

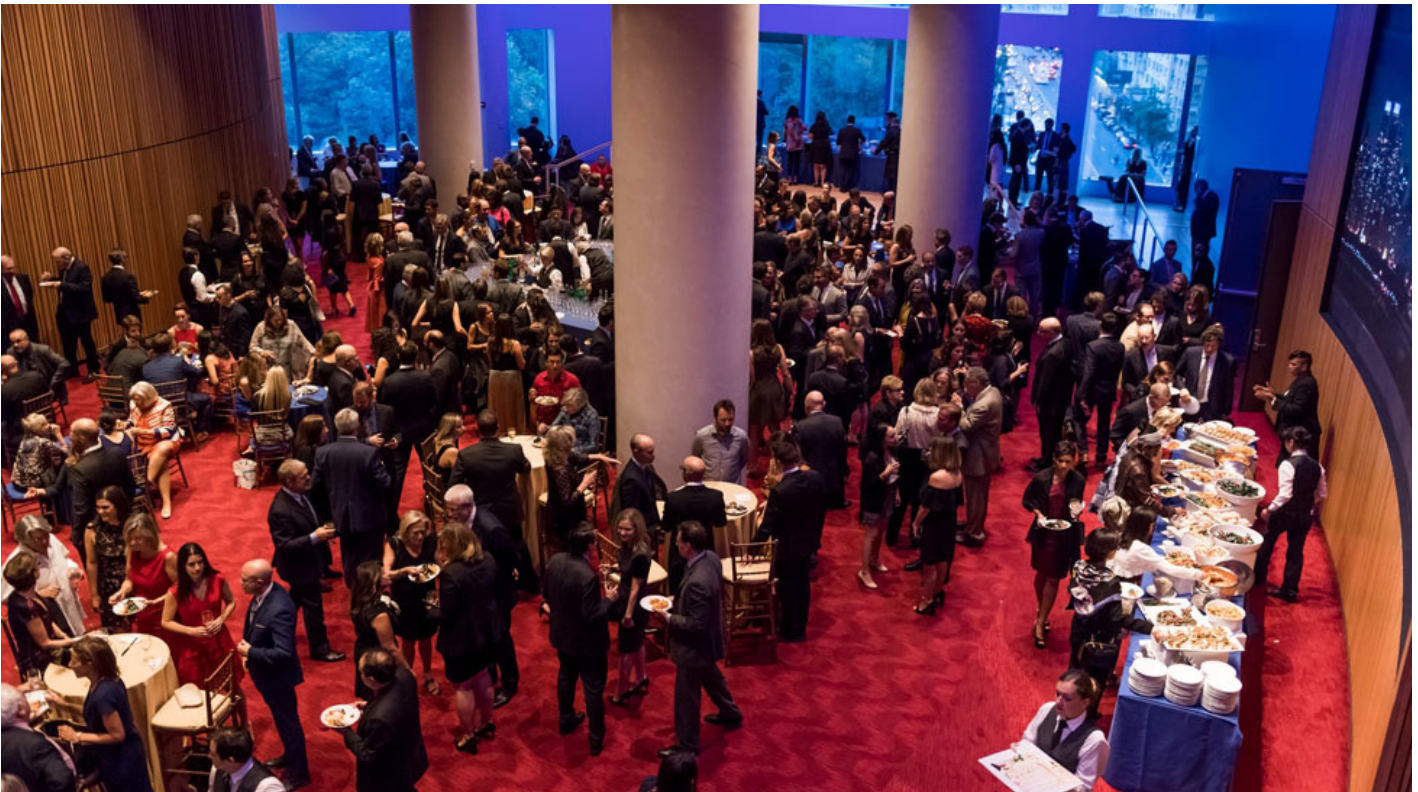


**THE NEWS &
DOCUMENTARY
EMMY® AWARDS**
TRANSPARENCY REPORT



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NATAS publishes an annual Transparency Report for each of its national awards competitions. The goal of this report is to provide greater insight into and context around the actions taken by the Administration Staff and National Awards Committee in their effort to adjudicate a fair competition.

Challenges and substantive inquiries raised in the course of the 40th Annual News & Documentary Emmy® Awards competition were logged and are reflected in this report. In cases where the resulting actions require public disclosure – such as the disqualification of an announced nominee – the summaries identify the specific entries affected. In all other cases, the summaries anonymize the identities of the respective entries and claimants.

