

# ADDY®

THE CREATIVE SPIRIT OF ADVERTISING

## HOW-TO GUIDE

2011/2012

A Complete Guide to Conducting a  
Successful ADDY® Competition



AMERICAN ADVERTISING FEDERATION  
THE UNIFYING VOICE FOR ADVERTISING™



## **IMPORTANT:**

In addition to this document, you will need the following, available at [www.ADDYcompetition.com](http://www.ADDYcompetition.com):

Current year's editions:

1. ADDY Rules & Categories
2. ADDY Judging Rules
3. ADDY Online Entry & Judging Software User Guide



# Introduction

The ADDY Awards is perhaps the most important event held for advertising clubs and federations nationwide, the key to conducting an effective and successful competition is planning and organization. This manual will help keep you on track planning and organizing your local and district competitions.

For clubs, the ADDY Awards competition is the most important image/reputation maker, the largest source of income, the number-one membership builder, and the largest social event of the year. On the district level, the District ADDY Awards fund and support the efforts and mission of the districts by providing professional and club management programs.

This manual is compiled from local and district manuals and the experiences of hundreds of ADDY experts nationwide. Since there are clubs and districts that range in size from very large to very small in markets of all sizes, you may find that some of the materials in this manual do not apply specifically to your particular market or region; you should therefore use this manual as a guide to help you through the process, as it applies to you and your area.

An important thing to remember is that you are never alone. Your District ADDY chair, the National ADDY Committee and the American Advertising Federation (AAF) want you to succeed. If you have any problems or concerns, start by discussing them with your District ADDY chair, but feel free to ask the advice of any National ADDY Committee member or the AAF. You will also find that other local ADDY chairs in your district may be able to give you advice and assistance.

Although this manual will give you directions on how to structure your competition, committee and show, over the course of the year, the competition rules are adjusted annually and the online software goes through regular review and updates. New and updated information will be provided to you by your District ADDY chair and is available at the AAF website ([www.aaf.org](http://www.aaf.org) or [www.ADDYcompetition.com](http://www.ADDYcompetition.com)). Click on the ADDY link and go to the menu and click on Club/Management Resources. Documents available online include the current Rules & Categories, the ADDY Software Users Guide, current Judging Rules & the prospective judges portal, in addition to other helpful documents that can assist you in conducting your ADDY Competition.

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## What Is the AAF National ADDY Awards Competition?

The National ADDY Awards program is the advertising industry's largest and most representative creative competition, recognizing creative excellence in the art of advertising.

Sponsored by the AAF, the National ADDY Awards competition represents the broadest creative spirit of advertising by recognizing all forms of advertising; in all varieties of media; created by all sizes and types of entrants; and from all over the country. More than 50,000 total entries are entered and judged annually.

The National ADDY Committee (NAC) is committed to and suggests recognizing advertising that promotes diversity and issues related to multiculturalism. At the national level, all winning pieces will be screened for relevance to these issues with the most exceptional being eligible to receive a special Mosaic ADDY. The NAC strongly encourages that local and district shows adopt this policy.

### Three-Tier Competition

The National ADDY Awards are unique among advertising creative competitions. It is the only competition that includes three arduous levels of competition.

Entries are judged first at a local level through competitions organized by more than 200 ad clubs and/or Ad 2 organizations affiliated with the AAF. Winners at the local levels (from the 50,000 entries) advance to the second level of judging in one of 14 district competitions.

After district winners are selected, they advance to the third level of judging at the national finals.

ADDY Award winners truly represent the best. With the National ADDY Awards, it is the size of the idea that matters most, not the size of the organization that created the work, nor the size of the budget behind it. This distinction elevates the National ADDY Awards from virtually every other advertising competition.

## The Student ADDY Competition

The National Student ADDY competition is held concurrently with the professional competition and is the largest student advertising competition in the world. Although there are fewer categories, the student competition mirrors the three-tier structure of the professional competition.

### “Help! I Am an ADDY Chair. What Do I Do Now?”

To most new ADDY chairs, the task at hand can appear daunting. If you approach the process one step at a time, it can be made easier, very fulfilling and fun. Below are suggestions where you can start:

1. Read this manual.
2. Read the current ADDY Rules & Categories, as published by the National ADDY Committee. This is important since there are adjustments and updates every year. Do not use the rules from a previous year. Go to the AAF website, [www.ADDYcompetition.com](http://www.ADDYcompetition.com) and download the new rules/categories, plus the software user's manual and other updates.
3. Talk to your District ADDY chair if you need assistance or have questions about the information and/or process.
4. Determine the date of your ADDY banquet or gala (use the timeline section in this book to determine the best date, backing your timeline away from the district ADDY competition and deadlines). District ADDY chairs need to follow the same procedure (back away from the National entry deadline of April 15) in order to fit into the schedule for the three levels of competition.
5. Build a strong committee to help you (see the committee section in this book for suggestions).
6. Meet with the former ADDY chair or club president for suggestions and advice.
7. Work with your local club treasurer and club president to build a local ADDY budget. District budgets will be largely determined by local auto-forwarding fees and expenses tied to district NSAC and typical judging expenses.
8. Meet with your committee and make assignments.

Remember, you are the ADDY expert in your market, so be sure that you have studied this manual, understand all of the rules and have reviewed all the rule changes.

# Committees

One of the ways to increase the chances of a successful ADDY competition and gala is to build a strong committee to support the event. Unfortunately, in some clubs the entire weight of the ADDYs falls on one person, while in other clubs/districts there are many people waiting and wanting to participate.

While this section assumes that building a large committee can be accomplished in your club, you may find it necessary to combine assignments, eliminate some tasks, and make adjustments as necessary, so that realistic goals can be achieved. It is always better to do what is realistically possible, and do it well, rather than try to accomplish it all and fail. Keep in mind that if your team or committee is small, you will have to start everything early so that you can accomplish more of your plans.

## A Functioning ADDY Committee

Set your first meeting during the summer or in early September. Schedule monthly meetings during that first meeting. Monthly meetings should be adequate until entry deadline day. Your subcommittees should also be meeting regularly. It is a good idea for the ADDY chair to attend most, if not all, of the subcommittee meetings. Even when in attendance, however, the overall ADDY chair should never attempt to do the subcommittee chair's job. Provide support, not substitute leadership.

As you get closer to judging day and the gala, you may want to increase the frequency of your meetings to make sure that you stay on top of things.

If you get an inkling that a subcommittee chair is falling behind, call him/her and see what the problem is; how you can help; and to remind him/her of the responsibilities and commitments. More often than not, the subcommittee chairs with problems have forgotten what they are to do and will welcome your concern and help. Do not offer to do their jobs. It is counterproductive, can be insulting and may result in extra work for you.

## Conducting an Effective Committee Meeting

A few common rules will help you to conduct an effective committee meeting and keep your subcommittee chairs motivated and happy.

1. Set a time, date and place that is convenient for as many subcommittee chairs as possible. If a subcommittee chair cannot be present, then he/she will not be productive.
2. Have an agenda. This will keep you on track and limit discussion to important topics. It also will help to ensure that you review the items that must be covered.
3. Limit your meeting to no more than an hour; 45 minutes is even better. Allot time for each subcommittee chair to report and then allow time for discussion. Keep in mind that short, productive meetings get things done and they bring the committee members back.
4. Set a direction for the committee. Invite discussion and participation; listen to what committee members contribute; control discussion so that it stays on topic; and, in the end, make the decisions that need to be made, either by majority vote or executive action.
5. Do not allow meetings to descend into squabbling, personal attacks, excuses or reasons why things cannot be done. Focus on committee business and ask members to think about and suggest what it takes to get something done, rather than why it cannot be done.

Some committee chairs are uncomfortable with telling people what to do, however, it is important to delegate.

## Subcommittees

In addition to having a chair of the ADDY Committee, it is suggested that you have several other subcommittees, all with multiple volunteers. Your club should do whatever it can to avoid one person committees. The subcommittees include:

- Design/Collateral
- Judging
- Venue
- Awards
- Sponsorships/Ad Sales
- Public Relations/Promotions
- Show Production
- Student ADDY

As you look for subcommittee chairs that will form your committee, look for club members who have some skills or experience related to the committee's needs.

## Suggested Committee and Subcommittee Assignments

### Club Board of Directors

- Review annual budget.
- Approve committee pricing recommendations for: entries, sponsorship packages, program ads, tickets, trophy/citation duplicate orders, decorations, venue, and production.
- Meet regularly with the ADDY chair.

