



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR
6th ANNUAL DUTCHESS TOURISM AWARDS OF DISTINCTION**

POUGHKEEPSIE, NY– Dutchess Tourism, Inc. is requesting nominations from Dutchess County residents and businesses for their 6th Annual Dutchess Tourism Awards of Distinction. Awards will be presented to winners who provide exceptional offerings to visitors and contribute to a Distinctly Dutchess experience in the following categories: Arts; Culinary; Family Fun; History; Outdoors; and Hospitality.

Nominees should be tourism-related businesses or organizations open to the public with the exception of the Hospitality Award which is for a front-line customer service staff member, who consistently goes above and beyond to help travelers to Dutchess County have an excellent experience. Nominations are due by March 15 and past winners are not eligible. For submission information and a list of past winners, visit DutchessTourism.com/nominations.

Three finalists in each category will be announced daily the week of April 1 through Dutchess Tourism’s social media channels. The winners will be named at The Dutchess Tourism Awards of Distinction Breakfast held at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library & Museum’s Wallace Center, Tuesday, May 7th. For more information, sponsorship details or to purchase tickets, visit DutchessTourism.com/tourism-business-events.

“Across the globe, Dutchess Tourism promotes our community as a premier travel destination by highlighting the unique experiences offered by our world-class attractions,” said Dutchess Tourism President & CEO Mary Kay Vrba. “We’re proud to be able to recognize the many outstanding partners who tirelessly work to positively impact our local economy, employ local people and give residents an unmatched quality of life.”

Tourism provides significant economic impact to communities throughout Dutchess County and supports the livelihoods of 11,239 hard-working residents. In 2017, visitors spent \$601.5 million on lodging, food, shopping, and area attractions and generated \$43 million in local sales tax. Were it not for tourism, the average family in Dutchess would have to pay an additional \$711 annually to cover that tax shortfall.

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About Dutchess Tourism

Dutchess Tourism, Inc. is the officially designated destination marketing organization for Dutchess County and is accredited by the Destination Marketing Accreditation Program (DMAP) of Destinations International. It is an independent 501c6 non-profit organization that works to bring tourism dollars to area businesses by marketing and promoting the assets of Dutchess County to the nation and the world. The office is located at 3 Neptune Road in the Town of Poughkeepsie with 18 Tourist Information Centers located around Dutchess County. The website is www.DutchessTourism.com and they can be reached at 845-463-4000. Dutchess County Tourism was founded in 1984 under the umbrella of the Dutchess County Economic Development Corporation, became incorporated as Dutchess Tourism, Inc. in 2014 and is partially funded by monies received from the County of Dutchess.

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The programs provided by this agency are partially funded by monies received from the County of Dutchess.