



THE AMERICAN
BUSINESS AWARDS®

2026 ENTRY KIT

The 24th Annual American Business Awards®



aba.stevieawards.com

WELCOME

We invite your organization to submit nominations to The 2026 (24th Annual) American Business Awards®, the top honors in the United States for achievement in the workplace.

All organizations operating in the US are eligible to submit nominations to the ABAs: large and small, public and private, for-profit and non-profit. Nominations may be submitted by individuals or organizations. The 2025 competition attracted more than 3,700 nominations from organizations of all types, all across America.

The Stevie® Award trophy, the prize that is conferred in the ABAs and all other Stevie Award programs, is one of the world's most coveted prizes. Many of America's largest and most famous organizations have won Stevie Awards. Most of our winners each year are small and midsize organizations that are still growing and building their brands, however.

This booklet explains how to prepare and submit nominations to the ABAs. The first important step to entering is to review the categories and to choose the categories in which you'll participate. You'll find new categories sprinkled through the various category groups, and we encourage you to explore them.

Eligibility extends from January 1, 2024, through the date on which you submit your nominations. Nominations that won in the 2025 ABAs may be resubmitted for consideration in the 2026 ABAs. If they have not been updated, they must be submitted to categories different from those in which they won.

In these pages you will find explanations of the submission requirements for all of these categories, and an outline of how to submit your entries through our website at ABA.StevieAwards.com. All of this information is also available on the website. All Stevie Award placements will be announced on April 23, prior to the June 9 awards banquet in New York.

We hope your organization will submit entries to The 2026 American Business Awards. Please don't hesitate to contact us with your questions about how to participate.

Cordially,

MAGGIE MILLER

President, The Stevie® Awards



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2026 CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 13, 2025

Webinar: Preparing Standout Nominations for The 2026 American Business Awards

NOVEMBER 19, 2025

First early-bird entry deadline, with discounted entry fees

DECEMBER 16, 2025

Second early-bird entry deadline, with discounted entry fees

FEBRUARY 10, 2026

Entry deadline, late fees apply after this date

**FEBRUARY 12, 2026 -
APRIL 10, 2026**

Judging of the 2026 Awards

MARCH 4, 2026

Late entry deadline, with payment of late fee

APRIL 22, 2026

Winners notified

**APRIL 24, 2026 -
MAY 22, 2026**

Public voting for the People's Choice Stevie® Awards for Favorite New Products

JUNE 9, 2026

Awards banquet
Marriott Marquis Hotel, New York City



READY? ENTER NOW



THE 2025 AWARDS

[BROWSE PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE AWARDS EVENT](#)



[WATCH THE INDIVIDUAL AWARDS PRESENTATION CLIPS](#)



[WATCH INTERVIEWS WITH STEVIE WINNERS](#)



[DOWNLOAD THE AWARDS EVENT PROGRAM BOOK \(PDF\)](#)



SELECTION OF 2025 WINNERS



COMCAST
BUSINESS



CRA
CORN REFINERS
ASSOCIATION



Catherine
Violet
Hubbard
ANIMAL SANCTUARY

dun & bradstreet

Emota
Inizio Engage



gov2biz
Powering Governments



Amplify™
HP PARTNER PROGRAM



kinetic



MediaGo

OHIO HUMANITIES
Sharing stories. Sparking conversations. Inspiring ideas.

OneAmerica
Financial

PrimeRx

PRODUCT
CONNECTIONS

QUALIZEAL

REPUTATION
HOUSE

savers™

THE LUCKY
GROUP

Top Score Writing

VALOR®

WINDSTREAM

XPERI.

04

[READY? ENTER NOW](#)



AWARDS PROCESS

Many of the judges are invited, and are former Stevie® Award winners. Other professionals apply to judge, and if accepted are assigned categories by Stevie Awards staff, based on their industry, function, and experience. To apply to be a judge for The 2026 American Business Awards®, you need to click [here](#). Once you login, you will need to verify you have American Business Awards® program selected in the system and click on "Apply to Judge" to open the judge application.

