



SMALL BUSINESS OF THE MONTH Recognition Program

Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce membership comprises more than 80 percent small businesses. As a measure of added value for Chamber membership, the Gulfport Chamber of Commerce has instituted a Small Business of the Month Program.

To apply for Small Business of the Month, review the guidelines below and complete the information requested on the reverse side of this form. You must provide all requested information to be eligible. **The Gulfport Chamber of Commerce office must receive the application no later than 5:00 p.m. on the 10th of each month.** Any applications received after the due date will not be considered, including those received in the mail. Completed applications may be faxed to 228-604-0105, sent via email to teckie@mscoastchamber.com, or dropped off in person/mailed to 11975E Seaway Road, Gulfport, MS 39503. Please type or print clearly.

As Gulfport Chamber of Commerce Small Business of the Month, the member business receives recognition with a certificate/sign at the place of business; acknowledgement on the Gulfport Chamber website for one month; an article about the award in the Gulfport Chamber column of the Journal of South Mississippi Business; and a press release and photograph distributed to WXXV Fox 25 TV, WLOX-TV, and The Sun-Herald. WXXV Fox-25 will also broadcast a special announcement naming the Small Business of the Month winner.

Additionally, the Gulfport Chamber will recognize each Small Businesses of the Month at a chamber-sponsored function. Each Small Business of the Month also earns an automatic nomination for the Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce Tapestry Awards.*

*Each Small Business of the Month must complete the official Tapestry Awards application form to be eligible for Tapestry consideration.

Guidelines

1. The Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce defines a *small business* as a business with 50 or fewer employees.
2. Application forms must be completed in entirety and must be typed or written clearly. Please include as much detail as possible. Businesses may self-nominate for this award.
3. Upon receipt of an application, the Gulfport Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, staff and/or a designee may visit the business applicant for on-site evaluation.
4. To be considered for Gulfport Chamber Small Business of the Month, a business must have a primary physical location in the City of Gulfport and must have been a member of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce/Gulfport Chamber of Commerce for no fewer than six (6) months prior to the month of selection.
5. To be considered for Gulfport Chamber Small Business of the Month, a business must be member-in-good-standing with the Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce and must have demonstrated exceptional business growth and/or commitment to strengthening business opportunity within the Gulfport community and/or to serving the citizens of Gulfport.
6. To be considered for Gulfport Chamber Small Business of the Month, a business must be physically located, operate a primary business location, and/or maintain official headquarters within the Gulfport city limits.
7. Small Business of the Month applications do not carry over from month to month. Gulfport Chamber Small Business of the Month applications must be re-submitted each month for consideration.
8. Selection is based solely on applications, supporting documentation, and/or site visits. An anonymous representative selection committee chooses the Small Business of the Month honorees. Decisions of the Selection Committee are final.

Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce is a membership organization comprised of businesses in Harrison County and throughout South Mississippi. Through a partnership among the Biloxi, Gulfport, Long Beach, and Pass Christian Chambers of Commerce, Coast Chamber promotes community and economic development on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.



SMALL BUSINESS OF THE MONTH Application Form

Date: _____

Business Name: _____

Physical Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Telephone Number: _____ **Fax Number:** _____

Is the business currently open for business? YES NO

Is the business home-based? YES NO

Business Information:

Form of Business (circle one): Sole Proprietorship Partnership* Corporation

*If the business is a partnership, all owners must be listed below.

Type of Services/Products Offered: _____

Date Business Originated: _____ **Number of Full-Time Employees:** _____

Business Owner(s): _____

Is the business currently a member of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce? YES NO

If yes, date membership began _____ *(subject to verification).*

State briefly why the business should be a Gulfport Chamber of Commerce Small Business of the Month:

Please describe how the business has contributed or benefited the community:

By signing this application, I certify that the information in this application is true, complete, and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I am aware that information will be kept confidential and that the selection of the Small Business of the Month is at the sole discretion of the Gulfport Chamber of Commerce.

Signature: _____ **Print Name:** _____ **Date:** _____