

Official Contest Rules Kids' Pick Awards by Real Maine Mom

Updated: Feb 3, 2025

What are the Kids' Pick Awards?

The **Kids' Pick Awards** is a local contest celebrating the best kid-friendly businesses and organizations in Greater Portland, Maine. The contest is based on community votes across various kid-related categories, recognizing outstanding products and services that cater to families.

Nomination Period

The contest begins with a **public nomination process** held each January and concluding on **January 31st at 5:00 PM**. During this period, community members may submit nominations via a public nomination form at realmainemom.com/kidspickawards.

Real Maine Mom reserves the right to:

- **Exclude or re-categorize** nominations to maintain contest fairness and category relevance.
- Ensure that nominees are appropriate, geographically relevant, and align with the contest's focus.

Businesses and representatives, including those from Real Maine Mom, may participate in the nomination process.

Nominee Criteria

Nominees must be businesses, organizations, or individuals serving the **Greater Portland, Maine** area with a **kid-friendly offering**.

- Nominees will be **verified** by Real Maine Mom before inclusion in the voting form.
- Businesses with a **physical location** should be within a **45-minute drive** of downtown Portland, Maine. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of Real Maine Mom to improve contest quality.
- There is **no cost or obligation** to participate. Any business that prefers not to be included may request removal.

Category Win Limit

A single business may win in up to three (3) categories. If a business receives the highest number of votes in more than three categories, it will be awarded the three categories where it achieved the highest percentage of votes. In any additional categories, the award will go to the next highest-voted business. This policy ensures a diverse range of winners while still recognizing standout businesses.

Contest Categories

Participants vote for their favorite businesses in several categories.

- Categories may be added or adjusted by Real Maine Mom to improve contest quality.
 - A **minimum of 4 nominees** per category is required for inclusion on the voting form. If a category does not meet this requirement, businesses may be re-categorized where possible.
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Voting Period & Eligibility

- **Voting begins February 1st and ends February 28th.**
 - Votes submitted **outside the contest period** will not be counted.
 - **Nominations are not considered votes.**
 - **Voter Eligibility:** The Kids' Pick Awards are designed to recognize businesses that serve Maine families. While we cannot fully verify voter location, participants should be individuals who either reside in Maine or regularly utilize kid-friendly services within the state. By submitting a vote, voters agree that they meet this criterion. To help maintain fairness, votes may be subject to review, and a large number of out-of-area votes may be flagged for further consideration.
 - Only **one vote per category per person** is allowed. Duplicate votes will be removed.
 - **Businesses, nominees, and Real Maine Mom representatives** may participate in the voting process under the same rules.
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How to Vote

To cast your votes:

1. **Visit** realmainemom.com/kidspickawards anytime in February.

2. **Vote** for as many categories as you'd like by selecting from the available nominees.
3. **Submit** your name and email address for verification.

No purchase is necessary to participate. Email addresses are used solely for contest verification.

Voting Transparency

The total number of votes received per business will not be shared publicly or privately. The awards are intended to celebrate local businesses without focusing on vote counts. Only the winning businesses in each category will be announced.

How Winners Are Determined

- Winners are determined by the **total number of votes** received in each category during the voting period, subject to the category win limits mentioned above.
 - The business with the **most votes** in each category is the **Kids' Pick Award Winner**.
 - The business with the **second-most votes** is the **Runner-Up**.
 - In the event of a tie, multiple winners or runners-up will be recognized. If a tiebreaker decision is necessary, Real Maine Mom reserves the right to determine the outcome at its discretion.
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Prizes & Recognition

Each **Kids' Pick Award Winner** will receive:

- A **Kids' Pick Award** certificate.
- A **window cling** for display.
- Recognition at the **Kids' Pick Awards event**.
- Listed within results on **Real Maine Mom's website** (realmainemom.com/kidspickawards).
- A mention within the Kids' Pick Awards section of **Real Maine Mom's annual printed guide**.

Each **Kids' Pick Award Runner-Up** will receive:

- A certificate at the event and access to a digital asset/logo for display on their website or social media.

Prizes are non-transferable and cannot be substituted. The value of the prize is based on recognition and promotional exposure.

Winner Announcement & Collection of Awards

- Winners will be publicly announced **at the Kids' Pick Awards event** on May 3rd, 2025.
 - Winners unable to attend should contact Real Maine Mom within **30 days** to arrange for certificate pickup.
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Fraudulent Voting Policy

Real Maine Mom reserves the right to **disqualify votes** and **exclude businesses** that attempt to manipulate the voting process. Any suspected fraudulent activities will result in disqualification.

Odds of Winning

The odds of winning depend on the **total number of votes received** in each category. **Sponsorship does not influence** the contest outcome.

General Terms & Conditions

- The contest is **void where prohibited by law**.
 - Real Maine Mom reserves the right to **cancel, modify, or terminate** the contest in the event of fraud, technical failures, or other uncontrollable circumstances.
 - By participating, voters and nominees **agree to release** Real Maine Mom from any claims, actions, losses, or damages arising from the contest or use of any prizes.
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Use of Winner's Name & Branding

All winners and runners-up may be publicly recognized by Real Maine Mom, including but not limited to website features, social media, and promotional materials. If a winner prefers to opt out of certain promotions, they must notify Real Maine Mom in writing.

Data Privacy & Email Communications

By participating, you consent to the collection and use of your **name and email** for vote verification.

- Personal data will **only be used** for contest administration.
 - Participants may opt-in for additional email communications from Real Maine Mom, but this is **optional** and does not affect the contest.
 - Opt-out options are available at any time.
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Governing Law

This contest is governed by the **laws of the State of Maine**. Any disputes will be handled within Maine's jurisdiction.


Contest Sponsors

The **Kids' Pick Awards** is sponsored by local businesses and organizations. A full list of sponsors will be available on the contest website.

Contact Information

For questions or inquiries, please contact:

 **Email:** info@realmainemom.com

 **Website:** realmainemom.com/kidspickawards

Thank you for celebrating Greater Portland's best kid-friendly businesses with us!