



Stars OF THE Industry

2026 Awards Gala Nomination Form

Saturday, March 14th, 2026
Sheraton Anchorage Hotel

Anchorage, Alaska

Brought to you by
Alaska Hotel & Lodging Association

NOMINATION DEADLINE
February 13th, 2026

NOMINATION FORM

The **Stars of the Industry Awards Program** honors and celebrates outstanding service and achievement in the hospitality industry. This program recognizes employees, managers, properties, and businesses that exemplify the highest standards of service. Nominees are evaluated on performance that exceeds normal job responsibilities through exceptional or unique service to their property, guests, customers, or community.

Here's how it works

This awards program is open to anyone wishing to recognize an industry employee, manager, property, or supplier for outstanding performance. Nominees must be employed by, or affiliated with, a member property or business in good standing with AkH&LA. Each award category is further divided by department and property size.

Nomination Requirements

Please complete this nomination form in full and submit all required supporting materials.

On a separate page, clearly explain why the nominee deserves this award. Use specific examples whenever possible, including:

- Years with property or business
- Years in the industry
- Prior experience or industry involvement
- Community activities
- Previous awards or recognition

Personal stories or examples that inspired the nomination are strongly encouraged. A sample nomination letter is included in this packet for reference.

Supporting materials may include letters of recommendation from co-workers, managers, or guests; guest comment cards; media or newsletter clippings; photos; or videos. Contact your HR department or manager for assistance gathering documentation.

Please ensure the nominee's name is spelled correctly, as it will appear exactly as submitted on the award and in the program. Also confirm that you have selected the correct category, department, and property size.

Tell Us About Your Nominee

Please print clearly.

Nominee's Name: _____ Date of Birth (Rising Star Only): _____

Pronunciation Key - if needed: (*Example: Jose Martinez – Ho-zay Mar-tee-nez*): _____

Current Position/Title: _____

Company/Property Name: _____

Property General Manager: _____

GM Email: _____

GENERAL ENTRY RULES

- Nominations must be received by February 13, 2026
- All entries will be judged on work performed during the calendar year prior to the event
- Submit one completed entry form per nomination
- Limit two (2) nominations per category per property
- Email completed nomination forms to stars@akhla.org
- Supporting materials must be organized and easy to review (no sheet protectors)
- All nominees must be members of, or employed by a member in good standing with AkH&LA
- All submitted materials become the property of AkH&LA and will not be returned
- Nominees and properties will be notified by February 16, 2026
- Winners will be announced at the awards gala on March 14, 2026

SUPERVISOR CLASSIFICATION GUIDANCE

The Stars of the Industry Planning Committee recognizes that hotel organizational structures vary. Supervisor roles may differ between properties, and classification decisions are left to each hotel.

- If supervisors function as managers within your organization, submit them in the Manager category.
- If supervisors primarily perform employee-level duties and your property has a separate management team, submit them in the Employee category.

For additional guidance, please contact the AkH&LA office.

Judging Process

Nomination packets will be reviewed by a panel of hospitality professionals from outside the State of Alaska. Winners are selected solely based on the information provided in the nomination packet.

Complete, detailed submissions significantly improve a nominee's chances of selection. Please verify that the correct category, department, and property size are selected, as entries will be judged only within the submitted category. Once judging begins, categories cannot be changed.

Person Submitting Nomination

Name: _____ Property/Company: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Submission Instructions

Please submit one (1) electronic copy to:
Stars of the Industry Committee @ stars@akhla.org

Choose the nomination category and department of your nominee:

Hotel Employee of the Year – Less than 150 Rooms

- Accounting & Administrative/Clerical (All accounting positions, assistants, coordinators, executive staff from ALL departments)
- Food & Beverage (All servers, room service, bartenders, banquet staff, bussers, cashiers, dishwashers, stewards, set up, hosts, coat check, kitchen (ALL F&B))
- Front Office (PBX operators, front desk, reservations)
- Guest Services (Bell desk, concierge, valet, couriers, van drivers, lobby ambassadors)
- Housekeeping (Laundry, seamstress, inspector, uniforms, janitors, porters, houseman, and supervisors)
- Housekeeping Room Attendants (Room attendants)
- Maintenance/Security (Maintenance or security)

Hotel Employee of the Year – More than 150 Rooms

- Accounting & Administrative/Clerical (All accounting positions, assistants, coordinators, executive staff from ALL departments)
- Banquet (banquet servers and banquet bartenders)
- Food & Beverage (Servers, room service, and bartenders)
- Front Office (PBX operators, front desk, reservations)
- Guest Services (Bell desk, concierge, valet, couriers, van drivers, lobby ambassadors, spas, and health club)
- Housekeeping (Laundry, seamstress, inspectors, uniforms, and supervisors)
- Housekeeping Auxiliary (Janitors, porters, and houseman)
- Housekeeping Room Attendants (Room attendants)
- Kitchen (Cooks, prep cooks, line cooks)
- Maintenance/ Security (Maintenance or security)

Hotel Manager of the Year – Less than 150 Rooms

- Accounting/Human Resources
- Food & Beverage
- Guest Services (Front desk, operations, guest services, spas, health clubs, and gift shops)
- Housekeeping
- Maintenance/Engineering & Security
- Sales/Marketing

Hotel Manager of the Year – More than 150 Rooms

- Accounting/ Human Resources
- Food & Beverage
- Guest Services (Guest services, spas, health clubs, pools, fitness, and gift shops)
- Housekeeping
- Kitchen (Executive chef and sous chef)
- Maintenance/Engineering & Security
- Sales/Marketing

Outstanding Member Property of the Year

- Hotels with 150 rooms or less
- Hotels with more than 150 rooms

Distinguished Awards

- Rising Star of the Year - Recognizes and honors those emerging leaders in the industry under the age of 30 that exude enthusiasm and dedication to the lodging industry that goes above and beyond their normal job responsibilities.
- Spirit of Hospitality – Honors an individual or team who demonstrates outstanding enthusiasm and commitment to supporting peers, the industry, and their local community through service or collaboration.