

# CALL FOR 2026 NOMINATIONS

Nominate an Outstanding Young Person  
to Become a Home Improvement Industry  
2026 Young Retailer of the Year





# HONORING RETAIL'S FUTURE

Identifying and promoting the next generation of young, aspiring independent hardware and paint retailers is crucial to ensure the success of the hardlines industry. The Young Retailer of the Year program recognizes the successes and highlights the accomplishments of young home improvement retailers who have excelled in their fields and represent the future of retail.

## Who Is Eligible?

Entrants should be role models and demonstrate potential for a promising career through community engagement and stellar job performance. They should be 35 years old or younger as of March 29, 2026. Sales associates, supervisors, managers, owners and those in other high-level positions at retail hardware stores, home centers, lumberyards and paint and decorating outlets in the U.S., its territories and Canada are eligible. Past entrants who have not been honored are invited to submit updated profiles.

## How to Enter

Nominations **MUST** be submitted with information detailing the entrant's accomplishments in the categories listed below. Additional documents can include, but are not limited to, photographs, press clippings, letters of recommendation and other examples of career milestones and achievements.

Include any relevant photos with the entry materials, as well as a headshot of the applicant with the entry form on the back of this brochure. Video submissions are also accepted. NHPA accepts entries online at **YourNHPA.org/yroty**.

## Award Categories

Young Retailer of the Year honorees will be chosen in each of three separate retail categories:

- Retail outlets with sales under \$3 million
- Retail outlets with sales over \$3 million
- Multistore retailers



### Learn More

**Scan the QR Code** to watch the 2025 Young Retailer of the Year Award Ceremony at the IHI Conference.

## Entry Deadline

All entries must be submitted by **March 29, 2026**. Contact Cody Goeppner at **317-275-9433** or **cgoeppner@yournhipa.org** for more information.

## Judging Criteria

The nomination presentation should focus on the personal and professional activities and accomplishments of the entrant. Judges consider and award points in the following categories. The judges' decisions will be final. All submitted materials will become the sole possession of NHPA and will not be returned.



### High Points of Career (50 Points)

Illustrate how the entrant has contributed to the success of their operation. Showcase career milestones and other business achievements like increased sales and profit.



### Industry Education (30 Points)

Highlight how the entrant has continued their industry education to improve product knowledge, management techniques and more to keep pace with industry changes.



### Community Involvement (20 Points)

Detail how the entrant has improved their community and increased their operation's profile. Show how the entrant's store has created connections and loyal customers.



### Other Activities (Bonus Points)

Demonstrate other ways in which the entrant has forged new ground to position their business as an innovative, profitable force in their community and local economy.

**Neglecting to submit material for any of these categories will result in zero points awarded in that category.**

# Strengthen Careers Beyond the Ceremony

The Young Retailer of the Year program, now in its 30th year, has recognized more than 200 retailers' achievements, earning honorees industry recognition and establishing them as retail leaders to watch. After the ceremony, NHPA continues to support and develop these young retailers through abundant networking and educational opportunities.



## Collaborative Roundtables

Participate in ongoing roundtables to discuss challenges and opportunities young retailers face each day.



## Publicity

*Hardware Retailing and Paint & Decorating Retailer* profile honorees and press releases are sent to local media outlets.



## Networking

Connect with other industry leaders to learn from one another's hard work and success.



## Association Conferences

These events provide insight from the independent retail industry's luminaries.



## Continuing Education

Receive exclusive invitations to attend NHPA's higher education programs.

# Young Retailer of the Year



## Open Doors

Honorees receive support, networking opportunities and guidance that can shape their careers for years to come.



## Industry Connections

Speak directly with NHPA so your association understands what retailers like you need to succeed.



# 2026 APPLICANT INFORMATION

## Entry Deadline: March 29, 2026

Entrant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Current Retail Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Wholesaler: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Store Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Store Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## Category Entering

☐ Under \$3 million sales volume

☐ Over \$3 million sales volume

☐ Multistore retailers

Entry Submitted By: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

☐ All decisions of the judges are final. All submitted materials will become the sole possession of the North American Hardware and Paint Association and will not be returned. I agree to abide by the rules and the judges' decision.

### Reminders Before Submitting

Don't forget to include information for the following categories. Not providing information for a category will result in zero points awarded in that category.

☐ High Points of Career (50 Points)

☐ Industry Education (30 Points)

☐ Community Involvement (20 Points)

☐ Other Activities (Bonus Points)

### Send Your Entry Materials to:

**North American Hardware and Paint Association**

1025 E. 54th St. Indianapolis, IN 46220

**Attn:** Cody Goeppner

**Phone:** 317-275-9433

**Email:** [cgoeppner@yournhpa.org](mailto:cgoeppner@yournhpa.org)

Entrants are also invited to submit nominations online by visiting **[YourNHPA.org/yroty](http://YourNHPA.org/yroty)**.

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