

Guidelines for Best Tasting Drinking Water Contest – Streamlined Version **(Can be used by regions to send to potential utility contestants)**

The following guidelines shall govern each Regional Best Tasting Drinking Water Contest. Each region shall submit one entry (the winner of their regional contest) to the state contest. The Regional Chair is responsible for submitting the winner's contact information to the state contest coordinator.

1. All Regions shall advertise this event as the "Best Tasting Drinking Water Contest".
2. Each Region shall invite all public or private utilities that operate water production facilities located within the geographical area of their region to participate as entrants.
3. Each entrant shall submit a maximum of one independent system sample. Entrants that operate more than one water production facility are limited to a single sample, and must select their best sample in a particular year from all of their facilities.
4. Samples shall be collected only from the distribution system and no more than 24 hours prior to the test. Each sample should clearly identify the name of the utility.
5. Each entrant shall submit a minimum of one (1) gallon of the sample in either glass or PETE (polyethylene terephthalate) plastic bottles. Additional gallons may be requested if needed.
6. Samples shall be tasted at room temperature, to allow for any tastes or odors that are present to be detected more easily. All samples shall be maintained at the same uniform temperature.
7. By submitting a sample, each entrant affirms that there are no state or federal drinking water violations (MCL, monitoring, recordkeeping, etc.) for the current and prior calendar year.
8. The Contest shall be conducted using blind samples only - samples shall not be ranked by utility, nor will scores be released.
9. One entrant shall be named "Winner," one "Runner Up" (if appropriate), and all other entrants shall be named "Honorable Mention".
10. All entrants shall receive a plaque or trophy in lieu of certificates, including Honorable Mentions.
11. An effort shall be made to include media representatives as judges to ensure media coverage. An effort shall be made to provide equal representation across service areas when selecting judges.
12. The specifics and execution of the event may vary per region.