NATAS welcomes community feedback on the content and format of this report.

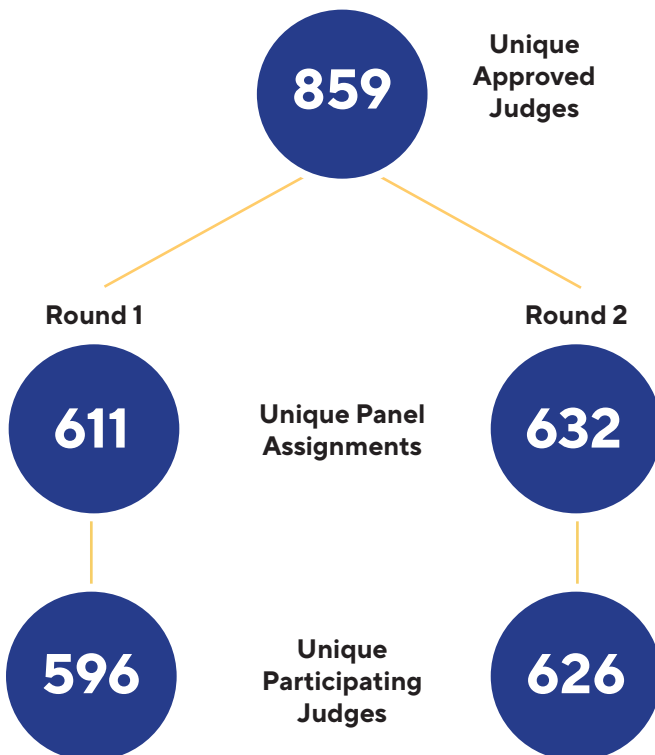


ENTRIES

2,011

total entries were submitted to the contest.

JUDGES



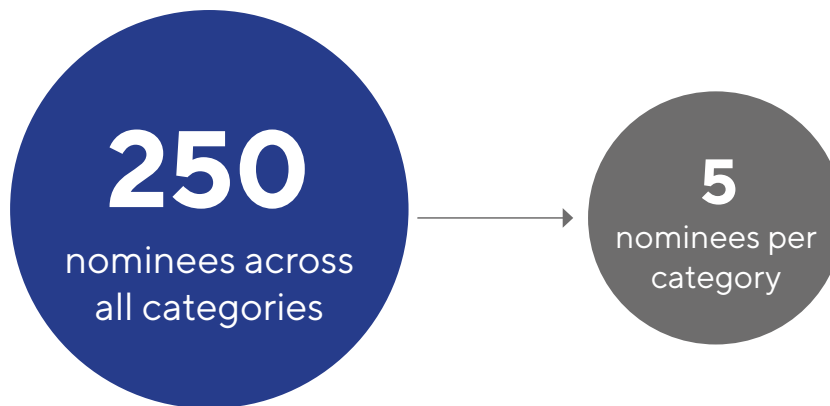
There were 859 approved unique judges that participated in two rounds of judging: a preliminary round and a final round. 69 judging applicants were not approved. There were 596 unique participating judges for the preliminary judging round with a total of 611 unique panel assignments.

There were 626 unique participating judges for the final Blue Ribbon round with a total of 632 unique panel assignments. **A majority of approved judges participated in both the preliminary and Blue Ribbon rounds of judging.**



As is standard practice, the National Awards Committee met via teleconference on July 17, 2019 to review the voting process with representatives of the accounting firm Lutz & Carr and NATAS Awards staff. Referred to as the “Nominations Cut-Off Call,” the purpose of the call is to establish the number of nominees and to break ties. Voting irregularities, if any, are raised by Lutz and Carr. The identities of entrants or judges are not disclosed during the discussion.

There were a total of 250 nominees across all categories. Each category had five nominees, with the following exceptions:



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SIX-NOMINEE CATEGORIES

There were unbreakable ties for fifth place in six categories, resulting in six nominees.

As per the competition rules, each tie for fifth place was broken according to the relative numbers of 10-point and 9-point scores received by the submissions with otherwise identical cumulative fifth-place scores.

