

SAF'S 32ND ANNUAL MARKETER OF THE YEAR CONTEST



INSTRUCTIONS TO ENTER

To enter, [click here to fill out the application and upload campaign documents and materials.](#)
Then, [click here to make the \\$50 entry fee](#)



WHAT MAKES A WINNER? ORIGINALITY AND SUCCESS.

These are the two most important qualities judges look for in an entrant's campaign. If you've recently executed a marketing campaign that was a success for your business, then consider yourself a contender for SAF's Marketer of the Year.



WHAT'S THE PRIZE?

A \$5,000 cash prize, sponsored by Design Master, a division of Smithers - Oasis, will be awarded to the winner during a ceremony at the Society of American Florists' (SAF) annual convention, Aug. 18-20 in Amelia Island, Florida. A profile of the winner will be published in the September/October issue of Floral Management.



WHO CAN ENTER?

Floral industry retail, wholesale and growing operations that are SAF members can enter SAF's Marketer of the Year Award. Entrants must be in business for at least two years and must be in good standing with all vendors.



WHAT IS CONSIDERED A MARKETING EFFORT?

Any innovative effort to increase store traffic and sales volume within the last 5 years will qualify as a marketing strategy and can be included in the Campaign and Execution section of the entry. Such efforts may include advertising (newspaper, radio, television, paid social media, etc.), direct mail, in-store events, contests, social media posts, community networking, customer service initiatives and much more.

Entries will be judged by a panel of successful floral business owners and at least one non- industry marketing expert. Judges will review and score all entries. Originality and success are the two most important attributes judges look for. The entry receiving the highest score is the winner. (An example of the score sheet is included in this document).

ENTRY DEADLINE: MAY 31, 2026

The entry must be uploaded online by May 31, 2026 at www.safnow.org/marketeroftheyear

SAF will not accept mailed materials.

For additional information, contact Amanda Jedlinsky at ajedlinsky@safnow.org

OVERVIEW AND GUIDELINES FOR CONTEST ENTRY

For the purpose of this competition, marketing is defined as: Any effort undertaken in the last 5 years to increase sales, customer base and/or customer perception of a business, including but not limited to advertising, direct mail, public relations, merchandising and display and image enhancement.

IN THE APPLICATION FORM YOU'LL BE ASKED TO EXPLAIN AND PROVIDE EXAMPLES OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. THE PRODUCT

Describe the product and/or services that are the cornerstone of your campaign.

2. THE CAMPAIGN

This is your opportunity to sell the uniqueness and originality of your campaign to judges. Explain in broad terms the campaign, what your goals were in executing it and why it was an innovative effort for your market.

3. THE EXECUTION

This is where you show the judges your professionalism as a marketer. Briefly explain how you executed the campaign by describing the marketing/advertising vehicles used, contacts made, promotional materials used. Include samples of relevant direct mail, brochures, posters, links to video, social media images that include relevant comments, or any other materials used in your campaign.

4. THE RESULTS

Provide evidence of the success of your campaign. Include financial statements showing results (financials will be kept confidential; you may redact irrelevant information) and a narrative of the campaign's successes, including:

1. The time period during which you were trying to increase sales;
2. Not all marketing success can be measured by dollars. Measurements to show the results of the campaign can include but is not limited to: sales data (kept confidential); social media statistics; website visits; increased foot traffic, better brand awareness, etc. Include before and after results if possible.

Visuals, including charts, photos, graphs, social media screen shots, web pages, print assets, video, etc., can go a long way to help the judges understand your campaign. Be sure to include descriptions of what's happening in the visuals you provide, and how it fits into the campaign.

3. What was your business's annual marketing/advertising/promotions budget for this campaign?

READY TO START YOUR ENTRY?

[Application Form](#)

[Submit Payment](#)

SAMPLE SCORE SHEET USED BY JUDGES

CATEGORY	MAXIMUM POINTS
1. SUCCESS OF CAMPAIGN How effective was the marketing campaign(s) in achieving its goals, relevant to resources spent to execute the campaign.	20
2. ORIGINALITY Does the marketing campaign(s) Outlined in the entry show innovation, Originality of concept and overall Uniqueness in terms of approach?	20
3. PROFESSIONALISM Was the campaign executed in a professional manner? Were the printed materials and any other aspects of the campaign(s) that were exposed to public professionally executed?	10
4. OVERALL EXCELLENCE Based on the campaign(s) shown in this entry, how does the entry rate overall as a marketer?	10