



Applications are evaluated by the independent prize committee, which is comprised of the National Journalism Center's Board of Governors, along with guest judge Miranda Devine. After deliberation, the board's selection committee will choose a group of finalists, then each member of the board will cast votes by secret ballot for the story most worthy of the annual Dao Prize from the list of finalists.

Please complete this form as a PDF and submit either a scanned or digital copy of the file.

Eligibility

Each outlet and journalist may submit an unlimited number of stories or pre-defined series published from Sept. 1, 2023 through Sept. 2, 2024. Applications are limited to one pre-defined story or series, but there is no limit to the number of applications an outlet or journalist can submit. All U.S.-based news publications are welcome to participate. This includes Substack pages, YouTube channels, podcasts, and other multimedia outlets.

Selection

Submissions will be evaluated on five main criteria: investigative depth, public interest, fairness and accuracy, style, and impact. Judges will grade submissions on a ten-point scale in each category, and tally the average for a final score. The judge must cast their vote for the submission with the highest score. Two runners-up to be awarded \$10,000 each will be determined based on each judge's second and third-place stories.

Applicants may also submit their work for the Dao Prize for Excellence in Local Journalism and the Dao Prize for Excellence in Multimedia Journalism. Multimedia journalism involves published work in online video, audio, or photographic form. Local journalism involves published work focused primarily on a particular community within the U.S. rather than national politics or culture as a whole. (This can include work published in national outlets.) One winner will be selected from both categories, with an award of \$10,000 each. In the case of a tie, the board will enter another round of voting.

Forms will be signed and preserved. Judges will have no subsequent interaction with applicants in regard to their submissions outside the form itself, with the exception of logistical questions. A judge cannot vote for a story from their own news outlet, or for a story they worked on personally. NJC's board operates on an advisory basis, meaning members serve in their capacity as governors without financial compensation from Young America's Foundation. Ballots are counted and preserved by a representative of the Foundation's executive team. NJC's independent board will exercise sole control over selection of the Dao Prize.



THE DAO PRIZE

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Winners

The annual winner will receive a \$100,000 prize, divided among team members per the terms to which they agreed upon submitting their application. Two submissions will win \$10,000 each as runners-up, one will win \$10,000 in the local category, and one will win \$10,000 in the multimedia category, which includes podcasts, video, radio, and formats up to the applicant's discretion. Winners agree to participate in occasional publicity highlighting their award.

Every newsroom that submits an application may request up to ten seats free of charge at the Nov. 13 award ceremony in Washington, D.C. These seats will be allocated on a first-come, first-serve basis at the discretion of the National Journalism Center.

About

Founded in 1977, the National Journalism Center became a project of Young America's Foundation in 2001. NJC hosts prestigious 12-week training sessions every spring and summer for aspiring journalists dedicated to seeking truth. Our network of alumni includes more than 2,250 graduates. Together, they've authored thousands of pieces of original journalism in print, radio, and television and published more than 100 books.

NJC awarded its inaugural prize for excellence in investigative journalism to alumnus Gabe Kaminsky in 2022. After attending the ceremony, representatives from the Dao Feng and Angela Foundation approached NJC about expanding the award as a primary co-sponsor. In 2023, celebrated journalists Matt Taibbi, Bari Weiss, and Michael Shellenberger won the inaugural Dao Prize for their groundbreaking series on the Twitter Files at a ceremony hosted by Kimberley Strassell of the *Wall Street Journal*.

Young America's Foundation is the principal outreach arm of the conservative movement. Our financial disclosures can be located [here](#).





APPLICATION

Full Name(s) of Applicant(s):

Outlet:

Story or Series:

Please list team members who made instrumental contributions to the reporting of this story, with brief explanations of their role:

Please describe the process behind the reporting, writing, and publishing of this story. Were there any hurdles the team overcame?

As an exceptional achievement in truth-seeking journalism, how did this story benefit the public?

Should you win either the honorable mentions or top prize, how will you divide the award between your team? Please list each team member and the percentage share of the prize they will receive below.

Check off each category in which you'd like to submit this application. You may choose up to three:



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- The Dao Prize for Excellence in Investigative Journalism
- The Dao Prize for Excellence in Local Journalism
- The Dao Prize for Excellence in Multimedia Journalism

Please attach scanned or digital copies of each story you're submitting as PDF documents. If your work is audio or video, please provide links or full files in the case of a paywall.

Signature of applicant(s):

Signature of editor-in-chief: