

2023 AWARDS COMPETITION

**DESIGN,
EDITORIAL, &
GENERAL EXCELLENCE**

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Awards Open: July 11, 2023

Awards Close: August 28, 2023



CALL FOR ENTRIES



Entries Due: August 28, 2023

Please note: Submissions from ancillary publications are not eligible for the main awards section. All submissions from ancillary publications must be entered in the AP categories. Submissions must be from work published between July 2022-June 2023. Fees are \$55 for each entry and \$75 for general excellence.

Awards Entry URL: [BetterBNC.com](https://www.betterbnc.com)

2023 DESIGN CATEGORIES

D1-FRONT COVER – ORIGINAL PHOTO

Entries must use original photography to attract readers to the publication and draw them into the issue. The cover should demonstrate intelligent and artistic use of typography, space, design and color. The photo art and the tease for the lead story should support each other. No stock photos are allowed; photo must be commissioned/assigned and first published by the submitting publication. *Submit 1 cover.*

D2-FRONT COVER – USE OF STOCK PHOTO

Entries must use stock photos to draw the reader into the publication. The cover should demonstrate intelligent and artistic use of typography, space, design and color. The photo art and the tease for the lead story should support each other. Entry is judged on use of stock photo; not the quality of the photo itself. *Submit 1 cover.*

D3-FRONT COVER – ILLUSTRATION

Entries may use original or stock art to draw the reader into the publication. The design may be any medium other than photography, i.e. hand-drawn, painted, textile or computer-drawn image. The overall cover should demonstrate intelligent and artistic use of typography, space, design and color. The art and the tease for the lead story should support each other. *Submit 1 cover.*

D4 – TABLE OF CONTENTS

Entries must exhibit a clear and well-organized road map to the publication through interesting design, making the TOC enticing, attractive but most importantly, useful to readers. *Submit 1 TOC.*

D6 – INTERIOR PHOTOGRAPHY (ORIGINAL)

Entries must be original photography that illustrates and supports a feature, column or department to convey meaning or achieve a powerful effect. The photography should be of high technical quality. It should capture the tone and thrust of the individual article and work well with the article's overall layout: typography, space, design and color. Attention should be paid to editing, sizing and cropping. The art and editorial should support each other. No stock photos allowed; photo(s) must be commissioned/assigned and first published by the submitting publication. *Submit 1 story with photo(s).*

D7 – SINGLE PAGE DESIGN

Entries must be a one-page design. Entries should not be a single page from a multi-page layout or from standard department pages. Instead, this category is for editorial material that is confined to only one page. Art and typography should convey the tone of the content. *Submit 1 story.*

D8 – DEPARTMENT DESIGN

Entries must be a design of an entire department, i.e., collection of material, that appears in each issue of the publication and is not covered by one of the other design categories. Art and typography should convey the tone of the content, as well as unite the individual items. Entries *cannot* be features. *Submit the same section from 2 issues.*

D9 – CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Entries will be judged on the visual appeal, interesting design and readability of the calendar. This is a design award and should not be confused with the editorial category. *Submit complete calendar sections from 2 different issues.*

D10 – FEATURE LAYOUT

Entries must demonstrate creative use of typography and space as well as resourcefulness in the selection and use of art and/or photographs. Entries may be in black and white or color. *Submit 1 layout, including all pages of the story.*

D11 – SPECIAL SECTION

Entries must be special sections or pull-out guides within a publication. Sections must have an editorial theme supported by its design. These sections may contain advertising, but they should not consist solely of advertisements. Submissions should exhibit good use of typography and space, as well as resourcefulness in the selection and use of art. *Submit 1 complete section.*

D12 – OVERALL DESIGN

Entries must clearly demonstrate superior design throughout the entire publication. Good design should not only serve the reader, but also engage, delight and often surprise. Organization of the publication should be well defined, with intelligent use of space, photos, artwork and typography throughout. There should be a clear delineation between editorial content and ads. Placement of ads should be considered part of the total design and organization for the publication. The design must establish and sustain a visual identity of the publication. *Submit 1 copy of 3 consecutive issues.*

2023 EDITORIAL CATEGORIES

Please note: "Regularly" means in at least half of the issues (for example, 6 times a year for a 12-month publication; 3 times for a 6-month publication). Submissions from ancillary publications are not eligible for the main awards section. All submissions from ancillary publications must be entered in the AP categories. Entries must be ORIGINAL to your publication. No reprints or syndicated columns permitted.

