

2026 Perfect in Walton County Awards Rules

QUALIFICATIONS

1. Businesses and/or individuals must primarily serve or have visitor-facing business in Walton County. Businesses from both the north and south sides of the Choctawhatchee Bay in Walton County are eligible for nominations.
2. Businesses and/or individuals may be disqualified at the discretion of the Walton County Tourism Department.
3. Businesses and/or individuals who provide services on the beach must hold a current beach vendor permit with **Walton County Code Compliance** to be considered. This will be verified with the Code Compliance office. For more information about qualifications, please contact Lisa Foster at (850) 333-2728.

NOMINATION ROUND (7/29/25 TO 8/15/25)

1. Businesses and/or individuals must be nominated during the period of **July 29-Aug. 15**. Nominations will be accepted **only** through the online form on perfectinwaltoncounty.com.
2. One nomination form is allowed per person per email address. In the case of individuals voting more than once, only the first vote will be counted. Duplicate emails are discarded.
3. Everyone is encouraged to ask their followers, customers, guests, visitors, friends, family and the general public to nominate their business through social media channels. Graphics for use in social media can be found [HERE](#).
4. Businesses and/or individuals may be nominated in multiple categories. All categories that businesses and/or individuals are nominated for shall be considered. Walton County Tourism may remove and/or move businesses/individuals to categories to ensure better thematic fit.
5. The top five nominees in each of the categories will move onto the final voting round.

FINAL VOTING ROUND (9/2/25 TO 9/19/25)

1. The top five nominated businesses and/or individuals in each category can receive votes during the voting period **Sept. 2-19**. Votes will be accepted only through the online form on perfectinwaltoncounty.com.
2. Voting is only allowed once per person per email address. In the case of individuals voting more than once with the same email address, only the first vote will be counted. Duplicate emails are discarded.
3. Finalists are encouraged to ask their followers, customers, guests, visitors, friends, family and the general public for their support and votes through social media channels. Graphics for use in social media can be found [HERE](#).

AWARDS

Diamond

The Perfect in Walton County Diamond Award shall be awarded to the business and/or individual that has the **highest** number of votes in each category.

Platinum

The Perfect in Walton County Platinum Award shall be awarded to the business and/or individual that has the **second highest** number of votes in each category.

Gold

The Perfect in Walton County Gold Award shall be awarded to the business and/or individual that has the **third highest** number of votes in each category.

FAQs

When will the winners be announced? The 2026 Perfect in Walton County Award winners will be recognized during the Perfect Awards presentation in January 2026. They will also be featured in the 2026 Perfect guide, which is distributed in the visitor center, during activations and in businesses.

Who do I contact at the Walton County Tourism Department about the awards program? For questions or additional information, please contact Lisa Foster, industry relations specialist, at (850) 333-2728 or Lisa@WCFLTourism.com.

2026 Perfect in Walton County Awards categories

Activity/Shopping

Best Art Gallery/Studio

Best Event

Best Golf Course

Best Kids Attraction

Best Nature Locale--Any outdoor area dedicated for public use. These can be green spaces located within local beach neighborhoods, specific trails/forests, or any of Walton County's state parks.

Best Retailer--Any local merchant with a storefront that offers consumer-facing products. These can include clothing and jewelry boutiques, furniture stores and general merchandise.

Best Shopping Area

Best Tennis Facility

Accommodations

Best Boutique Vacation Rental Company--Any local rental management company that services less than 50 units in Walton County.

Best Hotel/Resort

Best Vacation Rental Company--Any local rental company that services more than 50 units in Walton County.

Food & Drinks

Best Breakfast

Best Casual Dining

Best Coffee House

Best Craft Beer/Spirits Selection--Any local restaurant or bar that offers an impressive craft beer and/or spirits selection. This includes, but is not limited to, local breweries and distilleries.

Best Fine Dining

Best Happy Hour

Best Lunch

Best Personal Chef/Catering Service--Any local chef who can host and cater events you have. This category can also include chefs who may teach culinary courses and prepare food beforehand for you to pick-up. Catering companies are also eligible to be nominated.

Best Sweet Treats
Best Wine Selection

Services

Best Beach/Event Services Provider--Any vendor that offers a service on the beach. The vendor must have a valid permit with [Walton County Code Compliance](#) which will be verified before a winner is selected. These can be vendors that offer chair services, beach yoga, charcuterie services, etc.

Best Fishing Charter
Best Local Musician/Band

Best Outdoor Activity Company--Any local company that can offer an outdoor activity that you can partake in. This can include bike riding, parasailing, paddle-boarding, jet-skis, boat rentals, etc.

Best Photographer
Best Spa/Salon

Venues

Best Live Music Venue
Best Meeting/Conference Space
Best Wedding Venue