### ADDY Chair(s)

- Recruit subcommittee chairs and volunteers with your club president.
- Update overall timeline for the event.
- Develop budget, along with club treasurer for submission to club board of directors.
- Oversee all subcommittee budgets and insure that they come in as planned.
- Ensure that committees adhere to the timeline.
- Update the board at monthly meetings.
- Attend judging weekend and activities.
- Set a calendar of all committee and subcommittee meetings.

- Perform final proofing of all collateral and promotional materials.
- Conduct general supervision and problem solving.

### Design/Collateral Subcommittee

- Develop theme for event and collateral materials.
- Secure a local agency or designer to design the pieces.
- Design and produce the following pieces:
  - Theme logo
  - Call for entry poster and envelope
  - Call for entry teaser, reminder card and e-mail or website elements
  - Program cover and interior sections
  - Invitation and RSVP card with envelopes
  - Slide template for show
  - Trophy design
  - Certificates
  - Winners book

*(Note: Showcasing winners on CD has been a nice complement to, or even a replacement for, the winners book and should include audio, video and interactive winners. You may find that the same production house, who produced the gala, or similar one, could be used. Invitations and RSVP cards may be optional in your market.)*

- Solicit printer and paper donations for the collateral pieces or bid and select a printer.
- Oversee all printing and see that it is delivered on time.
- Proof all artwork along with the ADDY chair and Event Committee.

### Judging Subcommittee

*(For more details see judging section or refer to Judging Rules available at [www.ADDYcompetition.com](http://www.ADDYcompetition.com))*

### Selecting a Judging Chair and Committee

One of the most critical steps in the ADDY Awards process is the selection of the judging chair. As is the case with the overall ADDY chair, the one in charge of judging must:

1. Be experienced (a judging chair can never be too experienced).
2. Understand and believe in the ADDY competition process.
3. Know all of the competition rules.
4. Know what judges look for in a creative competition.
5. Be familiar with the market.
6. Be comfortable with the judges.
7. Be capable and able to make decisions.
8. If at all possible, choose a Judging Chair who has been a judge.
9. Anticipate all questions; know all answers.

The judging chair will have the best chance of success if he/she has no relationships with those most likely to submit entries. Judging must be above suspicion, or it can damage your ADDY Awards competition.

The ADDY chair should then select a committee to help with the process. It is preferable to create the following three teams:

**Drop-Off Subcommittee:** This group will be responsible for helping the ADDY and judging chairs receive all of the entries.

**Screening Subcommittee:** This group aids in making sure that all entries meet rules and requirements, are entered in correct categories and are legitimate and/or eligible contenders.

**Note to District ADDY Chairs:** *At the District level, this committee will help sort the auto-forwarded entries and prepare them for judging. This should be done one or two days prior to judging. (District judging may require you to engage volunteers who are not local or from the city/club hosting the judging.) The biggest difference between local and district judging weekends is the number of entries. In some districts, you may have many more entries and judging usually takes two days, even if you send broadcast and interactive entries out to be judged ahead of time.*

**Judging Weekend Committee:** Selecting the appropriate judging weekend committee depends on how large your show is. A good rule of thumb is 4–6 people for every 400 entries. This group (led by the ADDY and judging chairs) should consist of the following: at least one online entry person (good typing and computer

skills), one AV person and two runners. Getting students involved is a good idea.

**Software/Technical Specialist:** Among the people you bring on to help, make sure that you recruit a person with strong technical skills to work with and handle issues regarding working with the online software.

#### **Venue Subcommittee:**

- Identify suitable locations for gala.
- Negotiate venue deal and secure an agreement (ADDY committee chair should oversee and sign the contract with approval of the board of directors).
- Handle tickets and seating.
- Coordinate with show production chair to see that show requirements are arranged and set up.
- Work with venue on food and beverage needs.
- Handle decorations.
- Set up any gallery display.

#### **Awards Subcommittee:**

- Request bids and trophy options from various vendors.
- Secure trophies and certificates and ensure they are delivered in time for the gala.
- Coordinate with judging chair to receive a complete list of winners and winner information.
- Ensure award personalization is accurate.
- Prepare duplicate awards as requested.
- Deliver awards to gala.
- Prepare ADDY and citation duplicate order forms and place in award boxes/envelopes.
- Order and fulfill duplicate requests.

#### **Sponsorships/Ad Sales Subcommittee:**

- Prepare materials used to obtain/attract sponsors.
- Sell ads or sponsorships for gala, printed materials, awards book and other items in accordance with the budget.
- Secure all sponsor logos and provide them to the show production or gala committees as needed.



- Solicit donations for printing, paper and other items.

### **Public Relations/ Promotions Subcommittee:**

*(For extensive details, see public relations section.)*

- Distribute press releases to appropriate press for the call for entries, judging and for the gala.
- Distribute list of winners to the appropriate press.
- Make callbacks to press to encourage coverage.
- Arrange PR photography at judging and gala.
- Provide information about ADDY awards to those at the club's monthly meetings/seminars.
- Work with club newsletter and website editors to ensure proper publicity in those places.
- Prepare copies of broadcast winners on DVD if radio or television will cover your winners.
- Distribute press releases recognizing local club winners at district and national competitions.

### **Show Production Subcommittee:**

*(For extensive details, see show production section.)*

- Prepare event script. (personalizing automated script available in software).
- Produce and direct entire production.
- Obtain list of categories and winners from judging chair.
- Coordinate with venue chair to ensure all audio/video needs are provided.
- Arrange for all photography, power point, and/or audio/video production as needed.
- Identify and secure master(s) of ceremonies and presenters.
- Procure and coordinate entertainment.
- Coordinate audio/video presentation at the gala.
- Hire staff or get volunteers to operate audio/video presentation.

### **Student ADDY Subcommittee:**

- Work with your club's education chair to obtain list of colleges. A list of schools statewide can be obtained from the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.
- Contact local colleges and design schools to encourage student entries.
- Contact previous NSAC entrants to encourage them to enter the previous year's work.
- Act as student liaison and point person.
- Visit [www.studentaddys.com](http://www.studentaddys.com) for more information on conducting the student competition.
- Contact the AAF Education Department with questions relating to college and university chapters.
- Encourage colleges/universities to incorporate the ADDY Awards into their curriculum.

# Budget

The key to having a financially successful ADDY competition is establishing a realistic, solid budget and sticking to it! Use the budget template included in this manual as a guideline.

Most clubs plan and realize a profit from the competition entry fees, and this is often the major fundraiser of the year.

Start by reviewing the final, reconciled ADDY budget from the previous year. Identify problem areas where expenses were too high. How can you minimize the expenses this year? Identify areas of opportunity to increase revenue.

## Two Important Budgeting Rules:

1. Estimate high on expenses.
2. Estimate low on income.

If you are losing too much money on the gala, consider adjusting the income by increasing sponsorships or raising the admission charge. Look at reducing the expenses by changing the meal, the location or what you spend on the other elements of the evening. Of course, a combination of all of these might be necessary.

Similarly, if you are not profiting from the competition, you may want to look at adjusting your entry fees or your expenses.

## Budgeting Tips:

- Keep a running track of actual vs. estimated expenses as you go through each phase of the ADDY process and adjust as needed.
- Provide each subcommittee chair with his/her committee budget and charge him/her with maximizing profitability in every area.
- Be sure when you are budgeting food and beverage that you factor in sales taxes and gratuities.
- The ADDY chair should approve **ALL** expenses.

If you find it difficult to do everything that you have done in the past and still stay within the budget, here are some additional suggestions:

## Ways to Maximize Profits:

- Increasing the number of entries is the best way to improve your bottom line.
- Publicize the online entry URL.
- Hold an ADDY workshop for your local market.
- Don't limit your Call for Entries to just your mailing list. Have Call for Entries available at meetings.
- Mail Call for Entries to your local Direct Marketing Association (DMA), Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) Chapter, American Marketing Association (AMA) and other marketing-related clubs, in addition to your membership database. Don't forget the local Chamber of Commerce, Visitor and Convention Bureaus, etc.
- Check the credits on last year's winners for production houses, photographers, printers.
- Use the Yellow Pages.
- Send Call for Entries to the creatives, as well as the account teams or owners/principals at advertising agencies.
- Promote! Promote! Promote!
- Get sponsors and donations. Your goal should be to get nearly 100 percent of your needs contributed or donated.
- Sell advertising and sponsorships in an awards book.
- Combine the local membership directory with the winners book to increase the value of both.

