

10 March 2021 - Updated

Oscars Death Race Mod announcement: Invitation to join the official Academy of Death Racers & vote on the Oscars Nominations & our own defined categories

Owing to the perceived availability of almost all likely nominations this year, hopefully enabling more DeathRacers than ever to complete the Oscars DeathRace, the mods of the r/oscarsdeathrace subreddit & its associated Discord server have decided to set up an official vote to see how its community ranks the nominated films and how these results compare with the official academy's results.

This plan consists of a few elements:

01. The creation of the official **Academy of Death Racers**
 - a. General membership of this is free, and it is open to all members of the subreddit & Discord server community.
 - b. All members can vote in ALL categories, however, there is an expectation that members only vote in categories where they have seen all the nominated films (an option will be supplied on the voting form to skip voting on a particular category).
 - c. General members can remain anonymous, however, will require a Google account in order to cast votes, and to prevent multiple voting.

02. The creation of a **number of official branches of the Academy of Death Racers**, with membership of each being based upon their own clearly defined membership criteria.
 - a. Membership of these branches is free of cost, and can be applied for (along with suitable supporting statements/link/image, etc) on the relevant Discord channel.
 - i. Upon verification by the Mod team, members of these branches will be added to branch specific Discord channels,
 - ii. membership of each branch would be visible & transparent through clear membership groups on Discord. As a result, membership of one of these branches can not be wholly anonymous, as must be linked to a Discord username.
 - iii. **Members can only have active membership of 1 of these official branches** during any awards season, however, can change their branch membership between seasons by messaging the Mods.
 - b. We will have adapted things so there are now 4 branches, however, we're very open to new branch suggestions:
 - i. **The Creators Branch**
 1. Membership of this branch should have experience in some sort of content creation - this can be audio (ie, podcasts), graphic design, video, writing or other creative field.
 2. This branch is an amalgam of the previous Podcast, Graphic Design, and Video branches.
 3. To qualify for this branch, members are requested to provide examples of their work or involvement in some creative endeavour. This can be professional or just for pleasure.
 4. Members of this branch can be from any country of the world, and we'd be keen to have a number of members who create non-English content.

- ii. **The Food & Drink Branch**
 - 1. Membership of this branch is non-restrictive, and can include anyone who would like to join. (But this branch is highly recommended for people who are into gastronomy) Please note that membership cannot be granted to more than one branch simultaneously.
 - 2. Members of this branch can be from any country of the world.

- iii. **The Animal Lover Branch**
 - 1. Members of this branch should be people with a fondness for Animals. Please note that membership cannot be granted to more than one branch simultaneously.
 - 2. Members of this branch can be from any country of the world.
 - 3. The winner of this branch's category will be the recipient of the Johnny Award 🐾.

- iv. **The Indies Branch**
 - 1. Members of this branch are outsiders, renegades, and misfits, who feel they fall between the cracks of the other branches. Ha ha, just kidding, although it is fairly apt.
 - 2. Members of this branch can be from any country of the world.

- c. General members are welcome to suggest new branches, which the Mods will have the final say on, however, all branches should have a minimum of 5 members, have a specific characteristic that links them, and have a fun potential category suggestion.
- d. Each of these official branches of the Academy of Death Racers are tasked with the **creation of a category which can be added to the public vote.**
 - i. We would encourage this branch-specific category to be broadly related to the branch itself, but should avoid specific replication of an Oscars category to allow for a broader range or mix of potential nominees.
 - ii. We would encourage lighter hearted categories to be suggested as well.
 - iii. Potential examples for each branch could be (but are certainly not limited to):
 - a. **The Creators Branch** -
 - Best performance by a microphone,
 - Something to do with audio?,
 - Best conversation piece (which movie provoked the most interesting discussion?)
 - Best poster,
 - Best intro sequence,
 - b. **The Food & Drink Branch** -
 - most tantalising food/drink,
 - best film drinking game,
 - c. **The Animal Lover Branch** -
 - best animal performance,
 - animal scene stealer
 - d. **The Indies Branch**
 - Who knows?

- iv. A 5th category will be included by the organisers for the 2021 season,
 - 1. This will be a **write in ballot entitled “Favourite Film”**.
 - 2. We feel that this will be an interesting opportunity for members to reward *any* film that could potentially be nominated (*see point 02 d viii for qualifying films*), and the wording “favourite” is very knowingly vague - each person will have a subjective view point on this based upon their experiences around watching a film & their own experiences leading up, and potentially following the viewing. To be clear, this is a very different category to “Best Picture”, and we’d encourage members to think long and hard about which film to include.
 - 3. In the event of members including films which do not meet the criteria for inclusion, these votes will not be counted.
- v. Once the category has been decided upon by the branch, branch members can suggest films to be added to the branch’s longlist, which must consist of no fewer than 3 films.
- vi. **To be included in each branch’s longlist**, films must:
 - 1. **be broadly available to all of the community** (ie, no films with ONLY a limited geographic theatrical run), and
 - 2. **must be eligible for at least one of the major Award granting ceremonies this year** (The Oscars, BAFTAs, Spirits, Globes, etc). Longlisted films can be shorts or features, documentaries or fiction, and should show a range of voices (gender, ethnicity, language, etc).
- vii. Once the longlist has been created, branch members will vote on their favourites (no fewer than 3, no greater than 5)
- viii. The 3-5 films with the most votes will form the branch’s nominations for their category, which will then be included in the wider voting process, where all members of the Academy can vote on all Oscar categories & all of the special Academy of Death Racers categories.

03. **All members of the Academy of Death Racers will cast secret votes** on their favourites for each category, with the **winner of each category being the film that receives the most votes in each category, except for the Oscars Best Picture category, for which a preferential ballot will be used** (inline with the Oscars Academy’s rules).
- a. The mods are curious to see if there are any geographical or gender differences in voting, so the voting form *may* include optional fields to be included in subsets of the General Branch (e.g. broad geographic location, gender, etc) (tbc).
04. A **live streamed Academy of Death Racers Awards ceremony** will take place prior to the Oscars ceremony, which will reveal the winners, and potentially have involvement or interaction from the official branch members. This will be available for all members of the community to view online.
- a. Anonymised voting data will be shared with the membership both in this livestream, but also potentially after it.

The mods reserve the right to make any necessary adjustments to ensure the smooth running of the ODR Academy, or revoke membership in the event of the community rules being broken by any member.

Timeframes & key dates

Tuesday 9th March 2021 - This announcement, and applications for membership of specific branches are opened.

Monday 15 March 2021 - Oscars Nominations are announced.

Wednesday 17 March 2021 - Applications for specific branches close

Thursday 18 March 2021 - Specific branch categories agreed upon.

Friday 19 March - Longlist available for specific branches to vote on

Friday 26 March - Longlist voting for specific branches closes (at 12:00 midday UTC)

Sunday 28 March - Specific branches categories and nominations announced to the general membership

Thursday 15 April - Voting begins (at 12:00 midday UTC)

Tuesday 20 April - Voting ends (at 12:00 midday UTC)

Saturday 24 April - ODR Academy Results announced in livestream

Sunday 25 April - Oscars ceremony