

DREAM BIG SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARDS PROGRAM

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce recognizes that entrepreneurs in America—as a key pillar of the free enterprise system—create the jobs, innovation, and opportunity that make our nation prosperous. We are proud to provide special recognition to the small business community by presenting one business with the DREAM BIG Small Business of the Year Award, sponsored by Sam's Club®. We know firsthand that small businesses are the backbone of American free enterprise, representing more than 99% of all employers, creating three-fourths of all new jobs, and accounting for more than one-half of the nation's gross domestic product. Now, the Chamber will have the opportunity to recognize one exceptional small business owner for his or her tireless work and embodiment of the spirit of free enterprise.

The award presentation will take place at the May 18 luncheon at the Omni Shoreham Hotel during America's Small Business Summit, held May 17-19 in Washington, D.C.

Awards Program Timeline:

January 15, 2010 – Applications due

March 1, 2010 – Blue Ribbon Small Business winners announced

March 1, 2010 – Online voting opens for the Community Excellence Award

March 12, 2010 – Online voting ends

March 15, 2010 – Regional Finalists (7) announced

May 18, 2010 – DREAM BIG Small Business of the Year Award winner announced

Eligibility Requirements:

A business must meet the following requirements to be eligible for America's Small Business of the Year Awards 2010:

- Fewer than 260 employees
- Gross revenues of less than \$20 million in 2008
- Able to attend America's Small Business Summit 2010 (May 18, 2010)

Criteria:

Eligible applicants are judged on the following:

- Financial performance
- Staff training
- Community involvement
- Customer Service
- Business plan or strategies and goals

Recognition Levels:

Blue Ribbon Small Business Award®

On March 1, 2010, the first round award winners will be named as Blue Ribbon Small Business Award® recipients.

Recipients receive:

- Discounted registration for the 2010 Summit
- Recognition during the Blue Ribbon Breakfast Summit Awards Breakfast
- Blue Ribbon Small Business Certificate
- Web sticker to display on company Web site
- Recognition in *uschamber.com* magazine

Community Excellence Award

The Community Excellence Award, selected by popular vote, is awarded to one Blue Ribbon Small Business that has found notable success in the eyes of its community. It is voted on by the people that know a company best – its customers, employees, and neighbors.

Voting is open to the public and takes place online between Monday, March 1 and Friday March 12. This award is a great opportunity for our Blue Ribbon Small Businesses to maximize their exposure and get the recognition they deserve. The winner will be announced on May 18 during America's Small Business Summit.

Recipients receive:

- All recognitions given to the Blue Ribbon Small Businesses
- Two night hotel stay during the Summit at the Omni Shoreham Hotel
- Crystal award
- Award presentation on stage during the Blue Ribbon Breakfast

Regional Finalists

One outstanding Blue Ribbon Small Business Award® recipient will be selected as a finalist to represent each of seven regions. The seven regional finalists will be selected by the U.S. Chamber and will be announced March 15, 2010. These regions are as follows:

- **Midwest:** Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin
- **Eastern:** Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, and West Virginia
- **Great Lakes:** Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania
- **Northwest:** Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming
- **Southeastern:** Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and Washington, D.C.
- **Southwest and South Central:** Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas
- **Western:** Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, and Utah

Recipients receive:

- All recognitions given to the Blue Ribbon Small Businesses
- Two night hotel stay during the Summit at the Omni Shoreham Hotel
- Recognition on stage during Awards Luncheon

DREAM BIG Small Business of the Year Award:

One winner is chosen from the Regional Finalists.

Recipient Receives:

- All recognitions given to Finalists and Blue Ribbon Winners
- **\$10,000 cash prize courtesy of Sam's Club**

How to apply:

- **Online:** www.uschambersummit.com
- **Fax:** 202-463-5707
- **Mail:** U.S. Chamber of Commerce
ATTN: Trula Tener, Communications
1615 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20062-2000

Materials Checklist:

- All must be submitted online or postmarked by January 15, 2010.
- Completed application
- Revenue documentation – to verify that gross revenue is less than \$20 million. We will accept a letter stating company sales in
- 2007 and 2008 signed by both your president/CEO and your accountant OR a copy of your company's tax return (such as an
- 1120 form).
- Application fee (paid by applicant or nominator)
- Optional: photos, letters of recommendation, copies of paid or earned media

Application Fee:

The application fee (\$25) must be paid by either the applicant by **January 15, 2010**. Make checks payable to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

"The publicity that accompanied the award has been invaluable. The award has increased our credibility with customers, vendors, and even potential new employees... Being a U.S. Chamber award-winner has opened doors for us and helped us to grow."

-- Chris Mammen, Mammen Glass & Mirror, Inc.

For information about the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Small Business Summit, click on the following link:
<http://www.uschambersummit.com/sbsummit/default>

Sponsored by Sam's Club

