



Sixth Annual Best of Chickasaw Country finalists announced, voting begins *Fans are encouraged to vote for their favorite finalists in 14 categories*

OKLAHOMA CITY (Feb. 8 2018)—The nominations are in for the 2018 Best of Chickasaw Country awards. Based on more than 8,000 nominations, a 45 percent increase from 2017, Chickasaw Country officials have announced finalists in the sixth annual fan-based poll.

The competition now shifts to the second phase, where fans are encouraged to vote amongst 14 categories for their favorite businesses, attractions and restaurants in south-central Oklahoma.

The top five destinations in each category with the most nominations, six in the event of a tie, advanced to the voting and finalist phase. In alphabetical order, this year's finalists are:

Best Attraction

Blue River Fishing & Hunting Area, Tishomingo
Chickasaw Cultural Center, Sulphur
Chickasaw National Recreation Area, Sulphur
Ole Red, Tishomingo
Turner Falls, Davis

Best Barbecue Restaurant

Jake's Rib, Chickasha
Ole Red, Tishomingo
Pigskins BBQ, Ada
Smokin' Joe's Rib Ranch, Davis
Trail's End BBQ & Grill, Wynnewood

Best Boutique

Essentials Gift Shop, Thackerville
Le Fleur Boutique, Thackerville
Reflections Fine Gifts, Pocasset
Savvy Parke, Purcell
The Isle at WinStar, Thackerville
White Feather Boutique, Pauls Valley

Best Casino

Newcastle Casino, Newcastle
Riverwind Casino, Norman
SaltCreek Casino, Pocasset
The Artesian Casino, Sulphur

Best Golf Course

Chickasaw Pointe Golf Club, Kingston
Dornick Hills Golf & Country Club, Ardmore
Pauls Valey Golf Course, Pauls Valley
Tishomingo Golf Course, Tishomingo
WinStar Golf Course & Academy, Thackerville

Best Lake

Lake Murray, Ardmore
Lake of the Arbuckles, Sulphur
Lake Texoma, Kingston
Veterans Lake, Sulphur
Waurika Lake, Waurika

Best Live Performance Venue

McSwain Theatre, Ada
Newcastle Casino, Newcastle
Ole Red, Tishomingo
Riverwind Casino Showplace Theatre, Norman
WinStar Gobal Event Center, Thackerville

Best Lodging

The Artesian Hotel, Sulphur
Cedar and Stone Bed & Breakfast, Tishomingo
Chickasaw Retreat & Conference Center, Sulphur
Riverwind Hotel, Norman

WinStar World Casino and Resort, Thackerville

WinStar World Casino Hotel, Thackerville

Best Family-Friendly Attraction

Chickasaw Cultural Center, Sulphur
Chickasaw National Recreation Area, Sulphur
Lazer Zone Family Fun Center, Ada
Ole Red, Tishomingo
Turner Falls, Davis

Best Museum

Chickasaw Cultural Center, Sulphur
Chickasaw National Capitol Building, Tishomingo
Chisholm Trail Heritage Center, Duncan
Gene Autry Museum, Gene Autry
The Toy and Action Figure Museum, Pauls Valley

Best Festival

Artesian Arts Festival, Sulphur
Chickasaw Annual Meeting and Festival, Tishomingo
Festival of Lights, Chickasha
National Sand Bass Festival, Madill
Okie Noodling, Pauls Valley

Best Overall Dining

Aces Sports Grill at Chisholm Trail Casino, Duncan
Fork Café at Saltcreek Casino, Pocasset
Kirby’s at WinStar, Thackerville
Ole Red, Tishomingo
Toby Keith’s I Love This Bar and Grill, Thackerville

Best Wedding Venue

Arbuckle Wedding Chapel, Davis
Chickasaw Retreat and Conference Center, Sulphur
The Grand Canadian Theater, Purcell
The Grandview, Ada
The Wildflower, Tishomingo
WinStar Convention Center, Thackerville

Runs and Rides

A2A Arbuckles to Ardmore Race, Ardmore
Annual Stevy’s Run, Tishomingo
Bison View 5K, Sulphur
Chigger Chase, Ardmore
Fireball Classic 5K and 10K, Ada
HOOT (Hills of Oklahoma) Bike Tour, Davis
The Alfalfa Bill Century Bike Ride, Tishomingo

Voting takes place at <http://chickasawcountry.com/bocc2018> until Feb. 27, and voters are allowed to vote once per day, per category, per device.

With nearly a month to vote for your favorite, now is the ideal time to explore Chickasaw Country, said Paige William Shepherd, the director of tourism and corporate development for the Chickasaw Nation.

“If you haven’t visited these Chickasaw Country attractions, destinations and events yet, be sure to add them to your 2018 bucket list and vote for your favorites this year and for years to come,” Shepherd said. “You might just find your new favorite spot.”

Winners will be announced March 6. To vote or learn the latest news regarding the 2018 Best of Chickasaw Country poll, please visit <http://chickasawcountry.com/bocc2018>.

###

About Chickasaw Country

Nestled in south-central Oklahoma, Chickasaw Country is a regional tourism organization representing 13 of Oklahoma’s 77 counties. As the official destination tourism organization, Chickasaw Country includes 7,648 square miles, 11 percent of Oklahoma’s total 68,597 square miles. Chickasaw Country, a division of the Chickasaw Nation, is a tourism source for visitors and communities within the region and

promotes destinations, attractions and festivals. Chickasaw Country is a diverse and culturally-vested destination, with new adventures and experiences around every corner.

Media Contact:

Krista Crouch | Koch Communications | 405-615-1526 | kcrouch@kochcomm.com