## Ways to Save Money:

- Look line by line in the budget to eliminate or reduce certain items from your budget.
- Just because you always had something in the past doesn't mean you have to have it again.
- If necessary, reduce or eliminate entertainment at the gala.
- Have a less expensive meal at the gala. Try heavy hors d'oeuvres or a dessert bar.

- Reduce the size of your Call for Entries to save on printing and postage.
- Move your gala to another location.
- Have items and services donated whenever possible.
- Try trading advertising space for services.
- Choose qualified judges from markets that have lower airfares to your market.
- If you are in an area with multiple markets within driving distance, have judges drive.
- Do not print a winners book, or reduce the size of it. A winners book on CD/DVD may be produced for less than a printed book.
- Order certificates that will last for many years. Imprint the year when personalized.
- Reduce to three judges, if you have been using more.
- Reduce the amount of time the judges will have to stay in your market by having them judge interactive/radio/television in advance by sending them a CD/DVD and the URLs.
- Use a master of ceremonies you do not have to pay.

## Budget Line Items

Here are suggested budget categories to review when making your budget. Not all line items will apply to all clubs:

### Income:

- Entries
- Gallery
- Tickets
  - Individual
  - Tables
  - Students
- Premium Member Credit
- Underwriter
- Duplicate Trophies/Certificates
- District Entry Fees
- Sponsorships
- Program/Winners Book Ad Sales
- Miscellaneous

### Total Income

### Expenses

- Judging
  - Judges Airfare
  - Hotels
  - Meals
  - Gifts
  - Ground Transportation
  - Postage/Shipping to Judges
  - Judging Location
  - Judging Day Expenses
  - Equipment and Table Rental
  - Producing Judging Reel
  - Misc.
- Collateral
  - Design
  - Printing
  - Postage
  - Misc.
- Show/Gala
  - Video/AV Production
  - Audio/Video Equipment
  - MC
  - Entertainment
  - Venue Charges
  - Food
  - Bar
  - Program
  - Decorations
  - Comp Tickets
- ADDY Winners Book
  - Design
  - Printing
  - Distribution
- Gallery
- Trophies/Certificates
- ADDY Fees Paid by Local Club
  - AAF - \$15 per Local Entry (\$12 to AAF, \$3 to National Ad2)
  - District - \$2 per Local Student Entry (some districts may vary)
  - District - Forwarding Fees for All Gold Winners
- Shipping/Packaging
- Thank-you Gifts
- Miscellaneous

### Total Expenses

### Net Profit

# Sponsorships

Sponsorships are one of the best ways to increase the profitability of your ADDY competition and gala. An effective sponsorship program accomplishes four things:

1. Allows you to save money on items you would have otherwise paid for.
2. Allows you to do additional things that you would have not done otherwise.
3. Allows you to upgrade to higher quality event elements.
4. Adds cash directly to your bottom line.

If your committee can find sponsors that will provide cash or in-kind donations that preserve your financial stability, it will take a heavy burden off the return you need from entry fees and gala attendance. Excellent prospects for sponsorships include suppliers and vendors to the advertising industry who can gain from the public recognition that sponsorships bring.

Media companies, in particular, gain saliency for their local brands and positive association with the industry that supports them. Media companies also can provide paid advertising space and time to promote your Call for Entries and your awards gala in exchange for sponsorship recognition.

As with anything else in the competition and show, you will be more successful in acquiring sponsors if you have a strategy and a plan.

## Build a Sponsorship Structure

There are a couple of ways to structure your sponsorships. You can look at having companies sponsor specific aspects of the ADDY Awards and you can also create overall sponsorship levels that help support the ADDY competition and gala as a whole.

### In-Kind Sponsors

There are several in-kind sponsors that can save you a great deal of money. In-kind sponsors are likely to help you with products or services if they view the advertising community as potential clients and feel that

exposure to that community will help their businesses. Some of them include:

1. **Printers** that can print your Call for Entries, program, winners book, award certificates and other printed items you may need.
2. **Paper Companies** that can donate all the paper used to print everything.
3. **TV/Radio Stations/Production Houses** that can donate the production of a judge's reel, winners' reel and help produce the gala production.
4. **Business publication** or daily newspaper that can publish the Call for Entries or information about the gala to encourage ticket sales. They are also another source that can print the winners book and other items.
5. **Mailing House** that can prepare all of your mailings.
6. **Photographer** that can shoot the winning entries.
7. **Hotel** that can house the judges or talent for the show/gala.

There are many other possibilities. As you create your budget, try to identify possible companies that might be willing to provide in-kind sponsorship.

### Sponsorship Levels

When building sponsorship levels, try to determine what you can offer to a potential sponsor. Make sure that your highest sponsorship level includes the most items of attraction. Graduate the other levels down by having each lower sponsorship contain fewer items or items of less value.

You should be equally concerned about what each sponsor will receive as you are about what it is that you ask for or need in return. If your sponsorship levels are not a worthwhile value to the sponsors, then you will not be successful because the sponsors will be more concerned about what they will get (even if they are doing it primarily for good will) than they will be concerned about what you need.

You might call your sponsorship levels platinum, gold, silver, bronze, etc., or you might name them using some other terms, such as presenting sponsor, co-sponsor, etc. However you refer to them, make sure each package is enticing and a good value.

### Sponsorships of Specific Items

In addition to overall sponsorships, you may want to have companies sponsor specific items and give recognition or name the items for/ after the sponsor. Some items you may want to have sponsored are:

- Dinner Sponsor
- Stage Sponsor
- Center Piece Sponsor
- Program Sponsor
- Winners Book Sponsor
- Category Sponsors (newspaper, radio, television, magazine, outdoor, interactive, etc.)
- Student Dinner Sponsor
- Student ADDY Sponsor
- Mosaic Award Sponsor
- Best of Show Sponsor
- Bar Sponsor
- Gallery Sponsor
- Entry Day Sponsor
- Call for Entries Sponsor

### What Can You Give to a Sponsor?

Before you create your levels, decide what you can give to sponsors. Although what you can give will vary from club to club, here are some items to consider:

1. Tickets to the gala, anywhere from a full table to two tickets, depending on the sponsorship level.
2. Mention, logo or ad in the Call for Entries. Ads can be of varying size, depending on the sponsorship level.
3. Mention, logo or ad in the winners' book. Ads can be of varying size, depending on the sponsorship level.
4. Mention, logo or ad in the program. Ads can be of varying size, depending on the sponsorship level.
5. Verbal recognition at the gala and at monthly events leading up to the gala.

6. On-screen recognition before and or during the gala.
7. Banner placement at the gala.
8. Display for sponsor at the gala.
9. Sponsor to say a few words at the gala.
10. Sponsor to present certain awards.
11. Recognition on the club's website.
12. Free club memberships.
13. Something about the sponsor at each table.
14. Something about the sponsor at each place setting.
15. Mentions in each e-mail sent out about the gala or competition.

There may be other things you can offer. Each club and market is different, so think about what you can offer and what would provide value to a sponsor.

### Timing Is Everything

Start to contact prospects early about ADDY sponsorships. You will have much more success if you can reach your prospects before their budgets are set for the year. You will also mitigate the "we-don't-have-it-in-our-budget" excuse. It might be helpful, in some cases, to combine the ADDY sponsorship with a sponsorship of other club events you have during the year.

### Contacting Prospects

This is one exception to the rule about not doing your subcommittee chair's job. Potential sponsors want to deal with people in charge. Try to have both the sponsorship chair and either the ADDY chair or club president visit potential sponsors. Any prospecting or thank-you letters that are sent should be co-signed by the sponsorship chair and either the ADDY chair or the club president.

But first, start with a list of potential sponsors. List them as "A," "B" and "C" categories, based on your evaluation of how much your Sponsorship's Subcommittee feels they can provide; how the sponsorship will benefit them; and how much persuasion the subcommittee or ADDY Committee members can provide. Base your list on worth and likelihood.

## **Assign Individuals to Manage Each Prospect**

The best approach is to request a face-to-face appointment. It is easier to be persuasive (make the sale) when face-to-face and also more difficult for the prospect to decline. Face-to-face meetings also allow you to adjust your request as the interview progresses. Someone you ask to provide \$5,000 may decline at that level but may be willing to become a sponsor at a lower level. Always open by requesting the maximum amount you think you can get. No one ever offers more than the amount for which they are asked.

The sponsorship chair should have the responsibility of following up to get the check (if you cannot get it at the first interview, which is the preferred payment plan), or arrange for the provision of in-kind materials.

Be enthusiastic. Think of it as giving your prospects a unique opportunity to have a presence with an advertising industry that is important to them. "It comes around just once a year" and the club is "there to help them take advantage of it."