E3-COLUMN - PUBLISHER'S/EDITOR'S NOTE

Entries must be editorial opinions or essays written by the publisher or editorial staff. Entries should establish the publication's voice and influence in the local parenting community. This column must appear in each issue. *Submit columns from 2 issues.*

E4 - BRIEFS/SHORT STUFF

Entries must be a potpourri of short, timely, unrelated items packaged together as a column or section that appears regularly in the publication. Some, but not all, items must be local. The entries and headlines should be written in an engaging, yet concise style. *Submit complete sections or columns from 2 issues.*

E5 - CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Entries must list specific, upcoming family-oriented events in the publication's area of coverage. Preference will be given to calendars that list a wide variety of events for children. This section may include related resources, listings, roundups, etc. The section may contain advertising, but it should not consist solely of advertisements. The format should be user-friendly and include contact information. The calendar must be in each issue. *Submit complete calendar sections from 2 issues.*

E7-COLUMN - CHILD DEVELOPMENT & PARENTING ISSUES

Entries must be locally generated columns on child development, behavioral issues or parenting advice. The column should establish the publication as a voice of authority in the community; it may include both professional advice and personal anecdotes. The column must appear regularly in the publication's table of contents. *Submit columns from 2 issues.*

E8-COLUMN - FAMILY MATTERS

Entries must be locally generated columns offering substantive information on matters of general interest, e.g. health, safety, nutrition, finance, etc. The column should clearly establish the publication as a voice of authority on the topic; it may include both professional advice and personal anecdotes. The column must appear regularly in the publication's table of contents. *Submit columns from 2 issues.*

E9-COLUMN - FAMILY FUN

Entries must be locally generated columns that focus on family fun, recreation or entertainment, such as cooking, sports, dining out, toys and games, nature activities, day trips, etc. The column must appear regularly in the publication's table of contents. *Submit columns from 2 issues.*

E10-COLUMN - HUMOR

Entries must be locally generated humor columns relevant to parents. The column must appear regularly in the publication's table of contents. *Submit columns from 2 issues.*

E11 - TRAVEL FEATURE

Entries must provide useful information about family travel destinations. They must include specific details relevant to local parents. They must establish that the destinations are appropriate and interesting for children and offer suggestions of family-friendly sights and activities. *Submit 1 article.*

E12 - PERSONAL ESSAY

Entries must be locally generated essays written in first person and should evoke an emotional response from the reader. Submissions may be humorous, serious or reflective. *Submit 1 article.*

E13 - PROFILE

Entries should be a balanced, fair and insightful look at an individual or group of people. Profiles should reveal something about the person's personality as well as the reason the person was selected as the subject. *Submit 1 article.*

E14 - Q & A INTERVIEW

Entries must demonstrate knowledge of the topic and contain interesting questions and responses that shed light on the subject. Entries must be in a Q & A format. *Submit 1 article.*

E16 - NEWS FEATURE

Entries must be well-researched, timely and thoughtful responses to, or explanations of, recent newsworthy events, incidents or developments. The submission should enhance the reader's understanding of the issue and how it relates to the local parenting community. *Submit 1 article.*

E17 - NON-TRADITIONAL STORY FORM FEATURE

Entries in this category embrace non-traditional means of storytelling. Articles submitted should not be in narrative form. Lister-style articles would be appropriate in this category, as well as presentations that use other creative means of combining elements to tell a story. Entries are evaluated on the quality and effectiveness of the story structure and individual editorial components, not the design. *Submit 1 article.*

E18 - SERVICE FEATURE

Entries should exhibit strong reporting and be easily understood. Entries should give readers the information they need to accomplish something and may be on any subject, such as how to choose day care, how to save for college, etc. *Submit 1 article.*

E19 - GENERAL FEATURE WRITING

Entries must be compelling, skillfully crafted, well researched and beautifully written. Entries should establish relevance to the magazine's readers. *Submit 1 article.*

E20 - SPECIAL SERIES

Entries must be a series of related articles with a minimum of two installments. The series should have a clearly identified theme and all articles should relate to them but also be able to stand alone. The series should provide in-depth information about the subject matter and its relevancy to the publication's readers and community. The series must be identified as such in the publication. *Submit entire series.*

E21 - SPECIAL SECTION WITHIN A PUBLICATION

Entries must be special sections or pull-out guides. This section may be on any topic, i.e. a comprehensive resource guide, stories on one topic from many angles, etc. The section should exhibit strong reporting. It may contain advertising, but it should not consist solely of advertisements. This may not be a stand-alone publication. (See AP categories.) *Submit 1 copy of the complete issue including the section.*

E22 - OVERALL WRITING

This award recognizes superior, engaging writing throughout a publication. Submissions must demonstrate a variety of well-written articles in every editorial facet, including the calendar, publisher's/editor's note, briefs and lists/directories that are not advertising-related. The publication should introduce and elaborate on a theme or themes important to parents and should reflect a strong local flavor throughout. The majority of the writing should be original work. Writing should exhibit strong ledes, a variety of sentence length, strong verb use and strong descriptions. (This category is strictly editorial; design is not a consideration.) *Submit 1 copy of 3 complete consecutive issues.*

2023 ANCILLARY PUBLICATION CATEGORIES

Please note: Ancillary publications are stand-alone guides, booklets or specialty magazines that are published at least once a year in addition to a member's main publication. Submissions in all AP categories must be entered in the circulation category of the member's primary publication, not the ancillary's circulation.

