

Official Contest Rules

Kids' Pick Awards by Real Maine Mom

Effective Date: February 1, 2026

1. Contest Overview

The Kids' Pick Awards (the "Contest") is administered and operated by Real Maine Mom (the "Organizer") and is designed to recognize and promote kid-friendly businesses, organizations, and individuals serving families in the Greater Portland, Maine area.

Participation in the Contest constitutes full and unconditional agreement to these Official Rules.

2. Eligibility of Nominees

To be eligible for nomination and participation in the Contest, nominees must:

- Be a business, organization, or individual offering products or services that are family- or child-focused
- Actively serve the Greater Portland, Maine area and/or be located within a one (1) hour driving distance of Portland, Maine
- Comply with all applicable laws and regulations

The Organizer reserves the sole and absolute discretion to determine eligibility, including but not limited to geographic relevance, category placement, and appropriateness.

The Organizer further reserves the right to verify all nominees prior to inclusion in the voting ballot and to remove any nominee at any time.

There is no fee required to participate. Any nominee may request removal from the Contest at any time.

3. Nomination Period

The nomination period ends on **January 30 at 11:59 PM (ET)**.

Nominations must be submitted through the official form located at:
realmainemom.com/kidspickawards

The Organizer reserves the right to:

- Modify, combine, or eliminate categories
- Reassign nominees to appropriate categories
- Exclude incomplete or ineligible nominations

Submission of a nomination does not guarantee inclusion on the final ballot.

4. Voting Period and Eligibility

The voting period begins on **February 1 at 12:00 AM (ET)** and ends on **February 28 at 11:59 PM (ET)**.

Voter Eligibility

The Contest is intended for individuals who utilize kid- and family-focused services within the State of Maine, including both residents and visitors.

By submitting a vote, each participant represents and warrants that their vote is based on genuine familiarity with the business or service.

The Organizer reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to review, validate, or reject any vote based on suspected ineligibility or irregular activity.

5. Voting Rules

- Each individual may submit no more than one (1) vote per business within each category. Any attempt to submit multiple votes for the same business in the same category may result in disqualification of those votes
- Votes must be submitted by the individual voter and may not be cast on behalf of another person
- Duplicate, automated, or fraudulent votes will be disqualified
- Nominations do not constitute votes
- The Organizer, nominees, and affiliated parties may vote, provided all rules are followed

The Organizer reserves the right to implement technical, administrative, or manual safeguards to ensure the integrity of the voting process.

6. Category Requirements

Each category must contain a minimum of four (4) eligible nominees to appear on the final ballot.

The Organizer reserves the right to cancel, merge, or modify categories that do not meet this threshold.

7. Determination of Winners and Finalists

All nominees receiving the highest vote totals in each category will be recognized as Finalists, including:

- First Place (Winner)
- Second Place
- Third Place

Finalists will be determined based on the total number of valid votes received per category during the voting period.

Category Win Limitation

A single nominee may be awarded no more than three (3) category wins.

If a nominee receives the highest vote total in more than three categories, the Organizer will award that nominee the three (3) categories in which it received the highest relative vote percentage. Remaining categories will be awarded to the next highest vote recipient.

Ties

In the event of a tie, multiple finalists will be recognized and given placement.

All determinations are final and not subject to appeal.

8. Finalist Notification and Participation

Finalists will be notified by the Organizer on or about mid-March using publicly available contact information, including email addresses made available by the nominee.

The Organizer will make a reasonable effort to contact each finalist but does not guarantee successful delivery of notification.

All nominees are welcome and encouraged to attend the Kids' Pick Awards event, typically held in May. Attendance is not required for recognition.

For event updates and ticket availability, nominees and participants may visit:
realmainemom.com/kidspickawards

9. Prizes and Recognition

Finalists (1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place) will receive:

- Recognition as a Kids' Pick Awards Finalist
- Access to digital assets and badges for promotional use on websites and social media

Digital assets may be requested following the event by contacting:
lisa@realmainemom.com

Event Attendees:

Finalists who attend the Kids' Pick Awards event will receive:

- One (1) physical certificate
- One (1) window cling

Non-Attendees:

Finalists who do not attend the event may request to purchase physical award materials separately, subject to availability.

All prizes and materials are non-transferable and have no cash value.

10. Winner Announcement

Finalists and placement rankings will be publicly announced at the Kids' Pick Awards event and/or via Organizer-controlled platforms.

11. Voting Transparency

Vote totals will not be disclosed publicly or privately.

The Contest is intended to recognize excellence within the community and not to publicly rank businesses based on vote counts.

12. Sponsorship and Neutrality

Sponsorship of the Kids' Pick Awards or partnership with Real Maine Mom does not influence contest results. All outcomes are determined solely based on valid votes in accordance with these Official Rules.

13. Fraud and Disqualification

The Organizer reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to disqualify:

- Any individual or entity found to be tampering with the nomination or voting process
- Any nominee associated with fraudulent voting activity
- Any votes deemed invalid, suspicious, or generated through automated means

The Organizer further reserves the right to remove nominees or invalidate results where the integrity of the Contest is compromised.

14. Limitation of Liability

By participating, all entrants, voters, and nominees agree to release and hold harmless Real Maine Mom and its affiliates from any and all claims, damages, losses, or liabilities arising out of or related to:

- Participation in the Contest
 - Acceptance or use of any prize
 - Technical errors or disruptions
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15. Organizer Rights and Modifications

The Organizer reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to cancel, suspend, or modify the Contest if any factor impairs the integrity or proper functioning of the Contest.

16. Publicity Release

By participating, nominees grant the Organizer the right to use their business name, likeness, logo, and general information for promotional purposes without additional compensation.

17. Data Privacy

Participant information collected will be used solely for contest administration and vote verification.

18. Governing Law

This Contest is governed by the laws of the State of Maine.

19. Organizer Information

Real Maine Mom

Website: realmainemom.com/kidspickawards

Email: lisa@realmainemom.com