



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE ANNUAL

2020 NAMES OF THE YEAR

The American Name Society requests nominations for the “Names of the Year for 2020”. Names selected will be ones that best illustrate, through their creation and/or use during the past 12 months, important trends in the culture of the United States. **It is not necessary, however, for a nominated name to have originated in the US.** Any name can be nominated as long as it has been prominent in North American cultural discourse during the past year.

Nominations are called for in the following categories:

- **Personal Names:** Names or nicknames of individual real people or individual animals.
- **Place Names:** Names or nicknames of any real geographical location, including all natural features, political subdivisions, streets, and buildings. Names of national or ethnic groups based on place names could be included here.
- **Trade Names:** Names of real commercial products, as well as names of both for-profit and non-profit incorporated companies and organizations, including businesses and universities.
- **Artistic & Literary Names:** Names of fictional persons, places, or institutions, in any written, oral, or visual medium, as well as titles of art works, books, plays, television programs, or movies. Such names are deliberately given by the creator of the work.
- **E-Names:** Names of persons, figures, places, products, businesses, institutions, operations, organizations, platforms, and movements that exist in the virtual world.
- **Miscellaneous Names:** Any name which does **not** fit in the above five categories, such as names created by linguistic errors, names of particular

inanimate objects, names of unorganized political movements, names of languages, etc. In most cases, such items would be capitalized in everyday English orthography.

Winners will be chosen in each category, and then a final vote will determine the overall **Name of the Year** for 2020. Anyone may nominate a name. All members of the American Name Society attending the annual meeting will select the winner from among the nominees at the [annual ANS meeting](#) in on January 24, 2021. The winner will be announced at the end of the Name of the Year session.

Advance nominations must be received before January 21, 2021. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the annual meeting. Please send your nominations, along with a brief rationale, by surface mail or e-mail to: Deborah Walker, debwalk@gmail.com.