

Restaurant and Chef Awards

Voting Process

2025
JAMES BEARD
AWARDS

1



Open Call for Recommendations

Recommendations submitted by:

- + Judges who are out in the regions actively searching for potential candidates to help widen the pool
- + Subcommittee members
- + General public

Subcommittee members review recommendations

2

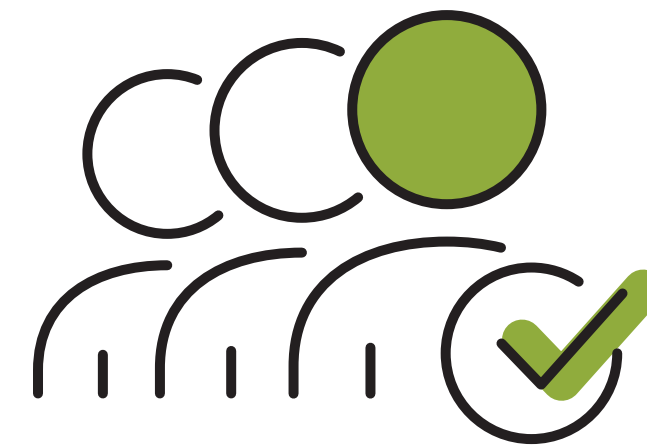


Semifinalists

Subcommittee determines semifinalist list

Semifinalists Announced

3



Nominees

Round 1 Tasting Period

Subcommittee members and judges visit semifinalists and vote.

Nominees Announced

The top 5 in each category are announced as nominees. For Best New Restaurant the top 10 are announced as nominees.

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Winners

Round 2 Tasting Period

Subcommittee members and judges visit nominees, participate in discussions, and vote.

Announced at the Awards Ceremony in Chicago

The top scoring candidates per category are announced as the winners.