

ELIGIBILITY

Limited to companies and organizations with print or print-related manufacturing capabilities. Companies with multiple locations should submit their entries from the site at which they were manufactured. Only Printing Industries of Ohio • N.Kentucky members are eligible for Best of Region and Best of Show awards.

ENTRY MATERIALS ELIGIBILITY

All entries are limited to material produced by any printing process from the prior year. Reprints are acceptable if they have not previously been entered in a Printing Industries Print Excellence Awards Contest. The company entering a piece must have performed the majority of the printing and/or finishing work.

CLASSIFICATION OF ENTRIES

You may enter a piece using any printing method except where specifically noted. Each ink, varnish and coating used must be counted as a color to qualify for a certain category. Finishing processes, such as embossing, foil-stamping, die-cutting, etc., should NOT be counted as a color. For example: a two-color printed piece that has an aqueous coating and is embossed and die-cut would enter as a three-color entry. Each piece must be entered in the highest qualifying category possible. Entries that fail to meet all requirements for a particular category will be reclassified or disqualified.

CHOOSING A CATEGORY

To help identify the appropriate categories in which to enter your piece, consider:

- ▶ the print production process
- ▶ the equipment used
- ▶ the materials used
- ▶ how the entry is used
- ▶ the size of the entry
- ▶ the number of *colors

*count the number of ink colors, including varnish

Do not count the paper or substrate or any type of foil.

Remember: a piece may fit more than one category. You are welcome to submit the same piece in more than one category.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Completed samples ONLY may be entered. Letterheads, envelopes and business cards may be entered as a set, as one entry. A series of pieces cannot be accepted as a group with the exception of Campaigns/Promotions, Flexographic Printing and Packaging. Each piece must be entered and judged individually. Where appropriate, the same piece may be entered in multiple categories upon payment of an entry fee for each category entered.

Entries cannot be mounted on a background or matted for judging or display. Any marked or otherwise identified samples will be disqualified from the judging unless the committee can cover or remove the identifying markings, with the exception of Printer's Self-Advertising pieces.

Submit two identical copies of each piece entered with the exception of Large Format Printing, or oversized Point-of-Purchase displays or Posters. This is to ensure an unspoiled piece for judging and display during award ceremonies. All pieces submitted will become the property of Printing Industries and will not be returned. Entry forms are enclosed with the Call for Entries. A PDF file of the entry form is available online at www.printexcellenceawards.com Each entry form must be completed in its entirety to qualify.

ENTRY DEADLINE

All entries, applications, fees and proper identification tags must be received by the Printing Industries office in Westerville by 5pm, Friday, **Nov. 1, 2019**. A \$25 late fee will be charged for all entries received after this deadline.

ENTRY FEE

\$35 per entry for Printing Industries members. \$75 per entry for nonmembers. Companies that participated in the Print Contest last year will receive 50% off the \$35 entry fee for any entries beyond the number they submitted last year. To find out how many you submitted last year contact the Printing Industries at (888) 576-1971. There is no entry fee for the Student Graphic Design category.

Members who have not participated in the Print Contest previously will receive their first entry free or pay \$300 for their first 10 entries. Regular fees apply beyond 10. All entries must be accompanied by a check made payable to the Printing Industries of Ohio • N.Kentucky. Entries along with payment may be mailed to: **Printing Industries of Ohio • N.Kentucky**
88 Dorchester Square, Westerville, OH 43081

JUDGING

Judging will take place in December 2019. Judges have the right to re-categorize entries if they do not fit the category in which they were originally entered. Each entry in this competition will be judged based upon its own merit.

PANEL OF JUDGES

A panel of out-of-state experts from national industry organizations with a minimum of 10+ years in the graphic arts industry and a thorough knowledge of printing will judge entries.

3-TIERED CONTEST

1. Regional Competition - Each category will be judged at a regional level. Gold, Silver and Bronze honors will be awarded to winning entries. Each region's Gold winners from the designated "printing categories" will be split by division (see Divisions below) and judged for the Best of Region awards. Only entries submitted by Association members are eligible to compete for the Best of Region awards. All Gold winners from each region will be judged by attendees at the regional Printing Week Banquets for the regional People's Choice awards.

2. Association-wide Competition - All of the Gold winners from the three regions compete for Best of Category. All of the Best of Category winners will be judged for the Judge's Awards and judged by attendees at the Grand Ceremony for the association-wide People's Choice award. Those Best of Category winners in the designated "printing categories" will be split by division (see Divisions below) and judged for the Best of Show awards. Only entries submitted by Association members are eligible to compete for the Best of Show awards.

3. International Level - Each Best of Category winner will be given one free entry into the Printing Industries of America Premier Print Awards Competition.

4. Rising Star Award - All companies entering the competition for the first time will have their pieces automatically entered to win this special award.

DIVISIONS

The Print Excellence Awards has four divisions for the Best of Region and Best of Show Awards so that like-size printers can compete against one another. These divisions match those of the Printing Industries of America Premier Print Awards. Printers with:

- ▶ 20 employees or fewer
- ▶ 21-50 employees
- ▶ 51-100 employees
- ▶ 101 and above employees

CRITERIA FOR JUDGING

- ▶ Register, clarity, and neatness of impressions
- ▶ Sharpness of halftones and line drawings
- ▶ Definition in material requiring detail
- ▶ Attention to symmetry of margins and columns
- ▶ Richness and tonal qualities of color
- ▶ Effective contrast or softness as required by design or purpose of piece
- ▶ Quality of binding, stitching, punching, die-cutting, inserting, and folding
- ▶ Unusual spacing, size, shape
- ▶ Construction and format
- ▶ Clarity and readability
- ▶ Effective execution of color
- ▶ Overall visual impact

NOTIFICATION

After judging is complete, the Gold, Silver and Bronze winners will be notified of their award(s). Best of Region and regional People's Choice Award winners will be announced at that region's Printing Week Banquet. Best of Category winners will be notified of their award(s) in the Spring. Judge's Award, Rising Star, association-wide People's Choice and Best of Show award winners will be announced at the Grand Ceremony during the 2020 Leadership & Management Conference.

AWARD CEREMONIES

Gold, Silver and Bronze award-winning entries will be presented and on display at their region's Printing Week Banquet in January/February 2020. The Best of Category, Best of Region, Judge's Award, Rising Star and Best of Show award-winning entries will be on display at the Grand Ceremony during the Leadership & Management Conference.

CATEGORIES

(*Designates "non-printing categories" which will not be eligible for Best of Region and Best of Show awards)