Judging of entries will be conducted over two months, from February to April, by judging committees focused on the main category groups. Each committee will have 10-30 members. Judges will be both volunteers and invitees. Judges' average scores will determine the Stevie Award winners. Every category in which there is at least one nomination with a final average score of at least 7.75 out of a possible 10 will have a Gold Stevie Award winner. Otherwise, the nomination with the highest average score in a category will win the Gold Stevie Award trophy in that category. Every other nomination in the category with an average of at least 8.0 will win a Silver Stevie Award medal. Other nominations with an average score of at least 7.75 will win Bronze Stevie Award medals.

During judging, each entry is reviewed and rated by no fewer than five (5) judges. All entries are viewed and rated at the judges' convenience online. Rating is done on a scale of 1-10.

All judges' comments on entries will be available in entrants' entry-submission accounts when Stevie Award winners are announced.

The veracity of claims made in winning entries may be audited. Any entry found to contain false or misleading information will be disqualified. Gold Stevie-winning entries will be published on The American Business Awards® website. Winners will have the opportunity to redact any confidential or non-public information from their entries before publication.

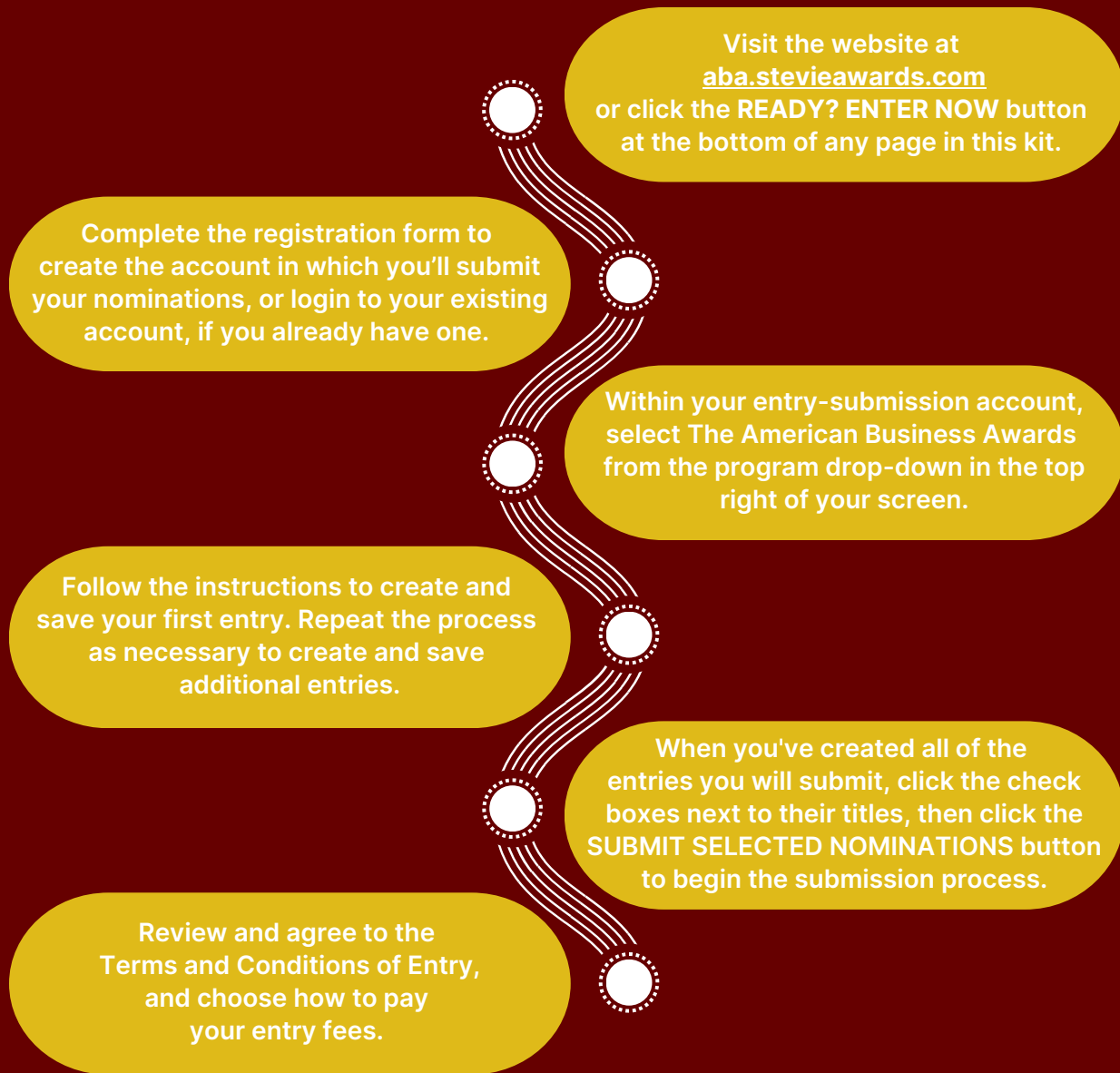
BEST OF THE ABA AWARDS

The Best of the ABA Awards are best-of-competition prizes that will be awarded to the organizations that submit the best body of work to the competition, in their own name or in the names of one or more clients. The winners of these prizes will be awarded the **Grand Stevie® Award trophy**.

These awards cannot be applied for directly. They will be determined by a points system based on the total number of awards won in the ABAs, with a Gold Stevie win counting for 3 points, a Silver Stevie for 2 points, and a Bronze Stevie counting for 1.5. Points cannot be counted more than once in calculating Best of the ABA winners (i.e., points won by an agency in its client's name cannot be counted a second time in the agency's name).

