

2026 NAHB Young Professional Award Rules & Criteria

What is the NAHB Young Professional Award?

The NAHB Young Professional Award recognizes young building industry professionals who propel their careers, advance in local, state, and national roles, advocate for the home building industry, engage with peers, and embed themselves as exceptional members of their communities.

The winners of this award are the future of the industry. They set new standards for the conservation, support, and growth of the home building industry and the NAHB brand. They are positioned as valuable assets in others' lives, both personally and professionally, and are here to move the home-building industry forward.

By developing future leaders, we can change the face of our industry with a new energetic and engaged group of Young Professionals!

Who can be nominated?

The NAHB Young Professional Award is open to NAHB Builder, Associate, or Affiliate members who are under 45 years of age (**born on or after January 1, 1981**). Nominees may come from any home building industry related fields. **Nominations and supporting materials must be received by September 21, 2026.**

Note: Finalists and individuals who were previously nominated for NAHB Young Professional Award but did not win are eligible to be nominated again. Individuals previously nominated and selected as one of NAHB's Young Professional Award winners are not eligible.

Can I nominate myself?

Yes. If you're under 45 (**Born on or after January 1, 1981**) and believe you qualify, feel free to nominate yourself.

Can I nominate more than one person?

Yes. There is no limit to the number of submissions you can make, but please note that the nominator will need to upload supporting materials for all nominated individuals.

Is there a fee for making a nomination?

No. There is no fee associated with the NAHB Young Professional Award!

How do I know if my nomination went through?

After submitting your online nomination, a confirmation page and an email will be sent to you. If you have concerns that your nomination did not go through, please contact Rachel MacKenzie at rmackenzie@nahb.org

How will I know if my nominee was selected?

Nominees and whoever submitted the nominee's application will receive an email about being selected as a finalist for that nominee's region. Three finalists will be selected per region. Announcement of finalists will also be made through the [NAHB Young Professional Facebook Group](#). One winner from each region will be selected, and all five winners will be announced during the 202 International Builders Show. Winners not present will be contacted and informed of their award.

Who judges the nominations?

Judges will consist of ten members of the NAHB Young Professionals Committee (excluding committee Chair, Vice-Chair and 2nd Vice-Chair) and the five previous year's award winners for a total of fifteen (15) judges. Judges will review applications outside of their home region and be required to justify their point allocations for each applicant.

What are the core criteria for selecting a NAHB Young Professional Award

winner? Some of the qualities and characteristics the Judges will be looking for (in no order):

- **Career progress** - Show the nominee's growth in skills, responsibility, and success in their chosen profession. We're looking for a clear sense of growth and accomplishments. Please be specific about the accomplishments.
- **Industry Involvement** – How has the nominee committed to advancing the home building industry? Demonstrate their commitment to upholding the ideals of NAHB and the home building industry. How involved is the nominee in professional organization(s)? Are they more than just a member? Have they chaired a committee? Run an event? Served on the board? Be specific: How did the nominees involvement produce results? Wherever possible, supply data to make your case.
- **Leadership development** – How has the nominee exhibited leadership traits? Leaders are the face of the industry to its members and the public. The characteristics of a leader come through in our day-to-day interactions with those around us. Leaders influence others to promote a positive change by displaying quality characteristics like integrity, competency, and intelligence. They are also forward looking and inspiring to others.
- **Innovation** – How has the nominee demonstrated creativity and innovation by developing new ideas and/or adapting successful solutions to problems and challenges, or optimizing unique opportunities? Nominees will bring forward new and creative ideas that inspire all young professionals to contribute their very best to the home building industry.
- **Community outreach/volunteer work** –Make a case for the nominee's passion for the industry and their communities. Be specific: How many days/years? What roles/titles did the nominee assume? How is the nominee giving back?
- **Continuing Education** - Formal education is not necessarily a reliable indicator of career success, but the judges need to know how far the nominee has gone in their education and how it contributed to their overall career development. Did the nominee earn a degree at night while working a full-time job? Did the nominee get advanced training, such as a CGP, CAPS, MIRM, or other professional designations?
- **Personal Information** – Tell us about the nominees off-the-clock hobbies and any other interesting information that gives us a picture of who they are as a person!
- **State Recommendation Letter***
- **Local Recommendation Letter**

**If the member does not have a state association, they can provide a second letter from the local and it can count towards these points.*

What additional supporting materials should I include in support of my nomination(s)?

- Headshot (required)
- Personal Statement
- Nominee's Resume
- Newspaper or publication clippings about the nominee
- Testimonials from Local HBA, State HBA, clients or others familiar with the nominee's work
- Other Awards received
- Online Videos showcasing the nominee

Questions, contact: NAHB Director, Membership, Rachel MacKenzie at rmackenzie@nahb.org

Judging Rubric

Career Progress (20 Points)

The nominee has shown growth in skills, responsibility, and success in their chosen profession. There is a clear sense of growth and accomplishments.