## **A Cautionary Note about Sponsorships**

Because the integrity of the competition is something that you need to guard carefully, you should maintain a sponsorship program that does not create any situations in which others question the credibility of the competition.

You may want to avoid having companies that enter the competition as sponsors, especially if the sponsorship is too close to the awards. For example, if your major sponsor whose name is on everything also wins the most awards, people will question the credibility of the competition, no matter how honestly it was conducted. Setting up situations like that can ultimately cause a dramatic decrease in the number of entries in the ensuing years. So caution and sound judgment are definitely needed.

Always be sure that you offer sponsorship opportunities openly and without favor to your entire market.

# Finding Entrants

Finding new people to enter the competition is the best way to increase your club's income. You should not depend just on your club's current contact list. Develop a strong outreach plan to other places in order to continuously build your competition.

## Types of Entrants

Try to expand your thoughts about who might want to enter the competition. Of course, you think of advertising agencies, media and graphic designers but look beyond them to others associated with advertising. A good source of ideas for prospective entrants can be found in the categories. Go down the list of categories and think of what kind of people are engaged in each category's line of work.

Here are some prospects you might wish to target as possible entrants:

- Advertising Agencies
- Graphic Designers
- Radio Stations
- TV Stations
- Newspapers (daily and weekly)
- Magazines
- Website Designers
- Website Hosting Companies
- Photographers
- Promotional Item Companies
- Public Relations Firms
- Direct Mail Companies
- Nonprofit Organizations
- Theaters, Symphonies
- Amusement Parks
- Companies with In-House Marketing Departments
- Audio/Video Production Houses
- Voiceover Artists
- Companies That Make POP Displays
- Companies That Make Trade Show Displays
- Billboard Companies
- Bus Shelter Companies

- Cable TV Outlets
- Music/jingle Production Houses
- Copywriters
- Printers
- Colleges
- Design Schools (for Student ADDYs)

## Where to Find Entrants

Here are places you should explore when soliciting new entrants.

1. **Your Current List.** This is the most obvious place to start and the largest source of entries for your competition. Make sure that all of the contact information is current. Make sure that you have the most current list from your club.
2. **The Yellow Pages.** You may be surprised how many prospective entrants you can find by opening up your local yellow pages, as well as those of the immediate surrounding areas (as long as you do not infringe on another club's area).
3. **Online Research.** There are many ways to research potential local entrants online.
4. **Companies Currently Advertising.** Look at/into the media for advertising/advertisers and contact those companies if they are not represented by an agency.
5. **Other Local Clubs.** Often, other local clubs that do not have advertising competitions might be willing to send out information on your ADDY competition as another service to their members. You should check with marketing clubs, public relations clubs, other creative clubs and other business organizations where you might find marketing professionals.
6. **Chamber of Commerce or Economic Development Council.**
7. **Your Monthly Events.** Your monthly events may have prospects attending that are not on your list.
8. **Book of Lists.** Many local business publications, economic organizations and others develop lists of the largest employers, largest companies, etc., that might be helpful in identifying potential entrants.

## 9. List of Entrants From Last Year and Previous Years.

10. **Where Agencies Go.** In addition to contacting people directly, ask local printers and production studios if you can leave some Call for Entries on their counters. Any place that possible entrants frequent is a good place to leave your Call for Entries.

11. **Take It With You.** Give a stack of Call for Entries to all members of your committee and subcommittees and ask them to distribute them as they meet prospective professionals during their business dealings.

## Go Further Than “One Deep”

Once you have identified the types of entrants and where to find them, do not assume that only one person from the company would be interested in entering. Sometimes, the top person does not have an interest, but lower level workers may have more interest and can still enter. Here are some examples:

Television/Radio/Newspapers — You should contact the marketing director, promotions manager, production or artwork director, production or artwork staff, the graphic designers, advertising sales manager and the advertising sales staff.

Colleges — Public relations director, marketing director, extended education manager, production and art professionals that service those mentioned. For Student ADDY Awards you should contact the deans, professors and any marketing or advertising clubs.

A list like this can be made for almost any category above so you should look at expanding your contacts to multiple people within each organization.

## Adding Local-Only Categories

While there are over 100 national categories, you may find that you can increase local entries by creating “local only” categories. These can be categories that do not forward on to the district competition, or they may be categories that can “roll up” (fit into) into a national category, making it eligible for the district and national competitions.

If you have a large number of printers in your market, you may consider adding some local-only printing categories. Of course, since there are no corresponding national categories, the winners from these categories would be eligible only for your local awards and would not be forwarded on to the district and national competitions. This would be an example of a local category that does not “roll up” to the next level.

An example of a local category that does “roll up” to the district or national competition could come from your expanding the television categories into additional local-only subcategories, based on production costs. Such a breakdown would prevent advertisers with smaller budgets from competing against advertisers with larger budgets, at least at the local level. Should you decide to expand the television categories, based on production budget, all of them can “roll up” and fit into the “local television” category for the district competition.

For more information on how to add local categories, read the ADDY Online Entry & Judging Software User Guide.

## Tools for Encouraging Entrants

There are many tools that you can use to build entries, including:

- **Call for Entries** — The Call for Entries is the basic tool for most clubs to solicit entries. If your budget can support it, you may want to consider sending it out more than once.
- **E-Mails** — Friendly, instructional, humorous and different e-mails will help keep people informed and reminded about entering. If your website is up before the Call for Entries are printed, send out an email. Send out an e-mail about the new categories; send out an e-mail about changes in rules. Give friendly reminders at four weeks, three weeks, etc., all the way until the deadline, the late deadline and the gala.
- **Phone** — Pick up the phone and call large agencies, people who entered in the past, or anyone else. A personal phone call can be very encouraging to the prospect and successful for the club.
- **Fax** — If you have fax numbers as part

of your contact information, use them for reminders.

- **Monthly Club Functions** — Spend a few minutes at each of your monthly functions to remind people about the ADDY competition and encourage them to enter. Be sure to have your Call for Entries available.
- **Website** — Make sure you have a lot of information about the ADDY Awards available on your club website and it is easily accessible and understandable.

# Accepting Entries

With a little extra work, the way you receive entries can make a big difference later on in the process. First, make sure that you have the right people to help and all of the tools and supplies you will need. Since money is involved, have your club's treasurer on hand to manage the finances. You will also need a good supply of strong hands to carry the work to a central location, where it can be sorted. Calculators, permanent markers, a variety of clear plastic and paper envelopes, blank labels, tape and some spray adhesive are always handy for this part of the event. A computer and printer are also needed for corrections and printing entry forms or manifests if not brought by the entrant. If your club has separate pricing for members and nonmembers, have a list of paid members available, along with membership enrollment forms. This can help determine if the entrant is paying the correct price and can also increase your membership on the spot.

As the work is dropped off, confirm the following:

1. Manifest matches entry forms and money equals manifest.
2. Each entry is clearly labeled with a label.
3. Each entry has the form(s) inserted into the clear plastic or paper envelope.
4. Make sure the entry was created in your market and is entered into the proper ADDY competition.
5. Check each entry for the date it ran or was distributed to make sure it is eligible in this year's competition.
6. A sample of use is included for all Element of Advertising entries.

*NOTE: If entries are not labeled or identified properly, provide the necessary supplies to the entrants and have them fix them right there. This should not become your committee's burden. Also, make sure that your Call for Entry clearly states the following: "All entries become the property of the (your club name). No entries will be returned."*

Once the work has passed inspection, quickly move it from that area and into a holding room

where a separate team receives the work and begins to separate all entries into sections in numerical category order for easy review.

## The Screening Process

After all entries have been received and categorized, invite a group of representatives (your Screening Committee) to help you review the work. These folks can be one of the single greatest assets to ensure that your judging weekend goes smoothly. Make sure that they are seasoned industry veterans. Consider including representatives from a good cross section of your members (especially any groups that have expressed concern over the process in the past). Allowing these groups to assist in reviewing the work empowers them and makes the "judging mystery" seem less ominous and secretive. Prior to their arrival the judging and ADDY chairs should prescreen the entries and pull any questionable entries for early review. Also, make sure each committee member is provided with a copy of the most up-to-date Rules & Categories.

## Once the Committee Arrives

Go around the room and quickly review each entry to make sure of the following:

1. Category can be clearly seen through the clear plastic envelope or is mounted on the front right hand corner of a paper envelope.
2. Entry label is firmly affixed to upper right corner on back of entry.
3. Entry fits the description (e.g., is it a B/W newspaper ad?).
4. If entry is an element of advertising (e.g. illustration, photograph), there should be a sample of use provided for reference.
5. If something seems questionable, pull it and discuss.