Best of the ABA winners are awarded the exclusive right to use a unique Grand Stevie Award winner logo.

HOW TO ENTER



ENTRY FEES

Entry fees are summarized in a PDF document which you may [download here](#). A separate fee is required for each category in which an entry is submitted. No refunds will be made after February 10, 2026. Entries submitted after February 10, 2026 will be assessed a late fee of \$55 (per entry) in addition to the entry fee, but will not be penalized in any way in the judging.

There are no other required fees. Stevie Award winners receive a complimentary winners package with winner logos, graphics, press release templates, and more. Attending the award ceremony and receiving your Stevie Award in the mail are optional. You do not have to do either to keep your title as a Stevie winner.

ACCEPTABLE PAYMENT METHODS

- **Credit Card:** American Express, MasterCard, and Visa
- **Check:** Written on a U.S. bank in U.S. dollars, payable to Stevie Awards, Inc.
- **Wire:** Payment in U.S. dollars may be wired. After you have submitted your entries, you will have access to an invoice with wire transfer instructions.

2026 CATEGORIES

The American Business Awards® accept entries in many different types of categories.

Nominations that won in the 2025 ABAs may be resubmitted for consideration in the 2026 ABAs. If they have been updated with recent achievements, they may be submitted to the same categories in which they won. If they have not been updated, they must be submitted to categories different from those in which they won.

[ACHIEVEMENT CATEGORIES](#)



[ACHIEVEMENT IN CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS, INVESTOR RELATIONS, & PUBLIC RELATIONS CATEGORIES](#)



[ACHIEVEMENT IN MANAGEMENT CATEGORIES](#)



[ACHIEVEMENT IN MARKETING CATEGORIES](#)



[AI CATEGORIES \(NEW FOR 2026\)](#)



[APP CATEGORIES](#)



[COMPANY / ORGANIZATION CATEGORIES](#)



[CREATIVE CATEGORIES \(NEW FOR 2026\)](#)



[CUSTOMER SERVICE CATEGORIES](#)



[ENTREPRENEUR CATEGORIES](#)



[EVENT CATEGORIES](#)



[HUMAN RESOURCES CATEGORIES](#)



[NEW PRODUCT & PRODUCT MANAGEMENT CATEGORIES](#)



[PODCAST CATEGORIES](#)



[PUBLICATION CATEGORIES](#)



[SOCIAL MEDIA CATEGORIES](#)



