



THE STEVIE® AWARDS
FOR GREAT EMPLOYERS

2026 ENTRY KIT

11th Annual Stevie® Awards for Great Employers



hr.stevieawards.com

WELCOME

We invite your organization to submit nominations to the 2026 (11th annual) Stevie® Awards for Great Employers. This program recognizes the world's best organizations to work for, and the HR teams, professionals, achievements, new products, and suppliers that help to create and drive great places to work.

All organizations and individuals worldwide are eligible to submit nominations to the Stevie Awards for Great Employers: large and small, public and private, for-profit and non-profit.

The Stevie® Award trophy, the prize that is conferred in the Stevie Awards for Great Employers and all other Stevie Award programs, is one of the world's most coveted prizes. Many of the world'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 Stevie Awards for Great Employers. The first important step to entering is to review the categories and to choose the categories in which you'll participate. You'll find an entirely new category group for AI Achievements and new categories sprinkled through the various category groups. 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 Stevie Awards for Great Employers may be resubmitted for consideration in the 2026 awards. 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 [HR.StevieAwards.com](https://www.HR.StevieAwards.com). All of this information is also available on the website.

The Gold, Silver, and Bronze Stevie Award winners will be announced on July 16, and celebrated during a gala event in Paris, France on Wednesday, October 28. Attendance is not required to win.

We hope your organization will submit entries to the 2026 Stevie Awards for Great Employers. 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

MARCH 18, 2026	Webinar: Entry Tips for the 2026 Stevie® Awards for Great Employers
APRIL 9, 2026	Early-bird entry deadline, with discounted entry fees
MAY 7, 2026	Primary entry deadline, late fees apply after this date
MAY 13, 2026 - JULY 9, 2026	Judging of the 2026 Awards
JUNE 10, 2026	Final entry deadline, with payment of late fee
JUNE 11, 2026 - JULY 9, 2026	Public voting in the Employer of the Year categories
JULY 15, 2026	Winners notified
OCTOBER 28, 2026	Awards banquet Pullman Paris Montparnasse, Paris, France

[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



STEVIE® AWARDS FOR GREAT EMPLOYERS

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

For most categories in the Stevie Awards for Great Employers, entries will consist of four main components. You may submit either written or video content in your chosen categories, along with optional supporting materials to help judges get the full picture of your achievements and verify claims made in the entry. If you submit a video entry, be sure that the video provides information for each of the four components.

In most categories, each entry must include:

- Briefly describe the nominated organization: its history and past performance **(up to 1,300 characters)**. *Required*
- Outline the achievements since the beginning of 2024 that you wish to bring to the judges' attention **(up to 1,600 characters)**. *Required*
- Explain why the achievements you have highlighted are unique or significant. If possible, compare the achievements to the performance of other players in your industry and/or to the organization's past performance **(up to 1,600 characters)**. *Required*
- Reference any attachments of supporting materials throughout this nomination and how they provide evidence of the claims you have made in this nomination **(up to 1,500 characters)**. *Optional*

Optional (but highly recommended), add up to 10 supporting links and/or document uploads to strengthen your submission for the judges' review.

Curated Training Platform of The Year Categories, Solutions & Implementations Categories, Solution Provider Categories, and Training Programs or Media Categories will have slightly different entry requirements.

ENTRY TIPS

- Give each nomination a clear and concise nomination title
- Add at least one supporting link or attachment. Judges want to see that you've made the effort to back up the claims of achievement made in your nomination. Not all claims can be verified, but do the best you can to show support. We recommend submitting no more than 10 supporting links or attachments.
- You may submit the same entry content in multiple categories, as long as the categories' requirements are identical.



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 Stevie® Awards for Great Employers, you need to click [here](#). Once you log in, you will need to verify that you have Stevie® Awards for Great Employers 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 May to July, by judging committees focused on the main category groups based on their industry, function, and experience. A judge will not be assigned categories to which their own organization has submitted entries.

Each entry will be reviewed and rated by no fewer than five (5) judges who have been approved as qualified (by Stevie Awards staff) to judge those entries. Rating will be done on a scale of 1-10. The average scores of judges will determine the Finalists and the Gold, Silver and Bronze Stevie Award placements from among the Finalists in each category. (In the Employer of the Year categories, public votes will also contribute to the determination of the winners.)

All nominations with an average score from the judges of 8.0/10 or higher will qualify for Stevie Award status. The top-scoring qualifying entry in each category will receive a Gold Stevie Award. The top 45% of all other qualifying entries, regardless of category, will be accorded Silver Stevie status. The remaining qualifying entries will be recognized as Bronze Stevie winners.

The veracity of claims made in 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 awards website. Winners will have the opportunity to redact any confidential or non-public information from their entries before publication.

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DETERMINATION OF GRAND STEVIE AWARD WINNERS

The organization that wins the most Gold, Silver and Bronze Stevie Awards will be presented with the Grand Stevie Award for **Organization of the Year**. The winner will be determined by total points won, with a Gold Stevie win counting for three (3) points, a Silver Stevie win for two (2) points, and a Bronze Stevie win for one-and-a-half (1.5) points.

