

- APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS -

Please read through all pages and complete all sections fully. The information included on this form will be considered confidential and will only be used by the panel of judges in their decision making process. All questions must be answered to be considered for an award. Application deadline is **March 31, 2010**.

About the San Diego Small Business Awards

Small and micro businesses are the greatest strength of our regional economy, leading the way in innovation and bringing new ideas and services to the marketplace. In conjunction with the US Small Business Administration, the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce annually honors our region's businesses for their significant contributions as drivers of economic growth.

The San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce will once again recognize small businesses in the categories of Outstanding Emerging Business, Excellence In Customer Service, Most Innovative Product or Service, Most Innovative Marketing Campaign/Concept and Environmental Action.

Winners will be announced live at the Small Business Awards Luncheon held on June 2, 2010 at the Town and County Resort & Convention Center. Please visit www.sdchamber.org for more information.

2010 Small Business Awards Timeline

March 31, 2010 - Applications due
April 15, 2010 . Judging Completed
April 20, 2010 - Finalists Announced
June 2, 2010 - Award Winners Announced Live at the Small Business Awards Luncheon

Eligibility Requirements

Members of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce are invited to apply for and/or nominate a business for a Small Business Award. There are two levels of business that are eligible to receive awards: micro business and small business. You may apply to as many categories as applicable. However, if you won last year, you may not apply for the same award again (c'mon, give somebody else a chance!)

Micro Business - An eligible micro business may be a home-based, street front, or office-based business with ten or fewer employees. Micro businesses may be part-time or full-time businesses.

Small Business - An eligible small business is defined as a business that is independently owned and operated and is not dominant in its field of operation. 50 or fewer employees.

Award Criteria

Outstanding Emerging Business of the Year Award

- History as an established business confirmed by revenue growth and profitability or demonstrated staying power through adversity (financial statements may be required but will remain confidential)
- Must be a San Diego County-based business
- Provide success stories and testimonials
- Must be a member in good standing of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce

Most Innovative Product or Service Award

- Innovation in technology, invention, product, or service
- Considered creative and found its success in the marketplace
- Acknowledgement by peers or media for innovation
- Provide success stories and testimonials
- Must be a member in good standing of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce

Most Innovative Marketing Campaign/Concept Award

- Creative concept, including relevance to the target audience
- Execution of solutions to marketing and communications challenges
- Provide success, testimonials and marketing samples if possible
- Must be a member in good standing of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce

Excellence in Customer Service Award

- Educated sales and services representatives who are approachable, available, and willing to help
- High quality service from beginning to end . the amount and quality of assistance given to customers
- Responsiveness and follow through once a problem has been identified . dealing with situations of adversity from customers
- Provide success stories and testimonials
- Must be a member in good standing of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce

Environmental Action Award

- Eligible candidates will have taken actions to improve or protect the environment.
 - Examples include, but are not limited to the following: Recycling program/initiatives, Fuel conservation or alternatives, Energy conservation practices, environmentally friendly products, Environmental awareness/education, Water conservation measures, Solar/wind power, ect.
- Effort and actions result in a significant and measurable environmental benefit
- Provide success stories and testimonials
- Must be a member in good standing of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce

Recognition for Applying

This is an excellent opportunity to gain great exposure for your company. Be recognized for your success and celebrate your achievements among friends, clients, employees and the entire San Diego business community.

Award Nominee

- Small Business Award Certificate of Recognition
- Official Small Business Award Honorary Mention logo to display on your company web site and/or marketing materials

Award Finalist

- Small Business Award Certificate of Merit
- Official Small Business Award Finalist logo to display on your company web site and/or marketing materials
- Company name listed as an Award Finalist on the Chamber's Website and in the Event Program
- Company name published as an Award Finalist in the Small Business Supplement to The Daily Transcript
- Recognition on stage during the Small Business Awards Luncheon

Award Winner

- Official Small Business Award Winner logo to display on your company web site and/or marketing materials
- Company name listed as an Award Winner on the Chamber's Website
- Company name published as an Award Winner in the Chamber's Business Action Online and the Event press release
- Recognition and award acceptance on stage during the Small Business Awards Luncheon, picture taken with Award Sponsor Representative
- Special crystal award engraved with your company name

Event Sponsors

Title Sponsor:




In conjunction with:

US Small Business Administration

Award Sponsors:



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