- Demonstrated growth in roles and responsibilities over time
- Specific accomplishments or milestones in their career
- Recognition, promotions, or measurable impact in their company or field

Industry Involvement (15 Points)

The nominee is committed to advancing the home building industry. Demonstrates their commitment to upholding the ideals of NAHB and the home building industry.

- Active participation in local, state, or national building industry associations
- Leadership or volunteer roles (e.g., committees, event planning, board service)
- Clear, measurable contributions to the success of industry initiatives

Leadership Development (20 Points)

Leaders are the face of the industry to its members and the public. The characteristics of a leader come through in our day-to-day interactions with those around us. Leaders influence others to promote a positive change by displaying quality characteristics like integrity, competency, and intelligence. They are also forward-looking and inspiring to others.

- Examples of leading teams, projects, or initiatives with impact
- Influence and mentorship of others within the industry or association
- Evidence of leadership traits like integrity, vision, and initiative

Innovation (15 Points)

The nominee is creative and innovative by developing new ideas and/or adapting successful solutions to problems and challenges, or optimizing unique opportunities in their companies, communities, or association. The nominee will bring forward new and creative ideas that inspire all young professionals to contribute their very best to the home-building industry.

- Implementation of new or adapted ideas that addressed a challenge or optimized an opportunity within their company, community, or association
- Problem-solving or process improvement with measurable outcomes
- Evidence that the nominee's innovative efforts have produced a measurable impact or been adopted as best practices within their organization or the industry

Community Outreach/Volunteer Work (15 Points)

The nominee has a passion for the industry and their communities. They volunteer their time towards making an impact on others.

- Regular involvement in community service or nonprofit efforts
- Leadership or organizing roles in outreach or volunteer activities
- Evidence of meaningful impact through giving back to the community

Continuing Education (10 Points)

Education, formal or informal, can contribute to a nominee's overall career development.

- Completion of relevant degrees, certifications, or professional designations
- Ongoing pursuit of knowledge through training, courses, or conferences
- Demonstrated application of education to enhance career or business outcomes

Personal Information (1 Point)

Tell us about the nominee's off-the-clock hobbies and any other interesting information that gives us a picture of who they are as a person!

State Recommendation Letter (2 Points)*

- Recommendation Letter Provided
- The letter demonstrates why the nominee is exceptional and deserving

**If the member does not have a state association, they can provide a second letter from the local, and it can count towards these points.*

Local Recommendation Letter (2 Points)

- Recommendation Letter Provided
- The letter demonstrates why the nominee is exceptional and deserving

Scoring:

- 3 Boxes = Up to Full points
- 2 Boxes = Moderate points
- 1 = Low points
- 0 boxes = No points

All points are at the discretion of the judges. It is important for judges to look at the categories, but the holistic picture of a nominee should be a factor in their overall score. If the decision comes down to a point or two, the full picture might help the judge decide which nominee is the most deserving.

Total Points Available: 100

Example Application

Nomination Details

Career Progress

You must show the growth of your (or the nominee's) skills, responsibility, and success in your chosen profession. We're looking for a clear sense of growth and accomplishments in your (or the nominee's) work. (Please be specific about the accomplishments.):

Jason's career is defined by consistent growth and increasing responsibility. Starting at a young age working for his parents' construction company, Jason learned about the importance of hard work and industry knowledge firsthand. After graduating with honors from Ferris State University with a degree in Construction Management, Jason

quickly established himself as a leader at Orvosh Builders, where he became president in 2017 at age 33. Under his direction, Orvosh Builders grew from \$850,000 in annual revenue to nearly \$5 million within five years, a testament to his strategic vision and leadership abilities.

Jason's career achievements include not only financial growth but recognition for his commitment to excellence in the field. He won 1st Place in the Detroit Home Design Awards in 2019 and Orvosh Builders has won multiple Reader's Choice awards every year. His path—from sweeping floors to leading a multi-million-dollar company—exemplifies a dynamic career full of growth and industry impact, serving as a role model for young professionals entering the home building industry.

Industry Involvement

How have you (or the nominee) committed to advancing the home building industry? Demonstrate your commitment to upholding the ideals of NAHB and the home building industry. How involved are you in your professional organization(s)? (Are you (or the nominee) more than just a member? Have you chaired a committee? Run an event? Served on the board? Be specific: How did your involvement produce results? For example, how much money you helped raise, how your efforts led to a new program, such as training or outreach for your organization. Wherever possible, supply data to make your case.) :

Jason has shown an unwavering commitment to advancing the industry, not only through his leadership roles but also by directly engaging with and developing the next generation of professionals. His leadership as the youngest state president in the history of HBA of Michigan (HBAM) demonstrates his ability to lead at a high level while actively shaping the industry's future. He kickstarted the Young Professionals Committee at his own local HBA and took the initiative to establish a Committee with HBAM. He also played a pivotal role in helping other local HBAs set up their own YP committees, ensuring YPs across the state have a pathway to leadership.

