

TOPS MARKETS & TASTE OF BUFFALO POSTER ART CONTEST

2026 OFFICIAL RULES

Sponsor(s): Tops Markets, LLC and Taste of Buffalo (“Sponsor”) are the official sponsors of the “Poster Art” Contest (“Contest”).

Eligibility: You must be at least 13 years of age and reside in one of the eight WNY counties to enter or win. Taste of Buffalo Board of Directors, employees of Tops Markets, and their immediate family members, their agencies and assigns are not eligible to enter or win. Only one (1) entry per person permitted. Multiple entries will be disqualified. Participants are eligible to win only once every two years.

Contest Begins: Contest begins at 12:00:00 a.m. on Sunday, February 15, 2026 Eastern Standard Time (EST) and ends at 11:59:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) on Friday, March 27, 2026. The Sponsor’s computer is the official timekeeping device for this contest.

TWO AGE CATEGORIES: Prizes will be awarded in two age groups: 13-17 years of age; 18+ years of age

HOW TO ENTER: Create original artwork for a poster that best conveys the essence of the Taste of Buffalo summer food festival. All entries must contain the required elements and comply with the design specifications listed in these rules.

Required Elements: Artwork must include a fork and at least one image of food.

Design: All submissions must be original and the exclusive work of the person entering the contest in idea, design, and execution. Submissions cannot be created by or with the assistance of artificial intelligence (AI) programs. Designs must not incorporate vulgar, violent or offensive content, or any copyrighted characters (e.g., comic and/or television characters, professional sports team), photographs, or magazine or newspaper illustrations. Any entry that does so will be disqualified and will not be considered for judging. No typography or copy should be included within the artwork.

Specifications: Entries may be created in any medium. Minimum size: 8" x 10". Maximum size: 18" x 24". An electronic entry must be scanned at its original size and saved as a high-resolution jpg (300 dpi) (maximum file size: 10mb) for submission. Winner of an electronic entry will be required to submit a high-resolution pdf to Taste of Buffalo for reproduction.

THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY:

1. ELECTRONICALLY: Visit www.TopsMarkets.com/TasteOfBuffalo and follow the instructions to upload and submit your entry. **Include your name, your age, address, phone number, and email.** Entries submitted by minor must include the name and phone number of a parent or legal guardian. **Deadline to submit entry electronically:** Friday, March 27, 2026, 11:59:59 p.m. EDT.

2. BY MAIL: Tops/Taste of Buffalo Poster Art Contest, Tops Markets, LLC, Attn: Community Relations Department, PO Box 1027, Buffalo, NY 14240. **Include your name, your age, address, phone number and, email on the back of the entry.** Entries submitted by minor must include the name and phone number of a parent or legal guardian. **Deadline to submit entry by mail: Entry** must be postmarked no later than Friday, March 27, 2026 and received by Tuesday, March 31, 2026.

Judging/Winner Selection: On or about Tuesday, March 31, 2026, all entries received will be reviewed by a panel of four (4) judges. Entries will be judged and selected based upon the interpretation of the required elements, originality, and visual impact. One (1) submission will be judged the First Prize winner in the 13 -17 year age category and one (1) submission will be judged the First Prize winner in the 18+ year age category. Of the two (2) winners selected, one (1) submission will be selected to be awarded the Grand Prize. Winners will be notified by phone and/or email.

Prizes:

First Prizes: One (1) First Prize will be awarded in the 13 - 17 year age category and one (1) First Prize will be awarded in the 18+ year age category. First prize: \$500 cash (ARV. \$500) (ARV. of all first prizes is \$1000)

Grand Prize: One (1) Grand Prize will be awarded to one of the two First Prize winners. **Grand Prize:** The winner's artwork will be used in the creation of the Official 2026 Taste of Buffalo poster and some elements of the artwork may be used in/on other 2026 Taste of Buffalo marketing materials. Grand Prize \$500 cash. No other compensation of any kind will be provided. (ARV. \$500)

Winner Announcement: On or about Thursday, April 2, 2026

Conditions: All entries become the property of Taste of Buffalo and Tops Markets. Taste of Buffalo and Tops Markets assume no responsibility for late, lost, illegible, damaged, incorrect, postage due, incomplete or misdirected mail and/or email. By entering this contest, winners agree to the use of their name and likeness and artwork for advertising/publicity purposes without additional compensation where permitted by law. Entries will not be returned. Taste of Buffalo reserves the right to re-crop, revise or alter artwork as needed to accommodate various communication vehicles. Winner will be required to submit a high-resolution pdf of the winning entry to Taste of Buffalo, Inc. for reproduction.

Release and Taxes. By participating in the Contest, participants agree to release, discharge, and hold harmless the Contest entities from any and all injuries, liability, losses, and damages of any kind resulting from participation in the Contest or acceptance, use, or misuse of any prize including, without limitation, personal injury, death, and property damage. Each potential winner will be required to execute and return an Affidavit of Eligibility, which includes a Liability Release and a Publicity Release (except where prohibited) Winners must be verified and will be required to return the Affidavit of Eligibility within the allotted time period prior to being determined the winner. In the event the paperwork is not returned within the allotted time period, or the winner is not able to be verified, an alternate winner will be selected. All federal, state, local, or other tax liabilities, including but not limited to income taxes or like amounts in connection with a winner's award, acceptance, or use of a prize arising from this Contest will be the sole responsibility of each winner. Grand Prize winner will be issued an IRS form 1099 for the value of their prize.