

# Knox County Chamber of Commerce Awards Criteria

Revised January 2024

1. **The Environmental Sustainability Award** honors a Knox County business or organization that has done most during the past year to introduce sustainable practices into its operations or to promote awareness of sustainable practices and encourage their use. Examples include, but are not limited to, the use of locally grown and raised foods; educational programs; environmentally positive land development; "green" building (especially construction that participates in the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating system); programs that address clean-air and clean-water issues; ride-sharing and other transportation-related initiatives; and use of less-polluting or non-polluting fuels.
2. **The Heart Award** is given to a Chamber member business recognized for achieving and maintaining architectural design that complements our community.
3. **The Quality of Life Award** is a non-profit Chamber member business whose work has enriched the lives of Knox County residents.
4. **The Volunteer of the Year Award** is given to an individual whose business has been a Chamber member for at least two years, who consistently volunteers for both Chamber and community projects and has contributed to a single unique project in the county within the past two years.
5. **Leadership Knox Distinguished Alumni Award** is presented annually to a graduate of the Leadership Knox program who exemplifies the essence of leadership. Selection criteria include leadership roles the nominee has held, organizations participation in, and significant contributions that have been made to enhance the quality of life in the Knox County area.
6. **The Investor in the Future Award** is given to a Chamber member who has demonstrated an investment in the future of Knox County and/or has spearheaded a significant contribution or investment in the youth of Knox County.
7. **The Women in Business Leadership Award** is given to a Chamber member who serves as a role model encouraging women to achieve their full leadership potential.
8. **The Entrepreneur Spirit Award** recognizes a business who is a new Chamber member. The company must be open for business and operational less than 5 years and display a desire to contribute to the financial health and well-being of our community. The recipient should be active in local community and Chamber activities and events and should demonstrate their commitment to being a good neighbor.
9. **The Small Business of the Year Award** is given to a Chamber member business with fewer than 50 employees that has been in operation for more than five years, consistently contributes to both Chamber and community projects, has a reputation for integrity and fair business practice, and has demonstrated management or product innovation as well as successful solutions to business issues.
10. **Business of the Year Award** is given to a Chamber member business with 50 or more employees that has been in operation for more than five years, consistently contributes to both Chamber and community projects, has a reputation for integrity and fair business practice, and has demonstrated management or product innovation as well as successful solutions to business issues.
11. **Ambassador of the Year** – Selected by Chamber staff and announced at the dinner.
12. **Lifetime Achievement Award** – Selected by Ambassadors/Board only and announced at the dinner. This award is given to an individual who has worked in Knox County for a minimum of 15 years and has made notable gifts to our community through instruction, leadership, service, and contributions of time, talents, and other means.