It was not possible to break the fifth-place tie in the following categories:

1. Outstanding Live Interview
2. Outstanding Arts, Culture and Entertainment Report
3. Outstanding Short Documentary
4. Outstanding Writing
5. Outstanding Research
6. Outstanding Graphic Design and Art Direction



FOUR-NOMINEE CATEGORIES

There were four nominees in the following categories:

1. Investigative Journalism in Spanish

In this category, the National Awards Committee exercised its discretion to award fewer than five nominees in any instance where the score for a submission is too low to warrant an Emmy® nomination. In this case, the fifth-place submission did not have a sufficiently high score to warrant an Emmy® nomination, and consequently four nominations were awarded.

2. Outstanding Science and Technology Documentary

Five nominations were originally awarded in this category, but the number of nominees was reduced to four after the disqualification of an entry, the documentary “One Strange Rock: Genesis.” For details see the “Nomination Challenges” section on page 9 in the “Judging Process” section.

3. Outstanding Promotional Announcement

Five nominations were originally awarded in this category, but the number of nominees was reduced to four after the disqualification of an entry, the promotional announcement for the science documentary series “One Strange Rock.” For details see the “Nomination Challenges” section on page 9 in the “Judging Process” section.

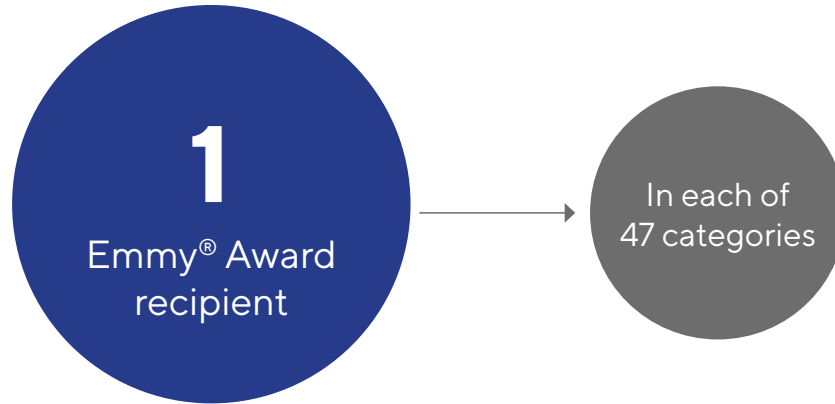
REGIONAL AWARDS

10 of the 250 nominations were in two categories devoted to regional reporting:

- Outstanding Regional News Story: Spot or Breaking News
- Outstanding Regional News Story: Investigative Report

Submissions to these two categories are composed of regional Emmy® Award winners in spot/breaking and investigative reporting categories drawn from competitions administered by NATAS’s 19 chapters. Honorees in the two regional reporting categories receive crystal pillars rather than Emmy® statues. Awards presented in these categories are not Emmy® Awards, but rather a form of special national recognition given to outstanding regional news reports that have previously received Emmy® Awards at the regional level. Consequently, of the 250 nominations announced in the nominations press release, only 240 are considered national Emmy® nominees.





This year's competition resulted in one Emmy® Award recipient in each of 47 categories, and two recipients of crystal pillars in the regional reporting categories.

There were ties for the highest cumulative score recorded in five categories. As per the competition rules, each tie was broken according to the relative numbers of 10-point and 9-point scores received by the submissions with otherwise identical cumulative scores.

