



2025 HEARTLAND WHISKEY COMPETITION

Heartland Whiskey Competition sanctioned by American Craft Spirits Association

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

2025 Whiskey Competition

July 15, 2025

West Fork Whiskey Co. 10 E 191st St Suite A, Westfield, IN 46074

Main Contact: Alex Schmitt

Registration Deadline: **Monday, June 30, 2025**

Receiving Deadline: **Monday, July 7, 2025**

Products may be shipped starting June 1st, 2025.

Welcome,

We're delighted you are considering submitting your spirits for the **fifth biennial Heartland Whiskey Competition.**

Corn growers in 21 states are once again delighted to celebrate the importance of this crop to the production of spirits in the heartland states and beyond. Further, it specifically honors the role corn plays in the craft spirits industry as it relates to the production of fine craft whiskey.

You know that, too, and now is your time to SHINE.

Participating States

Although any producer of craft whiskey can participate regardless of home state, the following states as active participants will have a “Best of State” presented at the awards assembly:

California, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, Wisconsin.

Whiskey categories that will be evaluated include:

- Straight Whiskey
- Bourbon Whiskey
- Corn Whiskey
- Blended Whiskey
- Four Grain Whiskey (Corn Plus 3)
- Bottled-in-Bond Whiskey
- Rye Whiskey (Corn Mash)
- RTDs (“Whiskey Base” Ready to Drink-MUST include CORN)
- Light Whiskey

Your Spirits will be blind tasted and evaluated by a panel of distinguished professionals

The judging panels are a spirited mix of highly-regarded professionals within the spirits industry. No judge with a vested interest in any specific category of spirit will judge.

Medalists will be announced by the fall, 2025.

COMPLIANCE GUIDELINES

- ALL products must have a valid COLA from TTB. We reserve the right to request a copy of your COLA should there be a question as to an individual submission. Each spirit must have received formal approval for the “fanciful name” with a corresponding COLA by the date of judging or that spirit will be ineligible for evaluation.
- You must identify whether your spirit is *Third Party* (made using a base spirit distilled off-site) or *Made from Scratch* (distilled on premise). You may classify a spirit as *other* or with some specific identifier. If your product is a blend of *Third Party* distillate and *Made from Scratch* distillate, please classify this as *other* and note the blend. The Judging Board reserves the right to re-classify a submitted spirit based on its professional judgment.

PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS

ENTRY FEE:

ACSA Members: \$135 per spirit (\$175 normally)

Non-Members: \$155 per spirit (\$195 normally)

Payment can be made by credit or debit card at time of registration of spirits.

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS

Please send two 750 ml bottles (or the equivalent) of each spirit entered along with a copy of your order attached to each bottle.

SPIRIT SHIPMENTS MUST BE ADDRESSED AS FOLLOWS:

West Fork Whiskey Co.
10 E 191st St Suite A, Westfield, IN 46074
Main Contact: Alex Schmitt

SHIPMENTS MUST BE MARKED: "SAMPLES FOR LAB USE ONLY"

Please use a rubber band to attach a copy of your confirmation to each of the bottles entered. This will ensure that we inventory your entry accurately. Please **DO NOT** use Styrofoam peanuts for packing your spirits.

Use Fed Ex or UPS for shipping. **DO NOT USE the U.S. POSTAL SERVICE.**

DISCLAIMER

All products submitted will be considered property of the Heartland Whiskey Competition. The Judging Board retains the right not to award a medal, if, in its professional consensus, no medal is deserved in a specific category. Neither the Heartland Whiskey Competition, ACSA, or West Fork Whiskey will accept responsibility for entries damaged or lost in shipment.

QUESTIONS?

For questions, email: stephanie@americancraftspirits.org

Stephanie Sadri - (720) 312-0350

Margie A.S. Lehrman - (202) 669-3661