

MARYLAND OFFICE OF TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND MARYLAND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT BOARD

2009 TOURISM AWARDS

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

INTRODUCTION

The Maryland Office of Tourism Development (OTD) and the Maryland Tourism Development Board (MTDB) are proud to present the 2009 Maryland Tourism Awards recognizing excellence and major contributions in economic impact, green/sustainable tourism, cultural heritage tourism, volunteerism and elevating Maryland’s image as a tourism destination. These awards recognize the outstanding achievements of individuals, governmental agencies, organizations and businesses that have major impacts regionally or statewide.

The recipients of these awards assist OTD and MTDB in fulfilling their mission of increasing visitor expenditures to the state by:

- Promoting Maryland’s attractions, accommodations and visitor services;
- Providing resident and out-of-state visitors with information and services to ensure a positive trip experience; and
- Positioning Maryland as a competitive destination worldwide.

Don’t miss the opportunity to nominate yourself or other attractions, investments, events, promotions, etc. and earn recognition for exceptional work.

ELIGIBILITY

The 2009 Maryland Tourism Awards are open to all individuals, private businesses and non-profit organizations offering a tourism product or service in Maryland. All entries must promote or support tourism to or within Maryland. Events nominated for consideration need to have occurred between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009. Self-nominations will be accepted.

ENTRY CATEGORIES

Economic Engine

Green/Sustainable Tourism

Cultural Heritage Tourism

Tourism Volunteer

Visit Maryland

AWARD DECISIONS

A panel of judges representing Maryland’s tourism community will review each nomination. The judges will consider the criteria listed in the category description when making their selection. Each criterion will be considered on a point scale as indicated (100 points possible).

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- In some categories, nominees have the option of including a brochure highlighting the nomination. Its inclusion, however, will not be considered in the point totals.
- Nominations will not be returned.

- Nominations received in one category may be moved to a more appropriate category.
- Entries must be received via email or U.S. Mail in the Maryland Office of Tourism Development by 5:00 p.m., Thursday, October, 1, 2009.
- Nominations received after October 1, 2009 will not be judged.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the completed nomination form, a one-page narrative specifically addressing the category's criteria must be submitted. Please limit narrative to 350 words or less.

- If nomination is submitted via U.S. Mail, four (4) copies of the narrative and brochure must be included.
- Incomplete submissions will not be judged.

WINNERS' RECOGNITION

- Winners will be announced at an Awards Luncheon on Thursday, November 5, 2009 during the 2009 Maryland Tourism and Travel Summit being held in Ocean City, MD.
- If you and the person/organization nominated for an award are registered to attend the 2009 Maryland Tourism and Travel Summit, you will not be notified if your nominee is selected to receive an award. If you and/or your nominee are not registered to attend the conference, we will contact you and arrange for your (and their) attendance.
- Winning entries will be recognized in the Maryland Office of Tourism's e-newsletter, on www.visitmaryland.com and in a statewide press release from the Maryland Office of Tourism Development.

ENTRIES SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL SHOULD BE SENT TO:

sstiling@visitmaryland.org

Subject: 2009 Maryland Tourism Awards

ENTRIES SUBMITTED VIA U.S. MAIL SHOULD BE SENT TO:

2009 Maryland Tourism Awards

C/O Ms. Sandy Stilling

Maryland Office of Tourism Development

401 E. Pratt Street, Suite 1400

Baltimore, Maryland 21202

2009 MARYLAND TOURISM AWARDS CATEGORIES

Economic Engine Award

- Jobs creation – 40 points
- Positive economic impact to the region and state – 40 points
- Exemplary contributions to Maryland's tourism industry – 10 points
- Other unique qualities – 10 points

Green/Sustainable Tourism Award

- Implementation of green practices such as energy efficiency, waste/pollution minimization, environmental purchasing, etc. – 80 points
- Economic impact and/or cost savings associated with "green" practices – 10 points
- Education to employees, customers and public – 5 points
- Innovative "green procedures" (any innovative effort not included above) – 5 points

Cultural Heritage Tourism Award

- Outstanding investments and contributions in stewardship and development of Maryland's cultural heritage tourism product - 70 points
- Engagement in regional and statewide tourism initiatives – 20 points
- Other unique qualities – 10 points

Tourism Volunteer Award

- Outstanding volunteer service to Maryland's tourism industry regionally or statewide by a corporation, government, non-profit agency or individual – 80 points
- Other unique qualities - 20 points

Visit Maryland Award

- Outstanding investment and performance in improving and promoting Maryland's image as a travel destination – 70 points
- Use of new and innovative interactive media – 20 points
- Other unique activities with measured proof of performance – 10 points

2009 MARYLAND TOURISM AWARDS NOMINATION FORM

Please check the appropriate category:

- Economic Engine
- Green/Sustainable Tourism
- Cultural Heritage Tourism
- Tourism Volunteer
- Visit Maryland

Nominee Information:

Name of individual/organization being nominated:

Contact Name:

Mailing Address:

City:

Zip:

Phone number:

E-mail:

Nominator Information:

Name of individual submitting nomination:

Organization:

Mailing address:

City:

Zip:

Phone number:

E-mail:

If submitting nomination via email, provide one copy of each form or item as an attachment to the email.

If submitting nomination via U.S. Mail, provide:

- Four (4) copies of the nomination form
- Four (4) copies of the one-page narrative
- Four (4) copies of a brochure (optional)
- Separate nomination form and one-page narrative for each category in which nominating

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Entries must be received in the Maryland Tourism office by 5:00 p.m. Thursday, October 1, 2009.