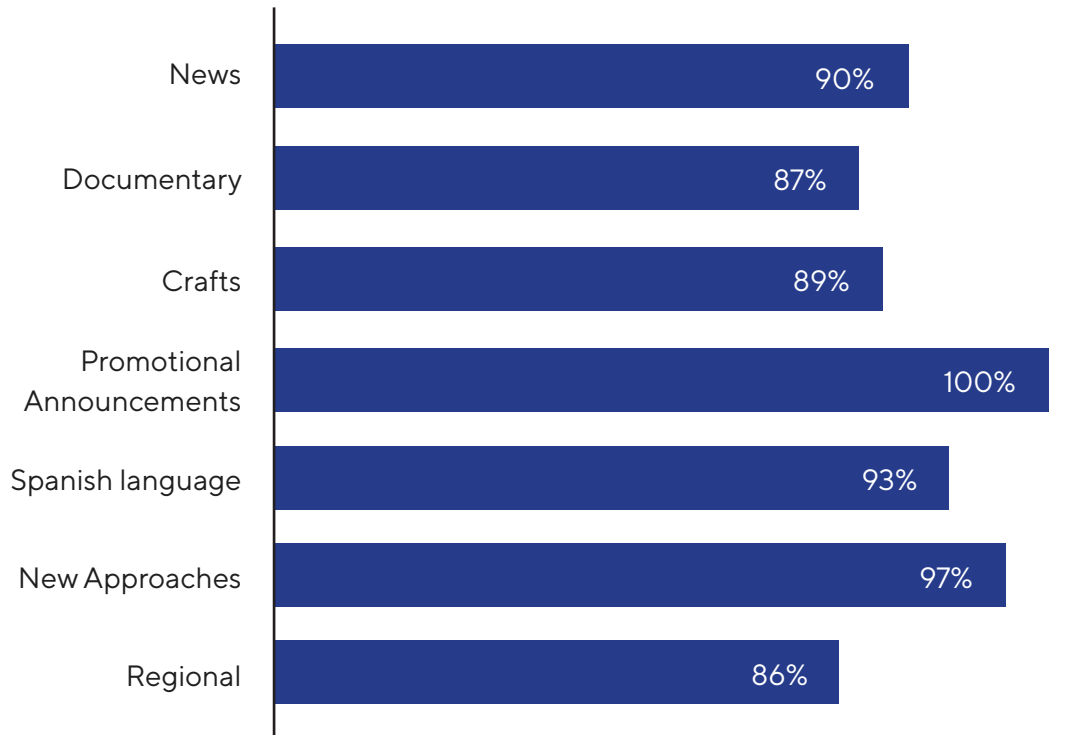
Category	Number of 10-Point Votes *Award Recipient*	Number of 10-Point Votes *Other Nominee*
A	2	1
B	3	1
C	2	1
D	2	1
E	5	3



BALLOT RETURN RATES

This year's contest featured a 90% overall return rate across the contest. The chart below highlights the return rates by category type.

By Category Type:



NOMINATION CHALLENGES

OUTSTANDING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DOCUMENTARY

The documentary “One Strange Rock: Genesis” received a nomination in the Outstanding Science and Technology Documentary category. After the nominations were announced on July 25th, 2019, it was discovered that the film was part of a series, “One Strange Rock”, that was previously submitted to the 70th Primetime Emmy® Awards in the Outstanding Informational Series or Special category.

The NATAS rules prohibiting double entries state that “individual news reports or documentary films may not be entered in more than one equivalent category, either within a single competition or across Emmy® competitions.” This rule applies to both stand-alone documentaries and films that are part of a documentary series submitted as a series to the Primetime Emmy® Awards.

After consultation with the Television Academy in Los Angeles, it was ruled that the submission constituted a double entry and was therefore subject to disqualification.

OUTSTANDING PROMOTIONAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The promotional announcement for the documentary series “One Strange Rock” received a nomination in the Outstanding Promotional Announcement category. After the nominations were announced on July 25th, 2019, it was discovered that the promoted series had been previously submitted to the 70th Primetime Emmy® Awards in the Outstanding Informational Series or Special category. Under the language regarding double entries and cross entries, crafts and promo entries must follow programs into one or another Emmy® competition.

After consultation with the Television Academy in Los Angeles it was ruled that the promotional announcement submission should have followed the series submission into the Primetime Emmy® competition and was therefore subject to disqualification.

CHALLENGE TO AN ENTRY BASED ON ELIGIBILITY YEAR

During the Blue Ribbon judging, a judge in one of the News categories raised the possibility that part of a submission might have aired in the previous eligibility year. However, after consulting with the entrant and conducting additional investigation, Administration Staff could find no evidence that this was the case and indeed found evidence to the contrary. Consequently no action penalizing the submission was taken.



JUDGING IRREGULARITIES

During the Nominations Cut-Off Call, and prior to the disclosure of nominated entries, Lutz & Carr informs the National Awards Committee of any significant questions regarding the integrity of judging in any category, by any individual(s). At no time are NATAS Staff or members of the National Awards Committee informed of the identities of any of the relevant judges or affected entries related to irregularities reported by Lutz and Carr. In addition, if judging irregularities come to the attention of Administration Staff, they are reported to Lutz and Carr, but the identities of the relevant judges or affected entries are withheld from the National Awards Committee on the Cut-Off-Call.

Only one category panel included a ballot deemed worthy of partial disqualification. The judge who raised the challenge to a News entry based on its eligibility year subsequently reported having given the entry in question a minimal score on the assumption that the story was ineligible for the competition.