AP1 - ANCILLARY COVER

The cover should demonstrate intelligent and artistic use of typography, space, design and color. The art and the tease for the publication's editorial focus should support one another. Original and stock photos are acceptable, as are original and stock illustrations. *Submit 1 cover.*

AP4 - ANCILLARY OVERALL WRITING

Entries must clearly demonstrate superior writing, reporting and editorial judgment throughout the entire publication. The publication should reflect a strong local flavor throughout. (This category is strictly editorial; design is not a consideration.) *Submit 1 complete supplement.*

AP5 - ANCILLARY OVERALL DESIGN

Entries must be stand-alone publications ancillary to the regular parenting publication and published at least once a year. Entries must clearly demonstrate superior design throughout the entire publication. Organization should be well defined with intelligent use of art, photos and space. Editorial and advertising should be clearly delineated. (This category is strictly design; editorial is not a consideration.) *Submit 1 complete supplement.*

2023 DIGITAL MEDIA CATEGORIES

DG1 - BEST BLOG/BLOGGERS

Entries can be any single or multi-contributor blogs housed on the magazine's website. Judges will evaluate blog on how it serves the intended audience, frequency of posting, commitment and passion to the topic and the sense of community that surrounds the blog. The blog needs to be locally generated. *Submit the link to the blog.*

DG2 - BEST PODCAST

Submit a brief written description of the entry along with one single audio file of maximum 15 minutes runtime (upload the file or include a link to it online). The submitted audio can be from a single episode or a combination of material from up to three episodes. Also provide an active link to the full podcast series.

DG3 - BEST E-NEWSLETTER

Entries must be an emailed newsletter, displaying excellent design, content, focus and a balance of advertising and editorial. Submit PDF or link to two editions of the same e-newsletter.

DG4 - BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

This award honors the most effective and creative use of social media to advance the publication's editorial mission. Entries should demonstrate how content was optimized for each platform and how it worked together to meet its goals. Submit three specific instances of your social media success involving one or more platforms/channels. Include links and/or screenshots for each instance and a 250-word maximum written explanation.

2023 GENERAL EXCELLENCE CATEGORIES

GE1 - BEST REDESIGNED PUBLICATION

Entries will be thoughtfully and creatively reimagined (in both editorial content and design) reflecting an understanding of the reader through current, innovative and engaging design, partnered with revitalized editorial that further engages the reader and indicates an awareness of the current times and age that we live in. Submit 3 copies of the two issues prior to the redesign and 3 copies of the two issues after the redesign. (Each of the three judges for this category needs a separate set of the issues being submitted for consideration.)

GE2 - ANCILLARY* GENERAL EXCELLENCE

* See definition of ancillary publication in AP section. This award takes into consideration both editorial and design. Entries must be stand-alone publications that are an expansion of the regular content appearing in the primary magazine. The publication may contain advertising, but it should not consist solely of advertisements. The subject matter can be on any topic related to parenting, family, and children. Examples include education, special needs, child care, babies, teens, family travel, grandparents, etc. The ancillary publication can be distributed either separately or with the regular publication. Articles should be reported, written, edited and presented in a manner useful to local readers. Submit 3 copies of 1 complete supplement. (Each of the three judges for this category needs a separate set of the issues being submitted for consideration.)

GE3 - WEBSITE GENERAL EXCELLENCE

This award takes into consideration both editorial and design of the website. Sites must have superior visual appeal, with excellent use of color, photography and typography throughout. The design should allow for easy navigation and a high level of interactivity. Content should complement, but not duplicate the magazines and serve as a gateway to other community resources. Content should clearly establish the website as an expert parenting resource. Writing should be concise and active, written specifically for a local, online audience. Entries must be websites that are primarily developed and maintained by in-house staff members. Submit URL, one color copy (screen shot) of the home page.

GE4 - GENERAL EXCELLENCE

This award takes into consideration both editorial and design of the primary publication. Entries must exhibit editorial balance, planning, thoughtful pacing, and a high caliber of journalistic integrity throughout. There should be evidence of high standards in reporting, writing and editing. General Excellence winners must demonstrate a grasp of the issues within the local parenting community and beyond. Entries must demonstrate excellence in design. There should be evidence of careful attention to the quality of art, design, and space as well as general organization of the publication. Submit 3 copies of the same 3 consecutive issues. (Each of the three judges for this category needs a separate set of the issues being submitted for consideration.)

Entries Due: August 28, 2023