Develop a "problem list" and once it is established, the screening committee should make a recommendation, which generally falls into one of two categories:

1. The entry is in the wrong category and should be moved.

2. The piece does not qualify under the ADDY rules and must be removed.

When either moving or removing pieces in the competition, be sure to make the change both physically and in the online software. If not corrected, the error will appear on the judging sheets and the error will be duplicated at each level of competition.

It may be cumbersome to have the entire committee review all radio, website, CD and television entries; however, these must be screened before judging. It is extremely important that the entrants be consulted and informed of any changes. This does not mean that the entrant has the final word on eligibility. The rules are very specific, by design, and are always adhered to and followed. If it does not fit in a category, you have two choices: consider adding a local-only category for it or disqualify it and refund the entry fee.

**Major Tasks** (once the work has been received):

1. Collating all entries into appropriate categories.
2. Screening to ensure pieces are in the right category.
3. Reviewing online data.
4. Separating the following:
  - Website/interactive
  - Interactive/television, animation (anything on CD/DVD or with URLs)
  - Radio

# Student ADDYs

The AAF Student ADDY Awards Competition is a unique national awards program designed specially for college students. The student competition mirrors the three-tiers of the professional competition, although it has its own set of categories. You may either conduct the student competition concurrently and in conjunction with the professional ADDY competition or you may conduct it as its own event. If you have an AD2 club in your market, you may wish to have them conduct the Student ADDY competition.

## Entry Fees

It is recommended that the entry fee for the student competition be \$30-\$35 for all clubs nationwide. Although most clubs use the suggested entry fee, some clubs alter this fee based on local conditions. Since there is no charge to your club to advance the gold-winning student entries to the district competition and no cost to advance the gold-winning student entries from district to national competition, there is a sharing of the local entry fees between the local, district and national organizations.

For every student entry you receive, \$12 goes to AAF national, \$3 goes to National Ad2 and \$2 goes to your district (some districts may vary). All clubs will be billed \$15 from AAF, which includes the National Ad2 portion.

Silver winners in the student competition can advance to the district and national judging if the entrant pays the appropriate district or national fees.

## Entrant Eligibility

Any student can enter the Student ADDY competition as long as they are enrolled full- or part-time in an accredited U.S. educational institution. Those who recently graduated may also enter the student competition as long as the entry was created while they were a student and it meets all the other entry requirements.

## Entry Eligibility

While the professional competition requires that entries be “real work” created for “real clients,” the student competition requires that the entry not be something that is used or created within a normal client-agency relationship. If the entrant is a student but created work that was used in the marketplace, then that work would not be eligible. For example, if the student worked within an agency as an intern or an employee, then the work that was created for that agency or their clients would not be eligible. However, if that same person created advertising for a class project or specifically to enter this competition, and was never used by any client, then the student may enter that piece. The only exception to this rule is work that the student created and was used within the school’s student newspaper, student radio station or student television station or work created to be used as a club fundraiser.

Entries that were created by more than one student can be entered as long as everyone who worked on the entry is aware and that all people are listed in the credits.

## Categories

The student competition has a smaller number of categories than the professional competition that is geared towards what students are likely to enter. You can feel free to add additional categories that either roll-up into the national categories or create local-only student categories. Please see the ADDY Online Entry & Judging Software manual on how to do this.

## Building your Contacts

When looking for student entrants, the first thing you need to do is compile a complete list of schools in your area. There may be more than you think. The AAF has a list of schools, professors and contact information of colleges throughout the country. Although the AAF list is extensive, you should use it as a starting point in developing further contacts.

Here are the types of schools that you should seek out:

1. Four Year Colleges and Universities
2. Community Colleges
3. Art Schools
4. Photography Schools
5. Film Schools
6. Computer Schools
7. Graphic Design Schools
8. Career Colleges
9. Broadcasting Schools

Once you develop a complete list of schools, you need to develop contacts. Many schools will list their instructors (and their contact information) on the school's website. Try to develop as many appropriate instructors as you can. In addition to instructors, be sure to add department chairs, deans and advisors. If this information is not available online, you may need to contact each school or department to get contact information.

Within colleges and universities, you need to go to many departments to find the right instructors since each school will place subjects in different departments. For example, you might find advertising within the school of business or communications. Graphic design might be in the art school or computer sciences. Try to be thorough in finding out where schools put the instructors you want to reach. Some suggested departments to look at:

1. Art
2. Business
3. Film
4. Communications
5. Radio/TV
6. Advertising
7. Photography
8. Graphic Design
9. Computer Sciences
10. Marketing

Other places to look for entrants include on-campus clubs such as advertising, marketing, film, photography, and radio/TV. Talk to your club's education chair to see if there are any AAF affiliated schools in your

area or if any schools entered the NSAC competition. Work that was completed for the NSAC competition is eligible to be entered into the ADDY competition the following year.

## Developing Contacts into Entrants

When trying to build your student competition you need to try and build solid relationships with the schools in order to reach the students. While in some schools a department chair or dean can help you reach all of the students, in other schools you may need to depend on one instructor or advisor to get the word out.

Here are some ideas that might work in your market to develop student entries:

1. If the College is within traveling distance, the Education Chair or Sub-Committee member can volunteer to speak to the students at various Communications/Advertising/Marketing classes and clubs. This proactive approach will not only motivate the students to send in entries, but will also be a great way for your club to recruit new student members
2. Meet with the deans or instructors to have an ADDY entry be part of the curriculum. The schools may be willing to pay for the first entry from each student. If they are not willing to do that, see if you can get them to encourage the students to enter.
3. Use the student marketing materials provided by the AAF to develop local posters or flyers and emails.
4. If possible, have an on-campus location for students to drop off their ADDY entries.
5. Make sure your deadlines coincide with their class schedules so you are not competing with finals or vacations.
6. Try to get a sponsor to offer a cash prize to the student Best of Show.
7. If you have your judges lined up, use the names of the judges as a way for the students to get their work in front of potential employers.

## Judging

If the total number of entries does not make it prohibitive, you should use the same set of judges who judge the professional competition. The students appreciate that their work is viewed by the same high quality judges and the judges also enjoy seeing the student work.

If there are too many professional or student entries so that using the same judges becomes impossible, you can use local judges as long as they have no affiliation with any of the schools from which you will get entries.

## Honoring the Student Winners

While most clubs honor the student winners at the same gala as the professional winners, the Student ADDY award ceremony does not need to be at the same event or need to be in a ballroom with a formal setting. It can be a fun, semi-formal setting with a viewing gallery with displays of the students' entries. This can even be turned into a semi portfolio review (without diluting the show). This can definitely be positioned as a way for the students to meet with ad industry professionals and "interview" with them in an informal setting.

But if you honor the students at the professional gala, it is essential that students be made to feel valued and part of the show. Although some clubs use paper certificates as awards, the National ADDY Committee strongly suggests that students receive a trophy at least for Gold winners. In the past, some clubs have also given scholarships or a cash prize to the first place or the Student Best of Show.

If you honor the students at their own event, be sure to send out invitations to the ad industry to attend the ceremony, as well as to all the students who sent in entries and their professors/instructors/deans and to all colleges with a marketing/advertising/communications program.

## Sponsorships

While it may be challenging to get sponsors for your professional competition, you may find it easier to get sponsorships for your student competition. Here are some sponsorships you might be able to secure:

1. **Entry Sponsorship.** Have a company sponsor the first entry from every entrant. If you normally get 50 student entries and you charge \$2,000 for the sponsorship, you will make a higher profit, even if your entries go up.
2. **Dinner Sponsorship.** When you send out the order form for your gala, include a line where people can sponsor a student to attend. Sometimes attendees will buy a table at your gala and end up with a few empty seats. Ask if they would allow a student to sit with them.
3. **Best of Show Sponsorships.** You can have a sponsor for a cash award for the best of show winners in broadcast, web and print.
4. **Internship.** Try to get a local ad agency to sponsor an internship for the Best of Show winner.

## Timeline

In order to best address the needs of the student entrants, you will likely need to have a separate timeline from that of the professional competition. Many competitions send out their Call for Entries at the end of December or the beginning of January with a January deadline; however many schools are closed during the last part of December and throughout January. The perfect timeline for your professional competition is the absolutely worst time for the student competition.

By using the materials provided by the AAF to help you promote the student competition, you can get started soliciting entries before your professional Call for Entries is ready. Start contacting the schools and setting up how you will get the word out to the students as soon as the fall semester begins. It is recommended that you have a submittal deadline that is coordinated with the end of the term so that students can enter their best work from the fall semester before they leave campus for the winter break.

