

Nomination Guide & Award Criteria



PIONEER AWARDS & GALA
5:30 P.M. – 9:30 P.M.
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2019
ATLANTIS CASINO RESORT

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Nomination Guide

Apply at PioneerAwards.com

The company/individual you are nominating is a thought leader, innovator, and outstanding representative of their business sector. Represent them in the best possible way by following our tips below!

Nomination Q & A's

Can I self nominate as a company or an individual?

Absolutely! We encourage self nomination.

Can I begin a nomination and then return to finish it later?

Yes! New in 2019 is the option to save your nomination form. Please carefully read the instructions for how to save your nomination on the first page of the online nomination form under the “**Important Notice**” section.

May I nominate someone if I am not employed by the company or know all of the information requested on the nomination application?

Yes! Please submit the name, website, and contact information to NNDA through the “**Outside Nomination**” form at PioneerAwards.com. We will contact the company or individual and let them know they have been selected by a community member for nomination to the awards.

What information do I need to do to nominate a company or individual?

The name and contact information for the best person to contact regarding the nomination. The name of the company/individual and their website or the website of the company they work for. Plan to spend approximately 15-20 minutes on the application. See the overall awards criteria and nomination questions for each award on the following page. ***We highly recommend reading the full criteria for the awards and the individual award questions below before beginning your nomination!***

How do I write an excellent nomination?

The selection committee likes details, measurable data, and success stories! What makes the company/individual stand out above everyone else? Do they have any special certifications or awards? How do they actively participate in the community and economic development? Has their business grown from six employees to fifty in the last five years? Be concise. Be specific. Complete the entire application.

How does the judging work?

The selection committee is made up of: a representative from the Governor’s Office of Economic Development, a representative from the Nevada System of Higher Education, a nonprofit that works closely with manufacturers and promotes sustainability, an employer in the Sierra Region, former award winners, and two NNDA staff.

After the nominations close, the committee will score the applications and then meet to select the best candidate. The scoring will assist with the final review, but any judge may make a particular case for a nomination they feel deserves extra consideration.

Award Criteria & Questions



Criteria For All Awards

- Must have been in business for two years.
- **Must be located in Carson City, Douglas, Lyon, Mineral, or Storey counties. If located outside of the Sierra Region, the company must be a current NDA partner.**
- *All nominations must be submitted by 11:45 p.m. on July 31, 2019.*
- Awardees are not eligible for nomination for any award the year following their win.

The exception is if an individual was the recipient of the award, their company may be eligible to win the following year; or if a company was the recipient of the award, an individual within the company may be nominated.
- Previous awardees may not win the same award until five years have passed, but may be nominated for other categories.

Award Questions

Each award has a unique set of criteria, in addition, you will be asked if there is additional information you would like to add for the Selection Committee to take into consideration for each award.



Battleborn Award

Leader in Sustainability

Sustainability is defined for the purposes of the award as: business practices resulting in water and/or energy reduction to provide superior cost performance, reducing or eliminating wastes, repurposing and/or recycling of materials, and/or contributed to the health and/or environmental best practices of the Sierra Region. (Examples may include: office practices, LEED certification(s), energy savings, agriculture practices, sourcing methods, etc.)

- How do you demonstrate leadership in sustainability measures?
- Please describe your implemented sustainability measures. Include applicable figures for reduced environmental footprint and long-term cost savings from environmental sustainability improvements.
- Please describe your employee engagement with implemented sustainability measures.
- Does the company hold any sustainability certification(s)? (e.g. LEED or Zero Waste Facility.)
- Do you purchase alternative or renewable energy? (If yes, please provide the percentage of power you obtain from renewable or alternative energy.)
- How are the sustainability improvements marketed, if at all?
- How has the nominee participated and/or partnered in support of the workforce development? (e.g. incentives for employees to continue their education, scholarship programs, certificate programs, volunteering with youth programs that support careers, etc.)
- How has the nominee contributed time, talent, and treasure to the Sierra Region?



Boundary Peak Award

Exceptional Nonprofit

- Define the population and the population size that the nonprofit serves.
- How do you measure the success of the nonprofit?
- What specific project(s) have you implemented that exceed the expectations of nonprofit performance in your field?
- How does the non-profit demonstrate financial accountability? (e.g. active board oversight, publishing financials online, grant activity, and fundraising efforts/plans?)
- What are some of your key performance indicators? (e.g. volunteer hours contributed, number of service(s) provided, recognition/awards from another entity, etc.)
- How does the non-profit differentiate itself from other nonprofits in the pursuit of excellence?
- How has the nominee participated and/or partnered in support of the workforce development? (e.g. incentives for employees to continue their education, scholarship programs, certificate programs, volunteering with youth programs that support careers, etc.)
- How has the nominee contributed time, talent, and treasure to the Sierra Region?

Award Questions Continued...



Kit Carson Award

Extraordinary Entrepreneurism

The award may be for a company or for an individual-company founder or business leader. The entrepreneurial business and the entrepreneurial person must have been in business or a leadership position for a minimum of two years and no more than eight years OR The entrepreneur must demonstrate what major re-invention of the business occurred to make them a change or thought leader.

- What was the product, service, or innovative opportunity the entrepreneur seized? Please be specific. Suggested items to include in your response, if applicable, are: a description of new/improved services or goods, the goods/services gap the company or individual filled, the shift in target market for your goods/services, and etc.
- What innovative practices has the company/individual implemented to change, revolutionize, and grow the business?
- How did the nominee inspire others with vision, achievement, and leadership?
- How has the nominee participated and/or partnered in support of the workforce development? (e.g. incentives for employees to continue their education, scholarship programs, certificate programs, volunteering with youth programs that support careers, etc.)
- How has the nominee contributed time, talent, and treasure to the Sierra Region?



Silver Forge Award

Outstanding Manufacturer

- What do you produce?
- Please define your target market/industry sector that you serve (e.g. aerospace, construction, technology, etc.)
- What percentage of your products do you ship domestically and/or internationally outside of the Sierra Region (Carson City, Douglas, Lyon, Mineral, & Storey counties)?
- How does the manufacturer demonstrate industry leadership and differentiate itself from its competitors?
- Has the manufacturer added additional jobs to the Sierra Region in the past three years?
 - If yes, what was the percentage increase from the base number of jobs?
- What are your accomplishments? (e.g. sales, revenue, job growth, exports, services provided to prestigious companies/entities, industry awards, etc.)
- How has the nominee participated and/or partnered in support of the workforce development? (e.g. incentives for employees to continue their education, scholarship programs, certificate programs, volunteering with youth programs that support careers, etc.)
- How has the nominee contributed time, talent, and treasure to the Sierra Region?