At the national level, Jason's tireless advocacy led to the creation of the Young Professional Pilot Program, which he presented to the NAHB Board of Directors. This program launched in 2024 and has resulted in over 500 new YP members joining NAHB across 12 local associations. His foresight in creating a more accessible pathway for YPs ensures the industry continues to attract fresh talent and future leaders. Jason is also 2nd Vice Chair for NAHB's YP Committee.

Jason chairs the Midland HBA Membership Committee and has worked on the Home and Garden Show and Parade of Homes Committees. He launched the Building Trades Fundraiser in Midland, which has raised over \$100,000 over 12 years to support local students in trades programs. Last year his local explored options to merge with a nearby local, he was selected to be on the Taskforce and instrumental in their efforts, which recently voted to complete the merger.

Jason has been active on both local building trade advisory committees for the past 15 years. He was also able to pioneer a new model allowing students to work in the trades throughout their senior year as a full-time employee. He is often found designing their homes at cost or for not charge along with working on-site with the students, creating industry relationships with our next generation.

Innovation

How have you (or the nominee) demonstrated creativity and innovation by developing new ideas and/or adapting successful solutions to problems and challenges, or

optimizing unique opportunities? (Nominees should bring forward new and creative ideas that inspire all young professionals to contribute their very best to the home building industry.) :

As President of Orvosh Builders, he spearheaded the company's remarkable expansion, redefining industry norms and quadrupling revenue in the process. Jason is also the owner and operator of The Tech Laboratory and Designing Perfection. The Tech Laboratory provides customers with hands-on experience into the latest home technology integrations with an active experience center, demonstrating Jason's forward-thinking approach to evolving market demands. Earlier this year, he reached out to his local elementary teachers about his companies "Design your Dream Home Contest," which resulted in a collaborative effort bringing 100+ Home Depot bird house kits into 2nd-4th grade classrooms and worked with the students to build them. The Young Professional Discount program, creation of a State YP group and countless other efforts for his local community are a testament to his leadership and creativity. Additionally, his conception of the previously mentioned Building Trades Fundraiser and the establishment of the first Construction Explorer Post in Midland (designed for middle school students to get hands-on) exemplify his ability to recognize and act on opportunities that benefit both the industry and the community.

Leadership Development

Leaders are the face of the industry, and display quality characteristics like integrity, competency and intelligence. How have you (or the nominee) exhibited these leadership traits and influenced others to promote a positive change? (The characteristics of a leader come through in our day to day interactions with those around us. They are also forward-looking and inspiring to others. Describe how you (or the nominee) exhibited these traits.):

Jason exemplifies the key traits of a strong leader—integrity, competence, and intelligence. His journey from job site cleanup to company president underscores his commitment to hard work and leadership. Jason's integrity is evident in his commitment to supporting the next generation of home builders, as seen in his creation of programs like the YP Discount Pilot Program and Building Trades Fundraiser which are designed to uplift and support the future workforce. Jason also presented on behalf of his alma mater in the Student Competition at IBS, once as a member and the next year as their president. After graduation he went back for two years helping to mentor the teams.

Jason's leadership style is forward-looking, particularly in his ability to motivate others and inspire change. His involvement in young professional initiatives demonstrates his forward-thinking intelligence, while his hands-on approach shows his willingness to lead by example. Through his actions, Jason influences positive changes in both his company and the industry as whole. Jason isn't afraid to get his hands dirty and prides himself on his exceptional ability to solve problems. Another achievement is the fact that he has been nominated as a finalist two times for the YP Award in his region along with winning a spot on the 40 Under 40 in his local community just a couple years ago.

Community Outreach/Volunteer Work

Describe any other activities and/or volunteer work that you (or the nominee) is involved in that shows your passion for the industry and community. (It's important that

the nominee is someone of good character who cares about their community and gives back to organizations that make our communities whole. It also shows they are the experts in their area. When reporting your activities, be specific. Habitat for Humanity? How many days/year? How many houses did you help build, over what time period? What roles/titles did you assume in your community work? How are you giving back?):

Jason's dedication to his community is as strong as his dedication to the building industry. He has worked with Habitat for Humanity for two years in college, helping to build two of their "24 hour" homes for those in need. His efforts go beyond volunteering, as Jason actively involves his company's employees in community projects, creating a culture of giving back. This year his whole company worked on minor league baseball and softball fields in disrepair for a full day, covering all labor and material costs, saving the program thousands of dollars. Working on-site with building trades students has been a passion of his, helping to inspire future tradesmen and tradeswomen. Jason was able to bring the HBI curriculum into a local commercial program ran by ABC (GMCA) which offers students a residential path to education in the trades as an alternative to the commercial track.