[SUPPORT CATEGORIES](#)



[SUSTAINABILITY CATEGORIES](#)



[TECHNOLOGY CATEGORIES](#)



[THOUGHT LEADERSHIP CATEGORIES](#)



[VIDEO CATEGORIES](#)



[WEB ACHIEVEMENT CATEGORIES](#)



HEAR FROM PAST WINNERS

“

We are delighted to have won a Stevie Award: This prestigious recognition serves to validate and motivate the work and commitment invested by our worldwide team in developing, promoting and supporting next-gen cybersecurity, backup and security awareness services to exceed the needs of our partners and customers. Thank you for this honor!

**ANGELICA MICALLEF
TRIGONA,
Hornetsecurity Inc.**

”

“

I am extremely proud of the Leap Academy team for their hard work, dedication, and for helping our clients become the absolute best version of themselves. I also want to thank our clients whom have been, not only growing themselves but creating an impact on everyone around them. You are the true leaders of tomorrow. Winning the Startup of the Year award is a great testament to that!

**ILANA GOLAN,
Golan Ventures Inc. -
Leap Academy**

”

“

The most important part of winning the Stevie Award is that the publicity enables us to reach that many more people new to cancer. In the US alone, that will be 2 million people in 2023. With every share, our next-gen patient education experience is helping more people achieve their best possible treatment results.

**RISA ARIN,
XpertPatient LLC**

”

TIPS TO SUBMIT WINNING NOMINATIONS

Subscribe to the Free Stevie Awards Email Newsletter

Stay up to date on entry deadline extensions, new categories, and other important announcements by subscribing to the weekly Stevie Awards email newsletter. We respect your privacy and will never share your email address with anyone else. [Click here](#) to subscribe.

Determine Who or What You Want to Nominate, and in Which Categories

Decide which individuals, departments, teams, achievements, solutions, or implementations in your organization you wish to nominate, then select the most appropriate categories for those entries. For help with category selection, fees, or other questions, contact us at +1 703-547-8389 or help@stevieawards.com.

Submit Your Entries By the Entry Deadline

The early-bird entry deadlines are November 19, 2025 and December 16, 2025, through which entry fees are discounted. The final entry deadline will be February 10, 2026. Late entries will be accepted through March 4, 2026 with payment of a \$55 late fee per entry.

Register for our Live Informational Webinar | November 13 at 1:00 pm ET

[Click here to register](#) for our webinar about how to prepare successful nominations and learn more about what is new and different in the 2026 competition. The webinar will be available to watch on demand anytime after it airs live.

RULES, TERMS & CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

The following are the terms and conditions of entry to The 2026 American Business Awards®. By submitting entries to the competition you assent that you have read and agree to abide by these terms and conditions.

ENTRY FEES



ACCEPTANCE OF STEVIE AWARDS CORRESPONDENCE



MAINTENANCE OF YOUR ENTRY ACCOUNT INFORMATION



FINAL DECISION



PAYMENT OF SHIPPING FEES



PUBLICATION OF STEVIE-WINNING ENTRIES



NOTICE OF FILMING AND PHOTOGRAPHY AT THE BANQUET



IDENTIFY VERIFICATION



Failure to comply with these Terms & Conditions will render your entries ineligible. Entry fees will not be refunded.



ENTRY PREPARATION TIPS

1 Write Your Entries Offline Before Submitting Them

Write your entries offline to keep a permanent record. Then, submit them through our simple online system. Avoid writing directly online, as technical issues with your computer or our system could cause you to lose your work.

2 Include Supporting Materials and Links

For most categories, supporting files or URLs are optional. However, we strongly recommend including at least your organization's website URL so judges can access basic information about your organization.

3 Focus on Achievements During the Eligibility Period

The 2026 American Business Awards eligibility period is from January 1, 2024, through March 4, 2026. Entries may mention earlier achievements but must focus on this period—the judges will not score entries highly if they do not.

