

Small Business of the Year Award

Missoula Chamber of Commerce

Award Nomination Guidelines & Criteria:

The Missoula Area Chamber of Commerce will recognize top-performing small businesses who have a significant presence and are making our community a great place to work, play and live. Businesses who are nominated for this award should encompass some or all of the following attributes:

- Innovative products or services
- Provides exemplary customer service
- Encourages and provides professional development of staff
- Positive community involvement

Eligibility Criteria:

Businesses may receive nominations year-after-year if they are not selected for an award. Nominations are only valid for the year they are submitted.

To be eligible for the Small Business of the Year Award, organizations must:

- Nominee must have 20 or fewer employees
- Nominee must be an active business with a location in Missoula County
- Nominee must be a member in good standing with the Chamber of Commerce.
- Nominee must have been in business for at least 3 years.
- Nominee must be an independently-owned business.

Application & Judging Process:

Small businesses that meet award eligibility criteria and receive a complete nomination will be considered for this award. The winner will be determined by the Missoula Chamber Board of Directors.

Nomination Process Timeline:

August - Sept 8th Nominations Accepted

September - Nominations Reviewed, Recipient Notified

Wednesday, October 7th - Annual Banquet, Recipient Honored

The Small Business of the Year will receive two complimentary tickets to the Annual Banquet where they will be announced as the award recipient. Award recipient information for this category will not be released publicly until after the Award night.

NOMINATION FORM

Forms must be received by September 8th, 2026 for consideration.

Name of small business you are nominating:

Website:

Address:

Phone number:

Name of person submitting this nomination:

Your contact phone:

Your contact email:

Please answer each of the following questions. Only complete nominations will be considered. The more information you offer, the stronger the nomination will be.

1. Please provide a brief overview of the business (ex. history, owner/staff information, products or services they offer):
2. Why do you believe this business deserves the Small Business Award?
3. Share any significant challenges the business has faced and how they have navigated these obstacles to continue their operations.
4. Describe how the business has made a positive impact on the local community. Cite any major accomplishments the business has seen in meeting their goal:
5. Provide any additional comments on how the small business contributes to the overall well-being of the community (contributions of time, money or resources, service and volunteer activity, leadership roles, partnerships with other nonprofits, etc.):
6. Please provide any additional information you find relevant for this nomination. Helpful information includes: data to support your nomination, newspaper/online articles recognizing the business or additional details about what makes this business the top award candidate in your opinion. Additional narrative may be provided by way of attachments or links.

Submission Information:

- **Submit all application materials (email, mail, or drop off) by September 8th, 2026**
to: Missoula Area Chamber of Commerce
Attn: Chad Bauer / Small Business of the Year Nomination
MAIL: P.O Box 7577 Missoula, MT 59807-7577
DROP OFF: 825 E Front St, Missoula, MT 59802
EMAIL: chad@missoulachamber.com