Since most schools don't make decisions quickly, if you are just building a relationship with the school, you should be talking this fall and spring about incorporating the school more into the ADDY program and building entries into the curriculum for next year.

### **One important note about entries:**

Often students will enter their original work and they have no back up copy. Although you might have every intention of returning their work, sometimes entries get lost or damaged. If that entry wins a gold award, it will advance to the district or national competitions and then the piece will be out of your hands and there will be almost no chance of getting it back. Make sure that the students understand that there is no guarantee that the entry can be returned and they should submit a copy or duplicate, not original art. All entries become the property of AAF.

# Judging

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**Please download the latest ADDY Judging Rules at  
[www.ADDYcompetition.com](http://www.ADDYcompetition.com)**

# Awards

There are several decisions you need to make with regard to awards. You need to decide what levels of awards you want to present; the quantity of awards; and whether or not you present trophies or paper certificates. Clubs handle this differently, so your club needs to make decisions about what direction it wants to take.

If you present too many awards, then the awards lose their value. If you present too few awards, then this can adversely affect the number of entries you receive the following year.

## Award Levels

Most clubs present two levels of awards. The AAF recommends that clubs name their awards Gold and Silver ADDYs. Some clubs present other awards such as Citations of Excellence or Awards of Merit. Use the past year's awards as a guide to determine what your club wants. You should not change this yearly. Consistency is important in helping the entrants feel secure with the integrity of the competition.

## Best of Show

Again, clubs approach Best of Show somewhat differently. Some clubs present one overall Best of Show Award. Others present a Best of Show awards in Print, Electronic (Radio/TV) and Web/Multimedia. Still others present a Best of Show in Print, Electronic and Web/Multimedia, and then choose an overall Best of Show. Of course, if there are too few entries in an area, or the quality of the work does not warrant a Best of Show in a particular area, you may consider not presenting a Best of Show. Credibility of the competition is paramount.

The National ADDY Committee recommends that local and district shows not allow work entered in the Industry Self-Promotion or Public Service categories to be eligible for Best of Show consideration. The NAC suggests the creation of a local, district and national Public Service Judges Special Award.

## Special Judges Award(s)

Some clubs allow the judges to present an award to an entry that they feel exceeded the other gold winners in some way, yet it did not earn a Best of Show award. This is sometimes called a Special Judges Award or Judges' Choice Award, or some other similar name. This award can be presented only if the judges feel it is warranted, which may not be in every year.

## Mosaic Award

The National ADDY Committee is committed to and suggests recognizing advertising which promotes diversity and issues related to multiculturalism. At the national level, all winning pieces will be screened for relevance to these issues with the most exceptional being eligible to receive a special Mosaic ADDY. The NAC strongly encourages that local and district shows adopt this policy.

When charging judges for selection of the Mosaic ADDY Award, it is intentionally open to local interpretation. The pieces may be chosen for the judges from all entries, and/or judges may be allowed to select worthy contenders, at their discretion. It is NOT a stand alone category that needs to be entered. Rather, it should simply be a selected piece(s) from the entire body of the show from any category. Logic and history suggest that it may often be a public service piece; however, it could just as easily be a "groundbreaking" ad that encourages positive multicultural ideals or a television spot that presents issues of diversity in a positive light. The selection of this award should always be optional and considered as part of the standard ADDY Award criteria, meaning judges should only award this additional distinction to a piece of Gold or Silver ADDY Award caliber work that also meets the additional Mosaic ADDY Award criteria.

## Special Awards

The NAC suggests that local and district shows charge their judges to select the best copywriting and best art direction from all

Gold ADDY winning entries in the show. These pieces should receive special judges' awards or Gold ADDYs.

## Trophy or Certificate

Another decision that needs to be made is which award levels get paper certificates and which get trophies. Most clubs present trophies for Gold Awards and Best of Show. Judges' Choice and Mosaic Awards are also often trophies. Silver Awards are trophies at some clubs and paper certificates in others.

Although it is nice to hand out trophies to silver winners, budgetary constraints may make it necessary to present paper certificates.

Regardless of which types of awards you select, you should personalize the awards with the category and entrant information. Many clubs also include creative credits (as entered in the online software) on the certificates.

To obtain winner information that can be used to create personalized awards, work with the judging chair to download the information from the software that can then be used as is or mail-merge winner information on the certificates.

## Where to Get Awards

The variety of styles of awards presented by different clubs varies significantly around the country.

The American Advertising Federation has an approved vendor of awards (the Award Group) from which you can choose a variety of trophies and certificates. Visit [www.ADDYcompetition.com](http://www.ADDYcompetition.com) to be linked to this and other AAF approved vendors.

Many clubs around the country choose to purchase trophies from other vendors and have certificates printed specifically for their clubs from local printers. If you choose to do that, be sure to download the correct logos and specifications from [www.ADDYcompetition.com](http://www.ADDYcompetition.com).

While some clubs have awards that match the theme of that year's gala, others choose to have the same appearance for their awards each year in order to have a consistent look and brand.

If you print certificates locally, be sure to order enough to accommodate anticipated duplicate orders, as well as possible errors you may have during personalization.

## Award Duplicates

After the awards are presented, be sure to send out an order form for winners to order duplicate trophies or certificates. This can be a great source of additional income to your club, bringing in hundreds of dollars or more.

Encourage your winners, through e-mails and an order form they get along with their awards, to buy duplicate awards for their clients and for the members of their company who worked on the winning entry.

## Cash Awards

Some clubs are able to encourage additional entries by having cash awards that are sponsored.

For example, maybe one TV or radio station (or all of them together) sponsor a cash award for the highest scoring TV or radio commercial. This award could also be sponsored by the local broadcasters association. The daily newspaper may want to offer a cash prize to the best newspaper ad. A large advertising agency in town may want to sponsor a cash award to the best student entry. You can have cash awards for public service, copywriting, photography or any other category if there is enough interest for that category in your market and a willing sponsor can be found.

# Public Relations

Using accepted public relations techniques before, during and after your competition can add value to your competition and increase entries, attendance and membership. In addition to the information in this section, you may wish to refer to the AAF publication "Public Relations: How-to Guide for Clubs and Federations," which is available from at [www.aaf.org](http://www.aaf.org).

You should vigorously pursue the public relations angle with a dedicated communications chair.

Try to recruit a public relations specialist from one of your member agencies to serve as public relations chair. If no one is available or willing, any dedicated person can do the job.

## When to Send Press Releases

You should send press releases when your Call for Entries is sent out, as well as before judging, before your gala and after the gala (to announce winners). Send out the press releases several weeks before you want the story to run.

## Where to Send Press Releases

Send press releases to the following people:

1. Business editors of local newspapers
2. City or local editors of local newspapers
3. Photo editors of local newspapers
4. Editors of business publications
5. Radio news directors
6. Television assignment desks and planning desks

Most media prefer e-mail releases; however, you should try to find a contact person for each of these and address it to him/her by name.

## Follow Up to Press Releases

For most media, sending out a press release is not enough. You will need to call back each of your contacts to tell him/her about the event and why it is important. After the winners are announced, if possible your press releases

could include a DVD with pictures of the top winning print entries and copies of the radio/TV commercials. You can also post your top winning entries on a website with large enough files that the media can download for publication or broadcast.

Some daily newspapers and television stations will find the information too dated if you send it after the awards. You may want to give them an advance copy of the winners so they can publish it in the newspaper the next day or feature them on the TV news that night. Be clear to them that this information is off the record and not for publication until AFTER the awards presentation.

## Trick to Getting TV Coverage

Television news programs like to cover an event if one of their personalities is involved. For this reason, you might want to use a personality from one or more of the television stations in town as a presenter, an MC or in some other fashion. Then, when you call the station assignment editor, that person is more likely to want to cover your gala. Also, if they have a copy of the award-winning TV commercials, they might also be willing to play that.

## Sample Press Releases

(The following pages have sample press releases for your use.)

# [CLUB NAME] Issues Call for Entries

## For Immediate Release

**Contact:** [NAME, PHONE NUMBER, e-mail/URL]

**Date:** [DATE]

November 18, 2011, [CITY, STATE] — The [CLUB NAME] has issued its Call for Entries for the 2011–2012 [CLUB NAME] ADDY® Awards Competition. The annual [CLUB NAME] ADDY Awards Competition recognizes advertising creative excellence in the [CITY] metropolitan market. The ADDY Awards honor advertising excellence in all media, including: print, broadcast, interactive, out-of-home and public service advertising.

