



NEWS RELEASE

Six Flags scored double win in Golden Ticket Awards

Six Flags Theme Parks and Six Flags Over Texas take Innovation of the Year

ARLINGTON, Texas — *Amusement Today*, a leading trade publication of the amusement industry, announced its annual Golden Ticket Awards on September 23. For more than two decades, the prestigious honors have been the most sought-after awards in the world of amusements and themed entertainment. In past years, the famous awards have been determined by a panel of the most experienced theme park experts comprised of hundreds of avid fans and enthusiasts that travel the globe. Best coasters, water rides, parks and new attractions have been among hotly contested categories. Like with many industries, the events of 2020 prompted a reset.

“This has been a challenging year, but there is still a tremendous amount of hard work going on. *Amusement Today* didn’t want to miss an opportunity to recognize those who continue to move the industry forward,” said Publisher Gary Slade.

“Global events may have caused a reimagining of the Golden Ticket Awards this year, but in these times, it is still a way to acknowledge the positives that are so desperately needed. Our traditional categories weren’t the right direction to take in unprecedented times, but *Amusement Today* is thrilled to recognize so many achievements,” said Tim Baldwin, Golden Ticket Awards Communications Coordinator.

Discussed, debated and determined by the staff of *Amusement Today*’s park journalists and staff, one category returned after being introduced in 2019: **Innovation of the Year**. Among six nominees, Six Flags divided the vote resulting in a dead heat.

“We thought about trying to somehow fairly break the tie,” said Baldwin. “But we felt the two accomplishments were so strong, we wanted to honor both.”

Six Flags Over Texas Trash Reduction System

Installed in the winter of 2020, the Arlington park introduced a behind-the-scenes, modern approach to reducing the park’s waste by up to 90 percent. A system manufactured by **Advatec** (based in the U.K.) uses natural bacteria in a safe environment that transforms a variety of consumer waste material into a usable fuel resource. Even if all the end material isn’t sold, the park’s waste output is dramatically reduced. This is both a savings in the expense of having waste hauled away as well as reducing the carbon footprint of a major theme park.



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Six Flags Theme Parks/Six Flags Entertainment Entrance Improvement Initiatives

Under the direction of new CEO **Michael Spanos**, **Six Flags Entertainment** is making new steps to improve the guest experience.

Even before the pandemic, Six Flags was looking for ways to streamline its operations to allow guests to enter the park efficiently and as unobtrusively as possible, but still protecting the patrons and team members.

Using a metal detection system from **Evolv Technology**, combined with a temperature screening portal supplied **Unified Command**, Six Flags parks created an efficient and easy entrance procedure. guests go through necessary screenings simply by walking through a tunnel and detectors, eliminating the needs to remove phones and other metal objects, as well as hand-held temperature checks. Guests need only walk in.

Using A-I intelligent technology, the system is able to differentiate between a cell phone and an item prohibited in the park. Unless the system identifies something, guests keep on moving, with a throughput of 7,000 people an hour. The initiatives are getting people inside the park to enjoy their day even faster than before the pandemic.

“There are always things to celebrate within the amusement industry. To see commitments to move things forward and make things better is inspiring,” said Slade. “These innovations really do make a difference.”

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