4 How to Submit Entries for Multiple Clients

PR and marketing agencies submitting for multiple clients should create one account under the agency's name with agency contact details. For each nomination you create you will be able to specify the name and location of the organization you are nominating.

5 Test Your Links

If you include links to videos, images, or other materials, be sure to test them before submitting. Preview your entry and click the links to ensure they work and show the intended content to the judges.

6 Video Entries and Other Media Materials

Attachments should be directly downloadable and easy to access. For videos, use a YouTube, Vimeo, or similar link that plays instantly. If that's not possible, upload the video file instead.

7 Giving Titles to Your Entries

When choosing a title for your entries, don't include the category name — judges will see it. For individual nominations, simply use the person's name and job title unless additional text adds meaningful context. Keep titles simple.

8 Well-Written and Succinct

Stevie-winning entries are clear, focused, and modest. Highlight a few key accomplishments in detail rather than listing many briefly, and keep the writing concise.



10 REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD ENTER

1

Stevie® Awards offer a cost-effective way to recognize and celebrate your valued employees for their efforts and accomplishments—boosting morale, inspiring pride, and motivating your team to keep striving for excellence.

2

The entry fees are nominal compared to the publicity and credibility you or your organization can reap from winning a Stevie Award. Past winners use their Stevie Awards to enhance their reputation, attract clients, and engage top talent.

3

Small organizations have just as much chance to win a Stevie as big companies. Every year, household-name companies are joined in the winners' circle by small and medium-sized organizations that are still building their brands.

4

There are dozens of categories for Organizations, Entrepreneurs, HR, Marketing, Tech, AI, Podcasts, and much more.

5

Winners are celebrated globally at our galas and promoted across our website, blog, social media, and PR. With more than 70,000 monthly site visitors and 60,000 newsletter subscribers, your win gets wide exposure.



6

When you win a Stevie Award, you and your colleagues get to deliver a speech on stage before a global audience and network with top professionals at our June 9 gala in New York City, also broadcast live worldwide.

7

The awards are a great way to benchmark your achievements against competitors in your industry.

8

Stevie Awards impress clients, partners, colleagues, and staff. Since 2002, the Stevie Award trophy has become one of the business world's most coveted prizes; it's a global symbol of excellence and innovation.

9

Winners may order additional copies of their awards to share with employees, executives, and clients. Official winner logos, social media graphics, and press release templates are provided to all winners at no extra cost.

10

Judges include many of the world's most respected executives, entrepreneurs, innovators, and business educators. You'll have access to all of the judges' feedback for all of your entries; an invaluable resource.

12



READY? ENTER NOW

THE STEVIE® AWARD

The Stevie Award trophy is one of the world's most coveted prizes. Since 2002 the Gold Stevie Award has been conferred for achievement in the workplace to organizations and individuals in more than 70 nations and territories.

The name Stevie is taken from the name Stephen, which is derived from the Greek for "crowned."

The crystal pyramid held aloft by Stevie represents the hierarchy of human needs, a system often represented as a pyramid that was developed in the 1960s by psychologist Abraham Maslow, who observed that after their basic needs are met, human beings seek the esteem of their peers.

RESOURCES TO HELP YOU PREPARE YOUR ENTRIES

Most public relations agencies and independent practitioners have experience writing Stevie Awards entries. If you don't have the time to prepare, write and submit The American Business Awards® entries, we suggest you turn to a PR pro to help you. There are also several communications professionals who specialize in writing Stevie Awards entries. We recommend the following:

August Recognition, Donna O'Toole, hello@augustawards.com

Award-Winning Results, Jacque Burandt, jacqueline.burandt@gmail.com

Boost Awards, Chris Robinson, info@boost-awards.co.uk

Business Awards Consulting, Cagatay Kayabas, awards@kuzeygelisim.com

Green Door Co., Heather Marano, heather@greendoor.co (Australia/New Zealand)

Martha Hooper, hooperconsultinginternational@gmail.com

Melissa Sones, melissasonesconsulting@gmail.com

Susan Turkell, info@pairelations.com

The Audacious Agency, Lauren Clemett, info@theaudaciousagency.com



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