All entries must be received by [TIME] on [DATE], at [DROP-OFF LOCATION]. Entry fees are [\$ AMOUNT] for members of the [CLUB NAME] and [\$ AMOUNT] for nonmembers.

A distinguished panel of advertising creative executives will gather in [CITY, STATE] on the weekend of [DATE] to select the winners from an anticipated [#] entries. To be eligible for consideration of an ADDY, all work must have been published or aired between January 1, 2011, and December 31, 2011.

The [CLUB NAME] ADDY Awards winners will be honored during a black-tie dinner gala on [DATE] at the [VENUE] in [CITY, STATE]. Winners of the [CLUB NAME] ADDY Awards are eligible to compete in the second level of the three-tiered ADDY Awards Competition, the District [DISTRICT #] ADDY Awards conducted in [MONTH]. The District [DISTRICT #] winners are then eligible for the ultimate competition, the National ADDY, presented in June every year by the American Advertising Federation.

The [CLUB NAME] ADDY Awards Competition is sponsored by the [CLUB NAME], a member association comprised of advertising and media professionals. Proceeds from the ADDY Awards help support the [CLUB NAME]'s educational programs, public service projects and proactive government relations efforts.

For more information, or to receive an ADDY Awards entry packet, contact [CONTACT NAME] the ADDY Awards competition chair at [PHONE NUMBER] or [E-MAIL ADDRESS].

\*\*\* Enclosure: [CLUB NAME] ADDY Awards Call for Entries

\*\*\*\* The ADDY Awards Competition is a three-tier national competition, conducted annually by the American Advertising Federation. The ADDY Awards Competition is the advertising industry's largest and most representative competition for creative excellence.

\*\*\*\*\* [CLUB'S IDENTIFICATION STATEMENT]



# Judges Selected for 2011–2012 [CLUB NAME] ADDY® Awards

## For Immediate Release

**Contact:** [NAME, PHONE NUMBER, e-mail/URL]

**Date:** [DATE]

December 9, 2011, [CITY, STATE] — The [CLUB NAME] has confirmed the [# OF JUDGES] member creative panel that will judge entries of the 2011–2012 [CLUB NAME] ADDY® Awards. The ADDY Awards Competition honors creative excellence in advertising.

Judging will be conducted the weekend of [DATE]. Judges will review entries submitted by the [MARKET] advertising community in all areas of print and broadcast media and public service advertising. All finalists will be notified by mail the week of [DATE], and winners will be honored at a black-tie gala [EVENT DATE].

All entries must be received by [TIME] on [DATE], at [LOCATION]. Entry fees are [\$ AMOUNT] for members of the [CLUB NAME] and [\$ AMOUNT] for no-members. To receive an ADDY Awards entry packet, contact [CONTACT NAME], ADDY Awards competition chair at [PHONE NUMBER] or [E-MAIL ADDRESS].

The [CLUB NAME] ADDY Awards Competition is sponsored by the [CLUB NAME], a member association comprised of advertising and media professionals. Proceeds from the ADDY Awards help support the [CLUB NAME]'s educational programs, public service projects and proactive government relations efforts.

\*\*\* The ADDY Awards Competition is a three-tiered national competition conducted annually by the American Advertising Federation. The ADDY Awards Competition is the advertising industry's largest and most representative competition for creative excellence.

\*\*\*\* [CLUB'S IDENTIFICATION STATEMENT]



# Invitations Out for the [CLUB NAME] ADDY® Awards Presentation

## For Immediate Release

**Contact:** [NAME, PHONE NUMBER, e-mail/URL]

**Date:** [DATE]

January 20, 2012, [CITY, STATE] — Invitations are out for the [13TH (FOR EXAMPLE)] annual [CLUB NAME] ADDY® Awards presentation ceremonies on [EVENT DATE] at the [VENUE]. The ADDY Awards, sponsored by the [CLUB NAME], recognizes and showcases [MARKET]'s best advertising creative talent.

The evening begins at [TIME] with cocktails, followed by dinner and presentation of awards. [# OF ENTRIES] broadcast and print entries were received this year from agencies/companies, and individuals doing business in the [CITY] market. Of these entries, the [# OF JUDGES] member judging panel singled out the award winners.

Tickets for this gala event are [\$ AMOUNT] for members of the [CLUB NAME] and [\$ AMOUNT] for nonmembers. Tickets may be purchased in advance by calling [CONTACT NAME] at [PHONE NUMBER].

The [CLUB NAME] ADDY Awards Competition is sponsored by the [CLUB NAME], a member association comprised of advertising and media professionals. Proceeds from the ADDY Awards help support the [CLUB NAME]'s educational programs, public service projects and proactive government relations efforts.

\*\* Enclosure: Event Invitation

\*\*\* To obtain press credentials to cover the [CLUB NAME] ADDY Awards, contact [CONTACT NAME] at [PHONE NUMBER].

\*\*\*\* The ADDY Awards Competition is a three-tiered national competition conducted annually by the American Advertising Federation. The ADDY Awards Competition is the advertising industry's largest and most representative competition for creative excellence.

\*\*\*\* [CLUB'S IDENTIFICATION STATEMENT]



# [CLUB NAME] Presents 2011–2012 ADDY® Awards

## For Immediate Release

**Contact:** [NAME, PHONE NUMBER, e-mail/URL]

**Date:** [DATE]

February 15, 2012, [CITY, STATE] — The [CLUB NAME] presented its 2011–2012 ADDY® Awards for advertising creative excellence Saturday night at the [EVENT VENUE]. This annual dinner and awards presentation was attended by over [# OF ATTENDEES] individuals of the local advertising and media businesses.

Of the [# OF ENTRIES] entries received by the [CLUB NAME], [#] gold ADDY Awards and [#] silver ADDY Awards were presented. Entries were judged based on creativity, originality and creative strategy. Top awards of the evening went to the “Best of Show” winners.

[AGENCY] captured the Broadcast Best of Show for a 30-second television commercial for [CLIENT]. [AGENCY] garnered Print Best of Show for its client [CLIENT]. [AGENCY] was awarded Interactive Best of Show for client [CLIENT].

Student Best of Show went to: [NAMES/SCHOOL/PROJECT/CLIENT]. The winner of the Mosaic ADDY for best representation of diversity in advertising in the market went to {AGENCY/WORK/CLIENT}. The Best of Show Public Service was awarded to [AGENCY/CLIENT/WORK].

Following is a complete list of all the 2011–2012 [CLUB NAME] ADDY Awards winners:

[LIST OF WINNERS - CATEGORY, AGENCY, CLIENT, TITLE OF AD]

The [CLUB NAME] ADDY Awards Competition is sponsored by the [CLUB NAME], a member association comprised of advertising and media professionals. Proceeds from the ADDY Awards help support the [CLUB NAME]’s educational programs, public service projects and proactive government relations efforts.

\*\* Enclosure: Winners Book

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# Show Production

The ADDY show is quite possibly the most visible and important program your club will conduct all year. For many clubs, it is the single most highly attended event. People who come to nothing else will come to the ADDY gala.

Because it is so important to most clubs, it is also an event where spending can get out of hand and turn a profitable ADDY competition and gala into one that loses money. Strict budget control must be maintained at all times.

The parts of the gala that you may want to include are:

- Showcase or gallery of entries or winners
- Food (dinner or hors d'ourves)
- Awards presentation
- Entertainment

Not all clubs do all four of these. Sometimes, the amount you can allocate will be restricted by the budget you have, the location or other logistics. It is better, though, to do fewer things and do them very well than to do all of them in a mediocre way. Keep the image of the ADDY Awards as high as possible and, in the future, as your awards grow, you can add to the program.

## Know the Venue

Before you begin staging the gala, be sure to visit the location where it will be held. You might get ideas on staging by seeing the location, and you will also know the limitations of the facility, if there are any. An embarrassing situation would be putting together a program that does not work well with the location or facility. It is a good idea for the person in charge of producing the show to work along with the person finding the venue, so that all of the needs of the show can be negotiated and realized.

## Entertainment

Entertainment is not necessary for a successful gala; however, it can be nice if it is affordable

and of sufficient quality for the event. You can have anything from a pianist playing in the background during dinner or during the showcase of winners beforehand, to a band for dancing afterwards. If budget is a problem, you can consider having a CD of music playing in the background. Whatever you do, remember that the ADDY Awards and the attending creatives should be the stars of the evening. Everything else is there to compliment them, not overshadow them.