Jason has served on his local HBA board for 14 years and was installed on the new board after their local merged with Saginaw. He took a break from the local board, only to serve on the State leadership ladder, eventually being president in 2021 then came right back.

In addition to his work with Habitat for Humanity, Jason sits on various advisory committees, including those for local school districts. His focus on educational outreach, such as designing a high school curriculum around home ownership as a creative way to engage more students, further demonstrates his passion for developing future industry leaders. Jason's community involvement, from volunteering to educational initiatives, shows his dedication to both the building industry and the people it serves.

Continuing Education

Describe your education and/or training experience. (Formal education is not necessarily a reliable indicator of career success, but the judges need to know how far you've gone in your education and how it contributed to your overall career development. Did you earn a degree at night while working a full-time job? Did you get advanced training, such as a CGP, CAPS, MIRM, or other professional designation?):

Jason's educational background laid the foundation for his career success. During high school, he took college classes as a Junior and designed structural steel shop drawings for a local commercial contractor during his senior year as a co-op. He graduated with honors from Ferris State University with a bachelor's degree of Science in Construction Management. His academic achievements were complemented by his involvement in the Construction Honors Society and Associated Construction Students. He was also an active member of Ferris State's construction student organization (ACS) which won first place for their volunteering efforts across the country and representing the construction students on Student Government.

Jason also holds a Certified Green Professional (CGP) designation from NAHB, highlighting his commitment to sustainable building practices. His pursuit of advanced certifications and ongoing professional development reflects his drive to stay at the forefront of industry trends and practices, ensuring he leads with the most current knowledge available.

Jason can be seen at IBS running to different classes between meetings, which is his favorite part of the show. He is a firm believer in educational growth and encourages all his employees to grow personally and professionally, often mentoring them in both areas.

Personal Information

Tell us about your (or the nominee's) off-the-clock hobbies and any other interesting information to give us a picture of who you are as a whole person. (The nominee is also distinguished by who they are in everyday life. They recognize themselves as people of high principles and character who exemplify this through other interests and activities other than work or community/professional service. This is a chance to tell a little about the inner you. For example, are you learning to play the bassoon? Did you have an interesting previous occupation before your current one?):

Outside of work, Jason finds balance in family life and personal interests. He enjoys spending quality time with his wife, Stacy, and three daughters: Harlee, Haven & Hudson. He attends their dance recitals, soccer practices & games, always making family time a priority.

In his free time, Jason enjoys backpacking, gaming and attending concerts, both of which provide him with a healthy outlet for relaxation and fun. His varied interests show that he is not only a driven business leader but also a well-rounded individual who values downtime and time with family.

Supporting Materials (PDF or MS-Word format)

*Nominee Photo (headshot)
(PNG, JPG format):*

JasonHeadshot.jpg

Upload Supporting Material:

JasonOrvoshLetterofRec2024BobFilkaHBAM.docx

How do we pronounce your name?:

Recording Saved

Digital Media/Videos

Are you submitting a digital media/video?:

N

Photo Release

I hereby agree to the foregoing terms and conditions governing the uploaded content.:

Checked

How did you hear about the Award Program?

Please check all that apply:

1. Colleague or Associate, 2. E-mail Promotion, 8. Previous Award Applicant, 9. Local

or State HBA



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October 21, 2024

Dear YP Award Selection Committee Members,

On behalf of the HBA of Michigan, I am writing to emphatically support Jason Orvosh's nomination for the NAHB Young Professionals Award. Jason has consistently demonstrated a profound commitment to advancing the home building industry. He is undoubtedly a deserving candidate for this award.

I had the privilege of witnessing Jason's remarkable growth while he served as our state association's 2021 President. Being the youngest-ever state president and having to navigate an unprecedented pandemic which effectively halted the industry, he saw those obstacles as an opportunity for effective change. Jason prioritized the use of technology and implemented a members-only blog so they could stay virtually engaged. His leadership extended beyond the immediate crisis as he also sought to pave the way for the future leaders of the building industry. Jason started a local and state Young Professionals Committee which set in motion the creation of other local YP Committees across the state. His efforts to uplift and engage young professionals are perhaps best demonstrated by his introduction of the Young Professional dues discount program to the NAHB Board of Directors, resulting in a 2024 pilot program with 12 HBAs across the country participating.

Jason's forward-thinking leadership left a lasting impact on our association and he continues to be an example for young leaders. I strongly recommend Jason for this recognition as he embodies the principles and vision NAHB seeks to promote. If you have any questions about my support for his nomination, please don't hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Rob Filka'.

Robert L. Filka
CEO