

MAY 2025



Under *the* Sun

NEWSLETTER

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Sun Solutions won 14 Best of Category awards, 15 Special Judges awards and 11 Awards of Excellence.



BEST OF CATEGORY
Announcements & Invitations



BEST OF CATEGORY
Sheetfed Catalogs



BEST OF CATEGORY
Wide Format Printing Other



PLAN YOUR SUMMER ADVENTURE

It's time to kick off Summer with exciting activities and new experiences.

Whether you're exploring the great outdoors or trying something for the first time, this adventure list will inspire you to make the most of the Summer and soak up the season's magic.

» **Hike a New Trail.** Explore a nearby nature reserve or state park and enjoy the fresh air while discovering stunning views. Don't forget to pack water, a map, and some snacks. Challenge yourself to tackle a longer trail or one with a scenic lookout.

» **Try Paddleboarding or Kayaking.** Hit the water and test your balance on a paddleboard, or enjoy a peaceful kayak ride along a local river or lake. It's a great way to stay active and connect with nature. If you're new, many places offer affordable rentals and beginner lessons.

» **Camp Under the Stars.** Pitch a tent and experience the magic of sleeping outdoors. Whether it's at a campground or your backyard, stargazing by the campfire is always an adventure.

» **Explore a Farmers Market.** Take a weekend morning to wander through a farmers market you've never visited before. Discover fresh produce, handmade goods, and maybe even some live music.

» **Cycle a Scenic Route.** Dust off your bike and find a trail or quiet road with great scenery. Cycling is an exciting way to explore your local area while staying fit. Research nearby bike paths or join a local cycling group for added fun.



» **Go Geocaching.** Join the global treasure hunt by using GPS to find hidden caches in your area. It's a fun challenge that combines problem-solving with outdoor exploration. Look up geocaching apps to guide you and see how many treasures you can uncover this summer.

May is the perfect time to plan for Summer adventures big and small. Step outside, try something new, and create some unforgettable Summer memories with your family and friends! ✔

SUN SOLUTIONS ANNOUNCED AS WINNER IN THE 2024 PICA AWARDS

Charlotte, NC — The Printing Industry of the Carolinas (PICA) has announced that Sun Solutions of West Columbia is a winner in the 2024 PICA Awards Competition. The announcement was made April 12, 2025, during the 2024 PICA Awards Banquet held in Charlotte, North Carolina. The PICA Awards competition is celebrating its 59th season and continues to be one of the largest printing contests in the nation.

This year, the PICA Awards attracted 505 entries from 28 printing companies, along with 165 entries from 8 graphic arts high schools and 4 college graphic arts programs from across the Carolinas.

Sun Solutions won 14 Best of Category awards, 15 Special Judges awards and 11 Awards of Excellence. Only one "Best of" may be given in each category. One or more Special Judges Award or Award of Excellence may be given in each category, limited to no more than one third of total entries per category.

A panel of out-of-state judges with extensive experience in printing and print production was brought in to examine the work. Each entry was judged on its own merit in a category with similar printed pieces. The judging criteria included: registration, crossovers, clarity and neatness, sharpness of halftones and line drawings, richness and tonal qualities of color, paper and ink selection, ink coverage, difficulty of printing, effective contrast or softness, finishing, bindery, and overall visual impact.

Since 1931, The Printing Industry of the Carolinas, Inc. (PICA) has been dedicated to advancing the success of the Carolinas' printing and imaging industry. PICA provides training, resources, and a voice of advocacy on both a state and national level.

PICA is a trade association representing the graphic communications industry in North and South Carolina. Historically, North Carolina has consistently ranked in the top 20 largest state print market in the United States with over \$3 billion in sales, 1,000+ total printing establishments and employing approximately 20,000 people. South Carolina has ranked in the top 30 print markets in the nation, with over \$1 billion in sales, around 500 establishments, employing over 8,000 people. PICA is headquartered in Charlotte, NC. For more information, visit www.picanet.org.

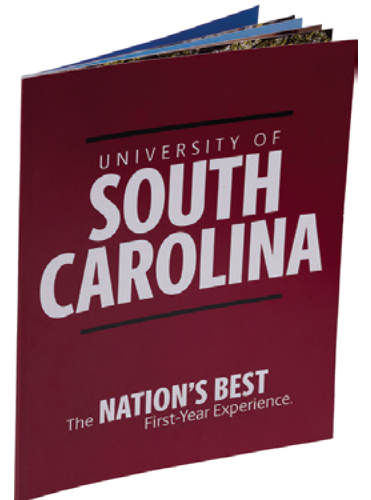
The PICA Awards Competition, owned and managed by The Printing Industry of the Carolinas (PICA), is an annual event established in 1966 that recognizes and rewards printing and imaging companies who combine fine craftsmanship with technology to produce outstanding finished products. The award-winning companies are honored each year at the PICA Awards Banquet.