## Audio/Visual Needs

Make sure that you have an appropriate projection system and a large screen (or screens), so that the audience can view the winning entries as they are announced. You will also need a DVD/CD player to present the radio and television winners. Your MC will need a microphone, and you may wish to have special lighting or spot lights. Be sure to make a list of everything in advance so that you do not forget to order something you need.

## Master of Ceremonies

Selection of an appropriate master of ceremonies (MC) is very important. It should be someone who is used to speaking before large crowds; has a good sense of humor; and can keep the night moving at a quick pace.

There are many options when it comes to choosing a master of ceremonies. It can be your club president, ADDY chair or another person from within your club. It can also be a local radio personality, TV news anchor, local sports celebrity, an entertainer or anyone else who you think can keep the night moving.

Be sure to meet with your MC after the script is written, so you can review everything and he/she can ask any questions.

## Presenting the Winners

There are several ways you can present the winning entries to the audience. You can have a PowerPoint presentation and while each

winner is announced, their winning entry is presented on the screen. When TV and radio entries are announced, you play the winning entry. With website entries, you can either show a screen shot of the home page or have a local production company record a DVD of the winning sites with sound and motion and play those. If you have many radio/TV/internet entries as winners, you may want to put them all onto one DVD in order of presentation to make it easier to show them. If your budget permits, or you have it sponsored, you can record all of the entries, in order, as a video presentation with music and an announcer and have the entire show produced.

## Handing Out the Awards

If you have many award winners, you may not want all of them to come up to the stage to receive their awards. You may want only the gold winners and Best of Show to come to the stage. Others can receive their awards after the presentation is over. If you have few awards, then it may not slow down the show to present all of them.

One way to handle the presentation is to show each silver winning entry on the screen while the MC announces the winners and credits, but the winners do not come up to receive their awards. Gold winners and Best of Show winners should also have their entries shown on the screen although they should come up to receive their awards. Silver winners can pick up their trophies/certificates at the end of the night at a designated table or spot.

## Show Day Prep

Be sure you and your committee arrive several hours before the gala begins. This will give you and your committee enough time to display the winning entries, decorate the room, rehearse the show and make all the other necessary preparations. You will also need to set up a table to check-in attendees, tell them where their seats are (if you assign seats) and collect any money from people who may not have paid.

# Timeline/Checklist

When building a timeline for your ADDY Awards competition, the NAC suggests to start at the end and work your way backward.

## 1. Find out the district deadline.

The first thing your club needs to find out is when the deadline is for your district competition. District entry deadlines tend to be mid-March to early April. If you do not have your awards gala early enough before the district deadline, you will not be able to complete everything in time to get the advancing entries to them. Schedule your entry deadline, local judging and gala based on the district deadline.

Although you can do it in less time, it is recommended that you have your awards gala at least two to three weeks before the district deadline. This will give you enough time to encourage silver winners to forward their entries and ship them, along with the advancing gold winners, to your district ADDY chair. Plus, if there are problems in the forwarding of the entries, you will have enough time to correct the issues.

Note to district ADDY chair: Deadline for submission of district winners to national is April 15, so schedule your district judging accordingly.

## 2. How long will it take to get your awards and produce your winners book?

Once you know when the gala will be, talk to the people producing the trophies and/or personalizing your paper awards and see how much time they need. One of the worst things you can do is have an awards gala and not have the awards. It is recommended that you add at least a week to their prediction on how long it will take, in case there are any problems. You also need to add the time you need after judging to prepare the personalization information for the people doing the awards. You will likely need at least a few days to prepare this after judging. Many clubs also have a winners book handed out at the gala. Talk to your printer to see how long it will take to print and to the designer to

see how long it will take him/her to prepare it for printing. If you decide to do a winners CD/DVD, contact the appropriate production facility for its timeline.

## 3. Schedule judging day based on the gala/trophy time frame.

Now that you know the day of your gala and how long it will take to get your awards and winners book, you can schedule your judging day(s). Depending on the number of entries you expect to receive, judging can take anywhere from a few hours to all day, or even all weekend. Past experience should give you an idea on how many entries to expect. Although you may get more or less in any given year, most likely judging will not increase or decrease by more than an hour, or two, in any given year.

## 4. Schedule entry deadline day based on judging day.

You should plan a deadline for ADDY entries two to three weeks before your judging. By allowing yourself that much time, you will have the opportunity to go through the entries to make sure everything is in the correct category; all entries adhere to the rules; and you can organize them all to make your judging day go more efficiently. Many clubs have an additional late deadline with a late fee imposed. This option is supported in the on-line software. Since it is common for people entering a competition to wait until the last minute, allowing late entries may increase your entry total by quite a bit and allow for increased income for your club. By scheduling your deadline two to three weeks in advance of your judging, it allows entrants to be late and still make the competition without you having to run like crazy trying to organize all of your entries at the last minute.

## 5. Schedule your Call for Entries, based on the entry deadline.

Schedule your Call for Entries to be mailed four to six weeks before your entry deadline. If this puts your time-frame at the Christmas/New

Year's time, you may want to adjust the mailing, so that it does not get overlooked among all the holiday greetings. It is recommended that you have a soft Call for Entries posted on your club's website as soon as your local rules are completed and the entry software is available for online entries. The more time you allow people to enter, the more entries you are likely to get.

### **6. Call for Entries Design based on mailing time.**

Be sure to give the people designing your Call for Entries enough time to prepare it, have revisions and get it printed before your scheduled mailing date. You should remember that you are probably having the design donated by one of your club members, so give him/her enough time to work on the project in between their paying clients. Do not make this a pressured burden on him/her, if you can avoid it.

Once you know these dates, you can fill in the times on the rest of these items below.

Start early. Mistakes can be fixed if you have the time.

## **Suggested Time Line**

### **6–8 Months Before Judging**

- Appoint committee
- Set goals and develop a budget and present to local Board
- Assign subcommittee tasks
- Set Call for Entries date(s) and secure a location for entry drop-offs
- Plan where entries will be stored
- Set judging date(s) and secure a judging location
- Set gala date and negotiate location
- Meet with committee at least once a month
- Decide if you will add any local-only categories

### **4–6 Months Before Judging**

- Secure designer for Call for Entries, winners book and other materials
- Begin search for sponsors

- Update and expand mailing list and e-mail list
- Secure a production house/individual to produce your show
- Contact school to coordinate student entries

### **2–3 Months Before Judging**

- Secure judges and make travel and hotel arrangements
- Print Call for Entries
- Add local-only categories, if any, to online software
- Have ADDY information posted to website
- Send out e-mails to prospective entrants when website has ADDY information
- Secure host MC for gala
- Learn and test the online entry software and judging software
- Get information to students regarding student competition

### **1–2 Months Before Judging**

- Mail Call for Entries, 4–6 weeks before entry deadline
- Send out press release regarding Call for Entries
- Confirm judges
- Continue to send e-mails to prospective entrants
- Arrange for volunteers for judging day
- Print award certificates
- Find someone to photograph/video/scan the winning entries

### **After Entry Deadline and Before Judging**

- Send out e-mails announcing acceptance of late entries (if you are willing to accept them)
- Review all entries to ensure they are in correct categories and are eligible
- Make sure all entries are properly entered in the online software
- If you prepare a judging audio or video reel, get it to editor
- If you have online, audio or video judged in advance, send to judges with scoring sheets
- Organize entries by category

**Day Before Judging**

- Lay out entries for judging
- Bookmark online entries on computer
- Organize room
- Print out judging sheets
- Confirm arrangements for food/snacks/ transportation to/from judging venue as necessary

**Days After Judging**

- Make sure all awards are identified in the software
- Prepare winner information and get to trophy company and to the people who will personalize certificates and prepare the winners book
- Take winning entries to photographer or have scanned as necessary
- Send out letters to entrants encouraging attendance at gala
- Send out e-mails, invitations to entire club list encouraging attendance at gala
- Prepare press release announcing winners

**Before Gala**

- Prepare seating for gala
- Confirm guest count and any banquet/ beverage arrangements
- Confirm A/V
- Pick up trophies/certificates
- Write gala script
- Meet with MC to review script
- Make sure program and winners book are prepared on time
- Print forms to reorder awards or set up on your local/district website
- Produce audio/visual presentation

**After Gala**

- Post winner information on website
- Send letters/e-mails to silver winners encouraging them to forward their entries to the district competition
- Advance winning entries in online software
- Prepare winning entries to send to district
- Send check to district to cover forwarding fees
- Send check to AAF, National Ad 2 or district to cover national fees
- Send out press release announcing winners
- Send thank-you letters to everyone that helped
- Prepare financial report and recommendations for the board