As discussed previously in the Nomination Challenges section, the entry was found to be eligible. Consequently, the judge's punitive score for that particular submission, and that submission only, was not counted in the tabulation of final scores for the category. This determination impacted nomination status of the entry but did not result in a change in the eventual Emmy® Award honoree for the category.



Entry in the News & Documentary Emmy® Awards precludes the entry of the same programming (i.e. news report or documentary film) in any other Emmy® contest administered by NATAS, the Television Academy (formerly ATAS), or IATAS. In general, craft entries must follow programs into the same Emmy® competition. Exceptions may be made in rare circumstances – for example if a specific, unique craft category is only offered by one of two Emmy® Award contests and the program or report meets eligibility requirements in both competitions, or if a singular episode of a series submitted to a Primetime Emmy® series category is ineligible to be included as part of the overall Primetime series submission.

The following potential cross-entries were accepted into the 40th Annual News & Documentary Emmy® Awards:

1. Documentaries A and B aired as part of a series submitted to the Outstanding Documentary or Nonfiction Series category of the Primetime Emmy® Awards.

The documentaries were ruled ineligible for inclusion in the Primetime series submission because they exceeded the Primetime criteria for theatrical screenings which disallows films that exceed an aggregate of up to seventy (70) days theatrical exhibitions prior to the program's TV airing or Internet exhibition. However, the films were within the News & Documentary Emmy® criteria for theatrical screenings, which states that "Any documentary film that has had a limited theatrical release, defined as showing on 600 or fewer screens in the US over a period of one year from its commercial release date, is eligible for submission."

Consequently, because the films were ineligible for submission to the Primetime Emmy® Awards, and could not be included as part of the Primetime series submission, Administration Staff ruled that they did not constitute a double-entry or an ineligible cross-entry and were accepted to the News & Documentary Emmy® competition.

2. Documentary C aired as part of a series submitted to the Outstanding Documentary or Nonfiction Series category in the Primetime Emmy® Awards.

The submission was ruled ineligible for inclusion in the Primetime series submission because it violated the rule that states that "A program with a prior theatrical release loses eligibility if it does not air within a year of its initial public exhibition." There was no such restriction in the News & Documentary Emmy® Awards rules.



Consequently, because the film was ineligible for submission to the Primetime Emmy® Awards, submission to the News & Documentary Emmy® Awards did not constitute a double-entry or an ineligible cross-entry and it was accepted to the News & Documentary Emmy® competition.

3. Documentaries D & E were submitted to the Outstanding Long Sports Documentary category in the Sports Emmy® competition.

The entrants requested to submit the research for the films to the Outstanding Research craft category in News & Documentary.

The News & Documentary rules state that “Craft entries must follow programs into the same Emmy® competition”, with the exception of cases where “a specific, unique craft category is only offered by one of two Emmy® Award contests, and the program or report meets eligibility requirements in both competitions.” There is no craft category for Research in the Sports Emmy® Awards.

Consequently, the research submissions were accepted into the News & Documentary competition.

4. Documentary F was submitted to the Outstanding Documentary or Nonfiction Series category in the Primetime Emmy® Awards competition.

The entrant requested to submit the research for the film to the Outstanding Research craft category in News & Documentary.

The News & Documentary rules state that “Craft entries must follow programs into the same Emmy® competition”, with the exception of cases where “a specific, unique craft category is only offered by one of two Emmy® Award contests, and the program or report meets eligibility requirements in both competitions.” There is no craft category for Research in the Primetime Emmy® Awards.

Consequently, the research submission was accepted into the News & Documentary Emmy® competition.



7 | CONCLUSION



The 40th News & Documentary Emmy® Awards featured the largest number of submissions in the history of the competition, strong judging participation, and high ballot return rates in all categories.

In 2020, NATAS will work to expand and diversify the judging pool, increase the efficiency and usability of the online submission and judging tools, and review the contest rules and entry categories with an eye to creating a competition that better reflects the current state of the broadcast journalism profession. The Administration Staff extends our thanks to all those in the News & Documentary community whose questions and feedback helped us to administer the competition with fairness and integrity.

NATAS remains committed to administering a best-in-class competition that fairly and transparently recognizes excellence in our industry.

We welcome any feedback, criticism, and suggestions at awards@emmyonline.tv.

