

The Envelope, Please: An Awards Ceremony for Family and Friends

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The first Academy Awards ceremony occurred in 1929, the Emmys in 1949 and the Grammys in 1959. And many more annual awards have been added since then. But it's time for one more: The Family and Friends Awards for our family members and circle of friends. Of course, there are many possible categories, and each category can—if you wish—have divisions: perhaps one for family members and one for friends; maybe a division for co-workers, if that seems warranted.

Fleshing out your reasoning for selecting each honoree is likely to bring up memories and stories that will bring rich and colorful details into your family history writing.

Once you have compiled the list of winners, you can decide whether to keep it to yourself or share it with your circles or with each winner privately. If you are especially courageous and bold, you might even share some of it on social media. Use your wisdom to make that decision.

Quotations about Awards

“To receive this award from an organization I admire so much makes me totally happy and grateful.” – James Welch

“The greatest award is the appreciation of the people.” – Gopi Sundar

“There's nothing I would love more than to host an awards show where I'm nominated for an award - that is so funny to me.” – T. J. Miller

“The Lifetime award makes me feel old. I am only 55. – Kapil Dev

“I question the judgment of anyone who would give me an award.” — Duane Roen

Some Ideas for Awards Categories (The word *best*, *worst* or *most* could be implied throughout.)

1. Cooking
2. Baking
3. Ordering Take-Out Food
4. Foodie
5. Bland Food Connoisseur
6. Story Telling
7. Telling Tall Tales
8. Joke Telling
9. Conversationalist
10. Pranks
11. Gardening
12. DIY Health Care
13. DIY Counseling
14. Mentoring
15. Making It All Better
16. Hugging
17. Shoulder to Cry On

18. DIY Home Repair
19. DIY Auto Repair
20. Exemplar of Joy and Happiness
21. Advice Giving
22. Words of Wisdom
23. Friend
24. Fashionista
25. Casual Dresser
26. Grunge Dresser
27. Shoe Collector
28. Collector of _____
29. Listener
30. Role Model for Empathy and Compassion
31. Expressing Gratitude
32. Movie-Watching Companion
33. Recommending Movies to See
34. Recommending Books to Read
35. Social Media Influencer
36. Reader
37. Reader of Trashy Novels
38. Family Historian
39. Family Photographer
40. Graphic Artist
41. Musician
42. Singer
43. Karaoke Singer
44. Athlete (multiple subcategories are encouraged here)
45. Dancer
46. Sports Fan
47. Animal Lover
48. Cat Lover (not so much with dogs)
49. Dog Lover (not so much with cats)
50. Doting Parent
51. Doting Grandparent (who spoils the grandchildren, which irritates the parents)
52. Card Player
53. Board Game Player
54. Problem Solver
55. Collector of _____
56. Sleeper and Napper
57. Political Commentary
58. Driver
59. Adventurer
60. Young at Heart
61. Shopper
62. Procrastinator
63. Whaat?