BEST OF CATEGORY
Announcements & Invitations



BEST OF CATEGORY
Wide Format Printing Other



BEST OF CATEGORY
Sheetfed Catalogs (Up to 32 pages)

SUMMER BEACH ITEMS

Lightweight Mesh Tote Bag

The bottom and top of the bag are made of sturdy polyester outdoor fabric, middle of the polyester mesh, bottom sand proof. The beach mesh bag is large capacity and has 1 main pocket that keeps 4-6 beach towels, water bottles, flip flops. 1 outside zippered pocket that keeps your valuables and other small belongings organized. This oversized pool bag perfects for days at the beach, vacation, picnics, pool and camping.

FEATURES

- Color: Black, Blue, Pink
- Size: 13 " x 13 " x 5 "

IMPRINT

- Imprint Method: Full Color, Heat Transfer, Silkscreen
- Silkscreen, Full Color, Heat Transfer
- Imprint Color: PMS Colors
- Imprint Size: 4"x4"
- Full Color Process: Yes



Beach Mat

Custom brand this Beach Mat with pillow and easy to carry bag,

FEATURES

- 36" W x 72" L Beach Mat With Inflatable Pillow
- Size: Folded: 12" W x 9" H
- Made Of Tubular Polypropylene Material
- Water And Sand Resistant
- Comes With Self Attached, Non-Woven Cover With 17" Handles For Easy Carrying
- Easily Folds Into A Handy Carrying Case

IMPRINT

- Colors: Standard Silk-Screen or Transfer Colors
- Imprint Area: 6" W x 3" H



Miami Sunglasses

Our Miami Sunglasses will inject fun and happiness into any situation and with your brand name or logo imprinted on the colorful arm of these sunglasses you've got a perfect warm weather giveaway. Choose from a variety of vibrant colors for a true "wow" factor. Add your custom imprint and unveil the finished product for beach-themed events, school fundraisers, weddings, birthday parties and so much more. Let these sunglasses transport you to sunny Miami. Ultraviolet tinted lenses for UV400 UVA & UVB Protection.

FEATURES

- Colors: Black, Carolina Blue, Green, Navy, Neon Green, Neon Pink, Orange, Pink, Purple, Red, Royal Blue, Teal, White, Yellow
- Size: 1.95" h X 1.5" d

IMPRINT

- Imprint Area: 2" x 0.31"
- Maximum Imprint Colors: 2
- PMS Color Matching Available



Floating Sunglass Strap

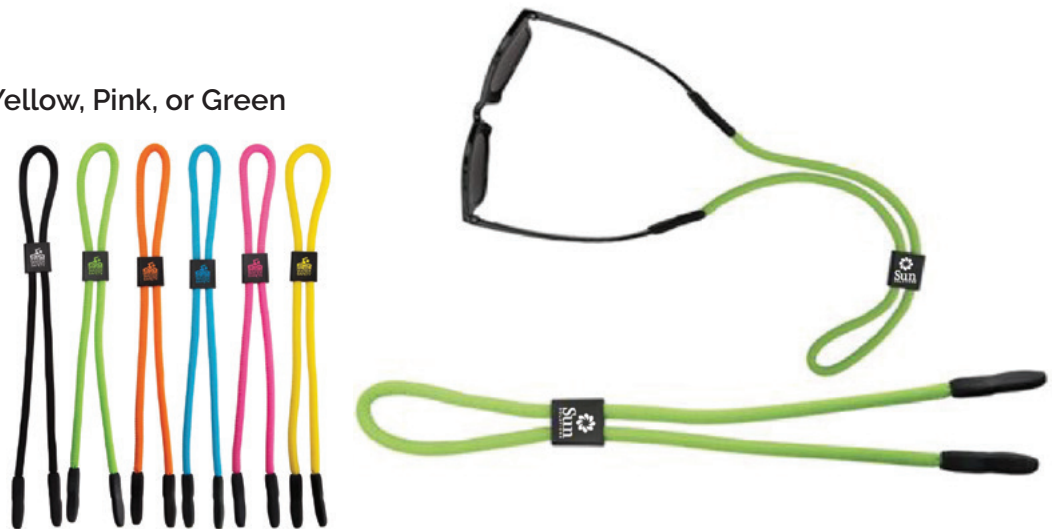
High buoyancy accessories ensure your valuables stay afloat. Bright colors allow for high visibility when in the water.

FEATURES

- Colors: Black, Blue, Orange, Yellow, Pink, or Green
- Size: 13" x 7/8" x 3/8"

IMPRINT

- Imprint Area: 1/2" x 1/2"
- Maximum Imprint Colors: 1



To order these custom branded Summer items, contact your Sun representative or call/email:

803-791-1786 or info@SunSolutionsUSA.com

EXPLORING MICHIGAN'S UPPER PENINSULA

If you're looking for an unforgettable June getaway, Michigan's Upper Peninsula (UP) offers stunning natural beauty, crystal-clear lakes, charming small towns, and countless opportunities for relaxation and exploration.