The nomination with the highest average score from the professional judges will be conferred a Grand Stevie Award as the **Highest-rated Nomination of the Year**.



READY? ENTER NOW

HOW TO ENTER

Visit the website at hr.stevieawards.com or click the **READY? ENTER NOW** button at the bottom of any page in this kit.

Complete the registration form to create the account in which you'll submit your nominations, or log in to your existing account, if you already have one.

Within your entry-submission account, select Stevie® Awards for Great Employers from the program drop-down in the top right of your screen.

Follow the instructions to create and save your first entry. Repeat the process as necessary to create and save additional entries.

When you've created all of the entries you will submit, click the check boxes next to their titles, then click the **SUBMIT SELECTED NOMINATIONS** button to begin the submission process.

Review and agree to the Terms and Conditions of Entry, and choose how to pay your entry fees.

SUBMIT NOMINATIONS IN ANY OF 30+ LANGUAGES

New for 2026, we have a translation tool built into our entry system. You may submit written nominations in any of 30+ languages, and our system will translate them to English for our judges to review and score. Please note that only your written submission will be translated, not any supporting material uploads or links. All judging will be done in English, and judges will be told that a translation tool may have been used.



ENTRY FEES

Early-bird entry fees are as follows:

- U.S. \$295 per entry in six categories that recognize the achievements of individuals: C03, C11, C19, C20, H10 and L05. There are no entry fees in other [HR Individual categories](#).
- U.S. \$520 per entry in the categories that recognize the achievements of entire organizations, teams, departments, solutions, implementations, and training programs, media, and platforms.

Entry fees will rise \$45/entry after the April 9 early-bird deadline. Entries may be still be submitted after the primary deadline of May 7, up through June 10, but a late fee of \$55/entry will be assessed in addition to the entry fee.

If appropriate, an entry may be entered in multiple categories; and the fees are due for each category entered. Each entry will be judged separately in each category entered. Entries submitted in multiple categories are eligible to win multiple awards.

Payment may be made by credit card, check, or wire transfer. We accept American Express, Mastercard, and Visa. Payment by check must be made in U.S. dollars by check or draft drawn on a U.S. bank payable to Stevie Awards, Inc. Non-U.S. bank checks will be returned. Please note the name of the entering organization on your check or draft.

No refunds will be made after May 7, 2026.





2026 CATEGORIES

The Stevie® Awards for Great Employers accepts entries in many different types of categories.

Nominations that won in the 2025 Stevie Awards for Great Employers may be resubmitted for consideration in the 2026 awards. 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.

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



[CURATED TRAINING PLATFORM OF THE YEAR CATEGORIES](#)



[EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR CATEGORIES](#)



[HR ACHIEVEMENT CATEGORIES](#)



[HR INDIVIDUAL CATEGORIES](#)



[HR TEAM CATEGORIES](#)



[SOLUTIONS & IMPLEMENTATIONS CATEGORIES](#)



[SOLUTION PROVIDER CATEGORIES](#)



[TRAINING PROGRAMS OR MEDIA CATEGORIES](#)



[THOUGHT LEADERSHIP CATEGORIES](#)



HEAR FROM PAST WINNERS

“

Winning a Gold Stevie® Award for Great Employers means a lot to us. It's a big recognition of our professional talent acquisition team and all the hard work we put in every day. We've helped our clients' businesses grow fast by matching them with top tech and digital talent — and this award is proof that we're doing it right.

ANN KUSS,
CEO,
Outstaff Your Team,
Hungary

”

“

These awards reflect our people-first culture, where leadership listens closely, all perspectives are valued, and every employee is empowered to contribute meaningfully. Thank you to the judging panel of experts for this recognition and for affirming that a mission-driven, agile organization can be a model for exceptional employee experience.

TAYLOR KELLY,
Head of Human Resources,
Scrum Alliance,
United States

”

“

Since the start of my HR career, winning the Stevie Award for HR Rising Star of the Year has been my goal. It helps to know what we do behind the scenes helps shape employees' happiness and staff success, which is what being a human in human resources is about.

TALIA D'AQUINO,
People Experience
Specialist,
Montu,
Australia

”



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.

Register for our Live Informational Webinar | March 18 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.

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 deadline is April 9, 2026, through which entry fees are discounted. The primary entry deadline will be May 7, 2026. Late entries will be accepted through June 10, 2026 with payment of a \$55 late fee per entry.



RULES, TERMS & CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

The following are the terms and conditions of entry to the 2026 Stevie® Awards for Great Employers. 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 Stevie® Awards for Great Employers eligibility period is from January 1, 2024, through June 10, 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 Employer of the Year, HR, Solution Provider, Training Programs, AI, 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 30,000 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 October 28 gala in Paris, France 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.



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 Stevie® Awards for Great Employers 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

Awards Intelligence, Claire James, claire@awardsintelligence.co.uk

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



FOR GREAT
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