

Best of Chickasaw Country poll opens for 2018 nominations Fans are encouraged to nominate best local business, attraction in Chickasaw Country

OKLAHOMA CITY (Jan. 4, 2018) — The Best of Chickasaw Country awards are here for the sixth year in a row. Starting Jan. 4, fans of businesses, attractions, and restaurants in Chickasaw country can go online and nominate their favorite destinations for the awards.

"Chickasaw Country, comprised of 13 counties in south-central Oklahoma, offers locals and visitors an array of culture, entertainment, recreation and dining options," said Paige Williams Shepherd, Chickasaw Nation director of corporate development and tourism. "This poll is a fun way to encourage community and visitor engagement while promoting the places in Chickasaw Country that serve their local communities well."

Best of Chickasaw Country is broken into two phases, the nomination phase and the voting phase. The nomination phase starts on Jan. 4 and ends Jan. 30. During this time, fans are encouraged to go online to <u>chickasawcountry.com/bocc2018</u> and nominate their favorite local businesses and attractions in the following categories:

Best Attraction	Best Golf Course
Best Barbecue Restaurant	Best Lake
Best Boutique	Best Live Performance Venue
Best Casino	Best Lodging
Best Family-Friendly Venue	Best Museum
Best Festival	Best Overall Dining
Best Wedding Venue	Best Run or Ride

"Offering 14 categories allows Chickasaw Country to showcase the variety of attractions that we have here in south-central Oklahoma," Shepherd said.

The top five nominations in each category will progress to the second phase of the Best of Chickasaw Country poll. In this phase, live voting will begin on Feb. 6 at <u>chickasawcountry.com/bocc2018</u> and end on Feb. 27. Winners in each category will be announced on March 6.

"We saw more than 100,000 nominations and votes in last year's Best of Chickasaw Country awards," Shepherd said. "We're hoping even more people will participate by nominating destinations this year."

The Best of Chickasaw Country awards identifies popular businesses, attractions, and restaurants in the 13 counties in south-central Oklahoma known as Chickasaw Country. For the latest news on the 2018 Best of Chickasaw Country poll, visit Chickasaw Country's Facebook page at: https://www.facebook.com/ChickasawCountry

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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.

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