

Cedar Falls Community Foundation
2026 Melendy Spirit Award Nominations

The Cedar Falls Community Foundation is accepting nominations for the **2026 Melendy Spirit Award**. The Melendy Spirit Award is open to individuals, families, groups, or organizations who have made outstanding contributions to the community which have enhanced, improved, or positively affected the overall quality of life in Cedar Falls. Nominations are accepted for both living and posthumous candidates.

The award is named in honor of Peter Melendy, who came to Cedar Falls in 1859 at the age of 36. By living fully and energetically, he contributed to the cultural life and economic development of Cedar Falls. He is remembered for his energy and willingness to serve, his strong convictions and high principles yet courteous respect for the opinions of others. He supported principles and institutions that would contribute to economic and cultural growth in Cedar Falls and laid the groundwork for many of the institutions Cedar Falls citizens still enjoy. Nominees are sought who reflect the example set by Melendy.

Previous award recipients include Dr. James McCutcheon, Rosemary Beach, Dennis Downs, Sid Morris, Hugh Pettersen, Liane Nichols, and the Sturgis Falls Celebration. Previous posthumous awardees John M. Overman, Solomon B. Humbert, Ella Cotton Rownd, Herman Hemenway, Theresa Sartori, the Streeter Family, Erasmus Adams, Eddie Bowles and Mary Taylor.

Nominations must be submitted by February 13, 2026, and should include the name, address, email address, and phone number of the individual making the nomination and a statement of why the nominee is deserving of the Melendy Spirit Award. Additional information may also be provided such as a biographical sketch or resume of the nominee(s) describing specific contributions the nominee(s) has/have made to the community of Cedar Falls. Contributions can be in the form of community involvement, commitment to volunteering their time and/or skills, leadership, community assistance, personal example, and philanthropy.

For more information e-mail director@cf-communityfoundation.org or call the Cedar Falls Community Foundation office at 319-243-9170.

**Cedar Falls Community Foundation
2026 Melendy Spirit Award**

Nominations and supporting materials are due by February 13, 2025. Nominations may be submitted electronically to director@cf-communityfoundation.org or mailed to PO Box 546, Cedar Falls, IA 50613.

Nomination Form

Name of Nominee: _____

Nominee is: _____ Living

Your name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

Why is your Nominee deserving of the Melendy Spirit Award?

Check off list:

Community involvement

Leadership

Philanthropy

Other

Biographical sketch, CV, or resume

You may provide additional information such as: a biographical sketch or resume of the nominee(s); specific contributions the nominee(s) has/have made to the community of Cedar Falls in the form of community involvement, commitment to volunteering their time and skills, leadership, community assistance, personal accomplishments, philanthropic endeavors.