rules guidelines.

Entries that were produced and/or aired between November 21, 2009 and April 11, 2010 are eligible for entry in the Spring Nationals. For the purposes of this contest, "aired" means broadcast or cablecast, or shared with an audience of students, or presented to the community via closed-circuit or other playback device.

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#### **Judging Criteria for Humorous Production**

The judges will be looking for stories that get the viewer's attention and keep it. Beginning, middle, end, and overall pacing are very important. The sound bites need to provide insight and the visuals must be compelling. Overall impact of the piece will be the major criteria in the evaluation process. Judges will want to be entertained or left laughing. Stories that exceed 3 minutes in length may be penalized at the judges' discretion.



Category: S1014M News Story  
Middle School Division  
Spring Nationals 2010

## Contest Guidelines

**Objective: Produce a story to inform the viewers about a local event.**

- Maximum Length: 3:00 minutes
- One entry per school in this category
- Final product must be uploaded as a self-contained QuickTime .mov file.
- Entries must follow the general Overview and Rules guidelines.

Entries that were produced and/or aired between November 21, 2009 and April 11, 2010 are eligible for entry in the Spring Nationals. For the purposes of this contest, "aired" means broadcast or cablecast, or shared with an audience of students, or presented to the community via closed-circuit or other playback device.

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### **Judging Criteria for News Story**

The judges will be looking for stories that get the viewer's attention and keep it. Beginning, middle, end, and overall pacing are very important. The sound bites need to provide insight and the visuals must be compelling. Overall impact of the piece will be the major criteria in the evaluation process. Judges will want to be left with a clear, concise and strong impression. Stories that exceed 3 minutes in length may be penalized at the judges' discretion.



**Category: S1015M Sports News Story  
Middle School Division  
Spring Nationals 2010**

### **Contest Guidelines**

**Objective: Produce a story to inform the viewers about a local sporting event.**

- Maximum Length: 3:00 minutes
- One entry per school in this category
- Final product must be uploaded as a self-contained QuickTime .mov file.
- Entries must follow the general Overview and Rules guidelines.

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### **Judging Criteria for Sports News Story**

The judges will be looking for stories that get the viewer's attention and keep it. Beginning, middle, end, and overall pacing are very important. The sound bites need to provide insight and the visuals must be compelling. Overall impact of the piece will be the major criteria in the evaluation process. Judges will want to be left with a clear, concise and strong impression. Stories that exceed 3 minutes in length may be penalized at the judges' discretion.