



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
February 5, 2026 12:00 p.m. EST

CONTACT:  
Tom Williams | [tomwilliams@mpt.org](mailto:tomwilliams@mpt.org) | 410.581.4031

## ***MotorWeek announces its 2026 Drivers' Choice Awards including Best of the Year: Dodge Charger***

**OWINGS MILLS, MD** – [MotorWeek](#), television's original and most-respected automotive video series, today announced its annual Drivers' Choice Awards, highlighted by 2026 Best of the Year winner – the Dodge Charger.

The slate of 2026 Drivers' Choice Awards presented by *MotorWeek*, now in its 45th season, consists of winners in 12 consumer-driven categories. The timing of the *MotorWeek* Drivers' Choice Awards announcement continues a decades-long tradition of coinciding with the opening of the annual Chicago Auto Show, America's premier consumer interactive motor show.

*MotorWeek's* production team evaluates more than 150 cars, trucks, and sports utility vehicles every year. Drivers' Choice Award winners are selected based on driving performance, technology, practicality, fuel efficiency, and value for the dollar.

"Our category winners this year cover a wider array of vehicles than ever, not only in vehicle type but in capability and price. Plus, as the award's name says, we love driving all of them," said *MotorWeek* Creator and Host John Davis.

The Drivers' Choice Awards selection show is now available to watch at [this link](#) or [MotorWeek.org](http://MotorWeek.org).

The award-winning vehicles will also appear on a special episode of *MotorWeek* (episode #4523) airing on public television stations across the country beginning on February 7. The episode will be available on [MotorWeek's YouTube channel](#) on February 15.

Best of the Year winner, the Dodge Charger, earned a 2026 Drivers' Choice Award in the Best Sport Coupe category. The MSRP for the gas-powered Charger starts around \$52,000 before incentives. Last year, the all-electric Dodge Charger Daytona was selected by *MotorWeek* in the same category. It is also included in this year's honors.

Going back to 1998, when *MotorWeek* started naming a Best of the Year winner as part of its annual awards program, many automotive nameplates have been honored, but this is the first year that a Dodge vehicle has garnered the top prize.

“In the annals of American automotive history, there is no more sacrosanct genre than that of the Muscle Car,” noted Davis.

“In the 2026 Dodge Charger, Stellantis, through its hallowed Dodge brand, has reaffirmed the core values of Detroit’s finest for well into the future times two. Using imaginative engineering, while staying tied to what made muscle cars such an international icon in the first place, Dodge has managed to use a single chassis, with the same two- and four-door bodies – something muscle cars typically do not offer – to please the tire burning desires of both contemporary buyers that see the promise of electrification and the legions of fans that want only gasoline running through their veins and their cars,” explained Davis.

“The new Dodge Charger represents the next chapter of American muscle, and it’s an incredible honor for our next-gen muscle car to be recognized by *MotorWeek* with both Best of the Year and Best Sport Coupe awards,” said Matt McAlear, Dodge CEO. “This recognition validates the Charger’s uncompromising performance, unmistakable design and cutting-edge technology, while staying true to the Dodge DNA our enthusiasts expect.”

Davis said the Charger stood out among the vehicles the *MotorWeek* team tested because, in part, of its advanced engineering that allows it to seamlessly accommodate both powertrains while retaining the iconic sensory aspects and performance of the American muscle car.

“The Dodge Charger Daytona showed that being a battery electric vehicle can actually enhance street-legal high performance, while still appealing to all the senses. But to then follow that effort with the Dodge Charger SIXPACK, and its twin-turbo straight-6 powerhouse, shows that from the first concept to this real deal duo, the designers never strayed from their responsibility to preserve, while adding to, the driven history of the American muscle car,” explained Davis.

*MotorWeek* and the 2026 Drivers’ Choice Awards are nationally sponsored by [Auto Value and Bumper-to-Bumper](#), and [TireRack.com](#).

## **2026 *MotorWeek* Drivers’ Choice Awards**

### ***Best of the Year - Dodge Charger***

#### ***Drivers’ Choice Individual Category Winners***

- |                           |                |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| <b>1. Best Family Car</b> | <b>Kia K4</b>  |
| <b>2. Best Luxury Car</b> | <b>Audi A5</b> |

3. Best Sport Sedan	Audi S3
4. Best Sport Coupe	Dodge Charger *
5. Best Performance Car	Porsche 911 Carrera GTS
6. Best Small Utility	Toyota RAV4
7. Best Midsize Utility	Subaru Outback
8. Best Large Utility	Hyundai Palisade
9. Best Luxury Utility	Mercedes-Benz GLC 350e
10. Best Small Truck	Ford Maverick
11. Best Fullsize Truck	Ram 1500 *
12. Best EV	<i>Cadillac OPTIQ</i> <i>Nissan LEAF</i> <i>Porsche Taycan</i>

**\* Denotes Repeat Winner from 2025**

### **About MotorWeek**

[Maryland Public Television](#) produces and distributes *MotorWeek* nationwide and overseas. The series airs on 90% of PBS stations nationwide. Viewers can find the days and times their local public television station airs *MotorWeek* by going to the station listings page on [motorweek.org](http://motorweek.org).

The show's most current episodes can be viewed online at [pbs.org/motorweek](http://pbs.org/motorweek) and streamed 24/7 on PBS Living, a Prime Video Channel, as well as viewed on smart devices through the [free PBS app](#). Past seasons of *MotorWeek* episodes are also available on the free streaming services Tubi, Roku, Pluto, Plex, and Xumo. Spanish-language viewers can also catch *MotorWeek* on V-me.

Program excerpts covering all segments, including road tests, are available at *MotorWeek*'s YouTube Channel, [youtube.com/motorweek](http://youtube.com/motorweek), with more than 530,000 subscribers and upwards of three million views per month. Viewers can also follow *MotorWeek* on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#), and download complete shows on iTunes. In short, if you have a screen, you can watch *MotorWeek*.

For additional 24/7 access to all things *MotorWeek*, download the show's free app with its unique "POWER" tab, offering specifications on all alternative-fueled vehicles, both new and used, on the market today.

# # #