



**Q: What is the purpose of the Young Entrepreneur Awards?**

**A:** The purpose of the Red Rock Area Youth Entrepreneur Awards is to encourage entrepreneurship within Marion County, Iowa youth.

**Q: How do you nominate someone for the award?**

**A:** To nominate a young entrepreneur, go to [marioncountyiowa.com](http://marioncountyiowa.com). Only online submissions will be accepted. You will find a link on the home page to the nomination form and program information. Anyone can nominate a young entrepreneur. Additional information can also be found under BUSINESS-Startups

**Q: Who is eligible to receive the award?**

**A:** Up to a total of four awards will be presented. Junior nominees must be in either grades 5, 6, 7 or 8 as of January 1, 2024. High School nominees must be in either grades 9, 10, 11 or 12 as of January 1, 2024. Nominated students must live in Marion County, Iowa. The nominated students must be enrolled as a fulltime student in either a public school district, private school district, or home school program.

**Q: What criteria will be used to select recipients?**

**A:** Evaluation Criteria:

- Nominee has shown skills and interest in entrepreneurship through involvement with an existing business or initiated their own business venture.
- Nominee has provided leadership in class projects, organizations or initiatives that illustrate their entrepreneurship capacity and interest.
- Nominee desires to further develop entrepreneurship skills.
- Nominations will be evaluated by a panel of community and business leaders to determine recipients based on the above criteria.

**Q: What is the nomination deadline?**

**A:** March 1, 2024.

**Q: When will winners be notified?**

**A:** Winners will be notified by March 8. Individuals who have nominated winners will also be notified. Winners must accept the honor by March 15.

**Q: When and how will the awards be presented?**

**A:** Awards will be presented at the April 18 Red Rock StartUP! Pitch Event. This event is held from 5:30-8:00 PM at the Cordova Office Building at Cordova Park.

**Q: What do winners receive?**

**A:** Each winner will receive an award and \$100. High School winners will also receive an optional scholarship to attend ABI's Business Horizons program in July.

**Q: Who are the sponsors of the award?**

**A:** The Young Entrepreneur Awards are sponsored by the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce, PACE Alliance, DMACC Business Resources, Marion County Bank, Alliant Energy and Marion County Development Commission. We are working to gain additional sponsors so we can provide each recipient a cash prize also.