

2026 SMALL BUSINESS AWARDS



FRIDAY OCTOBER 23, BATTLE RIVER AG HALL



Nominations close
11 pm on October 14, 2026



Submit nominations online at:
surveymonkey.com/r/SBA2026

ELIGIBILITY

- Business must be registered with the County of Northern Lights or a Manning & District Chamber of Commerce Member
- Business must be located in the County of Northern Lights or the Town of Manning
- Business Leader nominees must be a resident of the County of Northern Lights or the Town of Manning
- Business Leader nominees can hold any role within a business or organization (owner, operator, manager, supervisor, dept. staff, manager, etc.)
- Employer of Choice nominations must come from staff

WINNER SELECTION

Winners are selected by a committee comprising of reps from Chamber, Town of Manning, County, and Award Sponsors.

EXCELLENCE IN CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

Award Criteria:

The Customer Experience Award is presented to a business that has shown that customer service is its top priority. The business does one or more of the following

- Provides a welcoming and positive environment
- Brings a personalized and attentive experience approach to their customers
- Quickly adapts to changing customer needs and problem-solves
- Takes a proactive approach to gathering customer feedback and suggestions

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EMPLOYER OF CHOICE

Award Criteria:

Nominations come from staff who would like to recognize their employer for the fantastic work environment they have created, including but not limited to;

- promoting work/life balance
- great benefits
- community involvement
- supporting employee growth and development

BUSINESS LEADER

Award Criteria:

The individual has a strong entrepreneurial spirit and is passionate about the success and growth of

- their business
- their employees
- their community
- and the overall business community

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BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Award Criteria:

- The business achieves one or more of the following:
- Supporter of community events, programs, or services
- Contributes to growing their business, product or services, and job opportunities.
- Has taken positive action to invest in the community and incorporate social responsibility into their business vision.
- Advocate/supporter for other small businesses, locally or regionally

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BEST SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING

Award Criteria:

The business has been active for at least 6 months on one or more of the following:

- Facebook
- Instagram
- LinkedIn
- TikTok

The business has taken an engaging and creative approach to generating content that highlights its products, services, business operations, achievements, and/or community involvement.

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EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Nominations come from businesses. The nominated employee must be employed by a business located in the County of Northern Lights or the Town of Manning.

- Employers can [submit nominations online](https://surveymonkey.com/r/EOTYA2026) from Wednesday, October 1, and will close at 11:00 p.m. on Friday, October 17.
- Nominations must be completed by the business owner, manager, or supervisor.
- Businesses may only nominate 1 (one) employee per department.
- The nominee consistently performs beyond the call of duty, demonstrates enthusiasm and a strong commitment to the business, and positively represents and contributes to the morale and teamwork of the organization.
- Winners will be announced at the Small Business Awards dinner on October 24.

Employers can nominate online at
[hwww.surveymonkey.com/r/EOTYA2026](https://surveymonkey.com/r/EOTYA2026)

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Manning & District

Chamber of Commerce