One of the most iconic places to visit in the UP is Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, where towering sandstone cliffs rise above the crystal-clear waters of Lake Superior, creating postcard-perfect views. The best way to experience this natural wonder is by kayaking along the shoreline or taking a boat tour, where you'll glide past colorful cliffs, hidden sea caves, and even waterfalls that plunge straight into the lake. Not far away, Tahquamenon Falls State Park invites you to witness one of the largest waterfalls east of the Mississippi, framed by thick forests and winding trails.



Victorian charm, horse-drawn carriages, and world-famous fudge. Visitors can rent a bike and take a

leisurely ride along the island's scenic coastline or explore Fort Mackinac. Spend an afternoon wandering the quaint shops and savoring the island's slower pace of life. History lovers will also appreciate Keweenaw Peninsula and Copper Harbor, where remnants of Michigan's copper mining heritage blend with rugged natural beauty.

Best time to visit? June through August for perfect weather and endless adventures. For more travel tips, visit www.uptravel.com. ✓

For a step back in time, Mackinac Island is a must-visit destination. This car-free island is known for its



Stay Cool and Hydrated This Summer

As temperatures rise, keeping your body hydrated is essential for staying healthy and energized. Here are simple tips to beat the heat:

- » *Drink Plenty of Water:* Aim for eight to 10 glasses daily. Add fresh fruit like lemon or berries for extra flavor.
- » *Snack Smart:* Foods like watermelon, cucumbers, and oranges have high water content and help keep you hydrated.
- » *Avoid Sugary Drinks:* Replace sodas and energy drinks with infused water or herbal teas to avoid dehydration.
- » *Dress for the Heat:* Choose lightweight, breathable fabrics in light colors.
- » *Take Breaks:* If you're working or playing outdoors, take regular breaks in the shade to cool down.

Follow these tips, and you can enjoy all the adventures June has to offer! ✓

BROCHURE MARKETING THAT STICKS

In a world oversaturated with digital ads, physical marketing still has an edge. Think about it: an email gets buried, an Instagram ad is scrolled past, but a well-crafted brochure sits on a desk, gets pinned to a board, or passed from hand to hand. It invites engagement. People touch it, flip through it, and—most importantly—remember it.



» **Design for Readability** – Use crisp layouts, strong visuals, and concise copy that tells your story at a glance. Remember, clutter kills engagement — simplicity and clarity win every time.

» **Add a Tactile Element** – Matte, glossy, or textured finishes not only make your brochure feel premium but also create a sensory experience that digital marketing simply can't replicate.

» **Make It Actionable** – QR codes, limited-time discounts, or exclusive content turn casual readers into active customers. Give them a reason to keep your brochure — and act on it.

With expert design and high-quality printing, we'll ensure your brochures grab attention and deliver results. Let's work together to bring your vision to life. Contact us today to get started! ✓

So, how do you make sure your brochure isn't just seen, but saved?

» **Start with a Bold Headline** – Grab attention in seconds with a clear, compelling message that speaks directly to your audience's needs or their curiosity.



TRIVIA

1. What is the world's largest freshwater lake by surface area?
2. Which U.S. state produces the most apples?
3. What is the longest-running Broadway show of all time?
4. What is the national flower of the United States?

1) Lake Superior 2) Washington 3) The Phantom of the Opera 4) The rose

Gutenberg's Army©



TOP Ten Foods in Season in June

1. Strawberries
2. Cherries
3. Blueberries
4. Peaches
5. Zucchini
6. Cucumbers
7. Radishes
8. Kale
9. Green Beans
10. Sweet Corn



CAN YOU GUESS THE YEAR?

- » Santana's *Supernatural* won Album of the Year at the Grammy Awards.
- » Bill Gates steps down as Microsoft's CEO, with Steve Ballmer taking over.
- » Michael Jordan makes a comeback, joining the Washington Wizards as part owner and president of basketball operations.
- » The U.S. presidential election between Al Gore and George W. Bush is too close to call, leading to a historic Supreme Court ruling.



- » The first crew reaches the International Space Station (ISS), marking a new era of space exploration.
- » Bill Belichick was hired by the Patriots after resigning from the Jets, for whom he served as head coach for only one day.

The year was 2000.



THE CROSS-FOLD BROCHURE

The cross-fold brochure is a unique marketing tool that encourages engagement through an interactive two-step unfolding process, making readers more likely to spend time engaging with your content. The center panel draws immediate attention, making it the perfect place for a bold call to action. Additionally, cross folds are versatile—they can function as self-mailers, eliminating the need for envelopes, or include tip-on inserts for interactive promotions. ✓

May Birthdays

Logan Bailey – 05/03
Grayson Goodman – 05/08
Cheryl Fuller – 05/12

Dylane Fouste – 05/27
Robert Johnson – 05/29

May Anniversaries

Nick Stephens – 3 years
Luke Luesing – 3 years

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*Please note that anniversaries are recognized beginning at 3 years, followed by 5 years and then onward in increments of 5.

SUN SOLUTIONS IS PROUD TO BE A

