

## Best of Central Oregon FAQs

**Every year we have a lot of questions regarding our reader's poll. Here are answers to some of the most common ones:**

### **What is "Best of Central Oregon?"**

*Source Weekly's* "Best of Central Oregon" reader's poll aims to celebrate the most influential, most dynamic, and all-around best businesses, creators, events, and leaders in our community. It is a true fill in the blank poll, ensuring equal opportunity.

### **How do I vote?**

You can vote for your favorites in the county at this [link](#) from July 5 to July 16. We'll announce the winners and runner-ups for each category in our issue on Wed., August 16. If you want to meet the winners, come to our [Best of Central Oregon Party on Wed., August 16 at 6pm!](#)

**What about paper ballots?** Paper ballots are still accepted but must be turned in by 3pm on Friday, July 14 so that our awesome ballot team has time to count the votes. Drop off or mail in your paper ballot to our offices at 704 NW Georgia Ave, Bend OR 97703.

**Any restrictions on voting?** Voters must use their own email address when registering to vote. Email addresses must be valid. The system we are using has a complex system to help eliminate potential voter fraud. Any votes that trigger the system are reviewed. Votes that cannot be verified or show signs that they may be fraudulent are eliminated.

### **How are winners selected?**

You choose them! Your votes determine our winners each year. We combine the results from our online voting platform and paper ballots to determine who YOU think is the Best in Central Oregon.

### **How do I find out who the winners are?**

Winners will be announced online and in print in our 2023 Best of Central Oregon issue on August 16. *Source Weekly* is available on most newsstands. [Subscribe now](#) to get the Best of Central Oregon winners delivered right to your inbox.

### **When will finalists and winners be notified?**

We do our best to notify winners in late July after the ballot closes. We ask winners to keep it a secret until the winners are announced publicly on August 16.

### **Can I come to the Best of Central Oregon Party?**

Of course! We welcome everyone to come celebrate your chosen Best of Central Oregon winners! There'll be food, drinks, and, of course, music and entertainment. Are you a Best of Central Oregon winner? Make sure to check your emails to get your VIP invite. This is your party, and we want to celebrate *you!* [Find all the event details here.](#)

**I'd like to buy an ad in the ballot and/or Best of Central Oregon issue or sponsor the Best of Central Oregon Party.**

Thanks for supporting local journalism! You can advertise by contacting our sales team at [advertise@bendsource.com](mailto:advertise@bendsource.com)

**How can I promote my business to get nominations/votes?**

Check out our [marketing tips and get free graphics here](#).

**I'd like to suggest a category or change for next year.**

We read all your suggestions for new categories or changes. Please email [info@bendsource.com](mailto:info@bendsource.com) to suggest a change.

**I'm having issues voting, or another question about the Best of Central Oregon poll!**

Please email for assistance at [info@bendsource.com](mailto:info@bendsource.com)

**I heard the ballot is rigged towards people who buy ads.**

No, despite rumors which have existed since the ballot first launched, no one can win a category by buying an ad. (But yes, winners are notified before this issue hits the stands and our sales team does sell them ads, which help support our paper throughout the rest of the year.)

**Do I have to advertise in the paper to win?** No. No purchase is required to participate or to win. We are not shy in telling you that advertising in our paper helps because it is the best way to remind the voters about your business and what category you'd like to be considered for – much like political candidates advertise to get their name out to the public.

Also, we would not be able to do this every year without our advertisers. It costs a lot of time and money to conduct a reader's poll like this and selling advertisements helps compensate us for the costs.

**What's the deal with the ads on the ballot?**

We offer Best of Central Oregon advertising packages which include ad spots on the ballot, ads in the paper, and ads across [bendsource.com](http://bendsource.com). These advertising packages give businesses more exposure, but do NOT guarantee anything for the poll.