

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How does registration work?

This year we have switched to a new online contest platform -- www.newspapercontest.com/onpa. Here you will find a link to register along with specific instructions for registration. It is important to note that each contest is *completely separate* and will require a *separate registration and email address*. You will not be able to use the same email for say the general contest AND the Best Ad Idea Contest.

What file formats are accepted for uploading?

Acceptable formats include **PDFs, URL links, and JPEG** (for photos and graphics). Note that a PDF or JPEG *ensures* our judges will be able to view your entries. A URL bringing the judge directly to the item, without paywalls or registration required, is also accepted. If your site *does* have a paywall or required registration, you must include login information in the explanation field when submitting the entry. Entries will be disqualified if there is a paywall and no login information is provided.

How can I make my PDF smaller?

For categories **not** pertaining to photography, graphics, or design we recommend optimizing the PDF through the PDF editor settings/tools - there is usually an "Optimize" option under File or Tools. There are also a number of online PDF compressors that allow you to quickly reduce the size of your PDF. We suggest www.pdfcompressor.com. This method *will* effect photos and graphics so do not use where those elements are being judged.

Most newspaper PDFs include high-resolution grayscale or CMYK images for printing. However, PDF contest entries will be viewed and judged on a computer monitor, which displays at low resolution (72-96 dpi) in RGB color. Changes in resolution and color mode of images are the most effective ways to reduce file size without sacrificing quality.

In PDFs, the text is always clear regardless of resolution. The resolution only relates to photos and graphics. Reducing resolution by half reduces image file size by 75%. The recommended max. resolution of 96 dpi can be changed via the PDF editors settings/preferences.

Color Mode: Converting from CMYK to RGB color will reduce the image file size by another 25%. This can be done in the editor settings.

Before submitting be sure to check the final entry PDF against the original (prior to compressing or changing resolution/color) to make sure are satisfied with the results. If you have questins or need assistance please email onpa@orenews.com.

What is the most efficient way to collect entry files?

Extract entry-related pages from any multi-page PDFs or delete non-entry pages. Give each resulting file a clearly descriptive name. Combine into a single PDF file the pages that compose each article. See below for instructions on extracting/combining PDFs.

Once you've created all your entry PDFs, redistill each one as explained above to reduce it to the smallest practical size. It is not productive to try to reduce the sizes of individual files before combining them into complete entries. Like all changes, combining pages can increase the overall file size. You may also upload a URL link to your entry as an extra precaution.

How do I extract pages from full-issue or full-section PDFs?

Open the PDF file in Acrobat and choose "Extract Pages..." from the Document menu. This will allow you to save individual or sequential pages in separate files anywhere on your computer.

Alternatively, you can extract certain pages by going to File > Print and select *Print to PDF* under the printer option. Simply select the pages/page range to print to PDF.

How do I combine PDFs into a single file?

If you have access to Acrobat Pro - open the PDF that you want to appear first in the entry. Choose "Save As..." from the File menu and give it the name of the final entry. Choose "Insert Pages..." from the Document menu, choose the file that you want to appear next in the entry, then specify where that file should be inserted. When all insertions have been made, save & close the PDF. Make sure the final PDF is optimized for size/resolution. You may also combine PDF files with other PDF editing software as well.