



## 2018 South Sound Small Business of the Year Award

**Deadline: March 31<sup>st</sup> 2018**

The South Sound Small Business of the Year Award was created to recognize a local South Sound business owner who operates a local Pierce/Thurston County WA business that has proven staying power, innovativeness of product or service offered, response to adversity and contribution to the local community.

Anyone can nominate a deserving small business. Chambers of commerce, associations, individuals and companies may nominate small businesses to show their support. Nominations are not required for consideration of the award.

Only one (1) nomination is needed for each business. Additional nominations do not increase the chances of winning. Decision will be made by a panel of five local business owners within the contest area as well as social media polling.

Nominate your deserving person/business today!

### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

A business must meet the following requirements to be eligible for the South Sound Small Business of the Year Award:

- Any individual who owns and operates or who bears principal responsibility for operating a small business may be nominated. Partners who jointly own and operate a small business may be nominated as a "team," so long as the number of individuals in the team nomination does not exceed four.
- Operates primarily within Pierce or Thurston County, WA
- Have fewer than 150 employees
- Gross revenues of less than \$3 million in the previous year
- Able to attend the South Sound Small Business Summit. [www.paultlong.com/sbsummit](http://www.paultlong.com/sbsummit)
- Only one (1) nomination is needed for each business. Additional nominations do not increase the chances of winning. Decision will be made by a panel of five local business owners within the contest area.

# APPLICATION TIPS

Consider these helpful tips while filling out this application:

- An application that is strong and well-written is appealing to the judging committee.
- Be crisp, clear and concise so the judges reading your application immediately understand what industry the nominated business is in and what products or services they provide.
- Bragging is encouraged, this is your opportunity to share with the judging committee all the accomplishments and successes of the nominated business and ultimately why they deserve to win this award.
- Tell a story with your application. Nominees who have an interesting, well-told and engaging story of business history, accomplishments and innovativeness have an advantage over nominees who cannot communicate important business awards and/or milestones.
- Consider attaching relevant documents such as newspaper clippings, client testimonials and/or pictures that reflect the health of the nominated business. Limit of five additional documents.
- Lastly, understand how the nominated business will be evaluated. Applications will be judged by the South Sound Small Business Award Subcommittee on a confidential basis. The judging committee takes into consideration proven staying power, innovativeness of product or service offered, response to adversity and contribution to the local community.

Be sure to emphasize these throughout the application.

## HOW TO APPLY

### Submission Instructions:

#### 1. Submit by Email

Download the appropriate application PDF from [www.paultlong.com/ssbusinessoftheyear](http://www.paultlong.com/ssbusinessoftheyear). Fill application out, save a copy, then email it to [sbsubmit@paultlong.com](mailto:sbsubmit@paultlong.com)

#### 2. Submit by Mail

Download the appropriate application PDF from [www.paultlong.com/ssbusinessoftheyear](http://www.paultlong.com/ssbusinessoftheyear)  
Fill application out, print and mail to:

#### Mail Application To:

Attn: Paul Long  
Timberland Bank  
7805 S Hosmer St  
Tacoma, WA 98408

Nominee Contact Information

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator Contact Information (self-nominations are permitted)

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you feel this individual deserves recognition?

How did you hear about the South Sound Small Business of the Year Award program?

\_\_\_\_ Local Chamber Announcement    \_\_\_\_ Business Owner    \_\_\_\_ Local Business Partner  
\_\_\_\_ Social Media    \_\_\_\_ Other

Brief Description of the Nominee's Business:

Brief Description of the Nominee (Person/Team):

Please provide details on how the nominee exemplifies success and leadership in business.

*Provide specific examples when possible and other relevant information that may aid the judging panel.  
(Not to exceed 1 page)*

Please provide details on the business history and the businesses staying power.

*(Number of years in business, expansion/growth, number of employees, financial performance)  
Provide specific examples when possible and other relevant information that may aid the judging panel.  
(Not to exceed 1 page)*

Please provide details on the businesses innovativeness of product or service offered.

*(Niche product, how are you different from your competition)*

*Provide specific examples when possible and other relevant information that may aid the judging panel.*

*(Not to exceed 1 page)*

Please provide details on how the nominee has responded to adversity.

*(Threats to the continuity of the business, actions taken to resolve the issue)*

*Provide specific examples when possible and other relevant information that may aid the judging panel.*

*(Not to exceed 1 page)*

Please provide details on how the nominee gives back to the community.  
*Provide specific examples when possible and other relevant information that may aid the judging panel.*  
*(Not to exceed 1 page)*

Please list any organizations the nominee is active in.