

Entry Guidelines

The awards are open to all businesses with a BD23 postcode. You can enter your business for as many of the relevant categories as you wish and the application process is simple, as we are not asking for a huge amount of detail in the entry form. Simply tell us in no more than 300 words why your business should win the category award. You are welcome to supply accompanying material for consideration separately. Please read the following guidelines for each category for an indication of what the judging panel will be looking for in the winning entry.

Best Food and Drink – Sponsor – Keelham Farm Shop

Open to all businesses involved in the food and drink sector, from restaurants, pubs, bistros, cafes, sandwich bars through to artisan food producers, the judges will be looking for evidence of creativity and high standards which set you apart. Tell us about other awards you have won and highlight testimonials about your business on independent websites.

Best Accommodation – Sponsor – The Rendezvous Hotel

From bunk barns, B&Bs and guest houses to luxury hotels, anyone providing hospitality that champions Skipton as a fabulous tourist destination should enter this award. The judges would like to hear how entrants make visitors especially welcome. Demonstrate two examples of feedback from customers and explain how your accommodation provision is developing to improve service.

Best Customer Service – Sponsor – Bizzie Lizzie's

Explain how your business offers outstanding customer service provision and include two testimonials to support your entry. What do you offer that's over and above your competitors level of service?

Best Retailer – Sponsor – Spear Travels Ltd

The judging criteria will consider the contribution your business makes to Skipton aesthetically and economically for residents and visitors alike. Does your business stop locals having to travel elsewhere to shop? Are you bringing income to Skipton by selling online to customers outside the town whilst you buy from local suppliers? Customer and staff engagement and retention will also be a focus of the judging.

Best Health & Beauty Business – Sponsor – Barclays Bank plc

This award is open to all businesses involved in providing health, beauty and fitness products and services. Judging will consider the overall image of the business; the feedback from clients and customers and the focus on growth and development.

Best Manufacturer/Engineering Business – Sponsor – Bluefin Insurance Services

Our panel of judges will be looking for an outstanding company that can demonstrate a record of success, innovation and growth, together with future growth potential. A company that values its staff by offering training and development and a company that has a unique selling point and manages to stay ahead of its competitors.

Best Apprentice/Trainee Business – Sponsor – Craven College

This award is open to all employers who employ an apprentice/trainee. The award will recognise the outstanding achievements of the employee. Judging criteria will look at key achievements and contributions made by the person nominated, what initiative has been shown to help improve processes and quality, what value has been added to the business and what personal achievements the employee/trainee has gained whilst in your employment.

Best Professional/Financial Services Business – Sponsor – Devonshire Hotels & Restaurants

Entrants will need to be able to demonstrate excellence in business management under-pinned by a strong financial performance. You should outline how you have shown excellence in your specific sector and how your business has planned for future growth. Your entry could include turnover figures for recent years and statistics to support any claims you make, testimonials (up to 3 short testimonials), and details of any new and or innovative services introduced in the last 12 months.

Best Market Stall – Sponsor – Skipton Market

All stall traders who hold a full Consent to Trade Agreement for Skipton Market are eligible to enter this category. Judging will look at presentation of the stall, customer service, feedback from the Ambassadors regarding cleanliness, and reliability of attendance.

Best Leisure and Tourism Business – Sponsor – Windle & Bowker

This award is open to any business that actively promotes entertainment or leisure activities. The award will be presented to the business that can demonstrate to the judges how they achieve and maintain quality provision of facilities for visitors and how the business continually enhances the service offering.

Special Chamber Award – Sponsor – Skipton Chamber of Trade and Commerce

The Chamber exec would love to hear from members of our community who may know stories from the time of the Chamber's inception in 1897. This year's award will be presented by the Exec board to the business with a strong, consistent link with Skipton Chamber of Trade and Commerce over its 120 year history. This award will be decided by the Exec, however, contributions from members of the public to help with information about long-standing businesses is most welcome.

Overall winner will be Business of the Year – Sponsor – Tyro Training

The most inspirational business from all our category winners will be awarded this overall accolade. The winner will be chosen for being particularly outstanding in one category or a consistent winner across several categories.