



National CANNABIS CHAMPIONSHIP

**Rules and Entry
Guidelines**



www.nationalcannabisfestival.com



Dear Cannabis Lovers,

Start your grows, The **National Cannabis Championship** is back! Thank you to all the growers and all who made the last two years of NCC a big success.

We're excited to launch the third annual National Cannabis Championship (NCC) and finally allow Maryland home growers to compete! This year NCC will again have separate cultivation titles for home grown cannabis flowers in the District of Columbia, Virginia, and Maryland as well as an **Overall Champion** and two **Lab Analysis Titles**.

With federal and state policies policy shifting we hope to be able to expand competition categories to include edibles, concentrates, and topicals as well as inviting all states' access to compete, but as you may understand, due to current state & local laws, we can only accept home grown flower entries from Virginia, Washington DC, and now Maryland!

For the safety of consumers and to promote best growing practices, all contestants are required to adhere to the **Official Rules & Guidelines** some of which include:

- ★ Avoiding all pesticides and plant growth regulators that are prohibited from competition
- ★ Passing analysis by our Testing Partners before being advancing to the Judges for tasting and experience analysis
- ★ Providing three pictures of their entry during various stages of growth
- ★ Verifying identification, age (21+), and residency

Through the Championship's **testing process, judging, and awards ceremony**, we hope to accomplish three goals:

- ★ **Celebrate** east coast cannabis cultivators
- ★ **Educate** the community about cannabis consumer safety and best growing practices
- ★ **Prepare** cannabis enthusiasts and patients with information to advocate for legal home grow in states that still carry restrictions

We're also excited to share information with residents in states that continue to restrict the right to grow (we're looking at you West Virginia, and Pennsylvania!) so they can **advocate for better policies**.

Keep reading for everything you need to know about being part of the National Cannabis Championship.

Sincerely,

Caroline Phillips, Kathryn Rust
& the NCF Team

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WHEN & WHERE

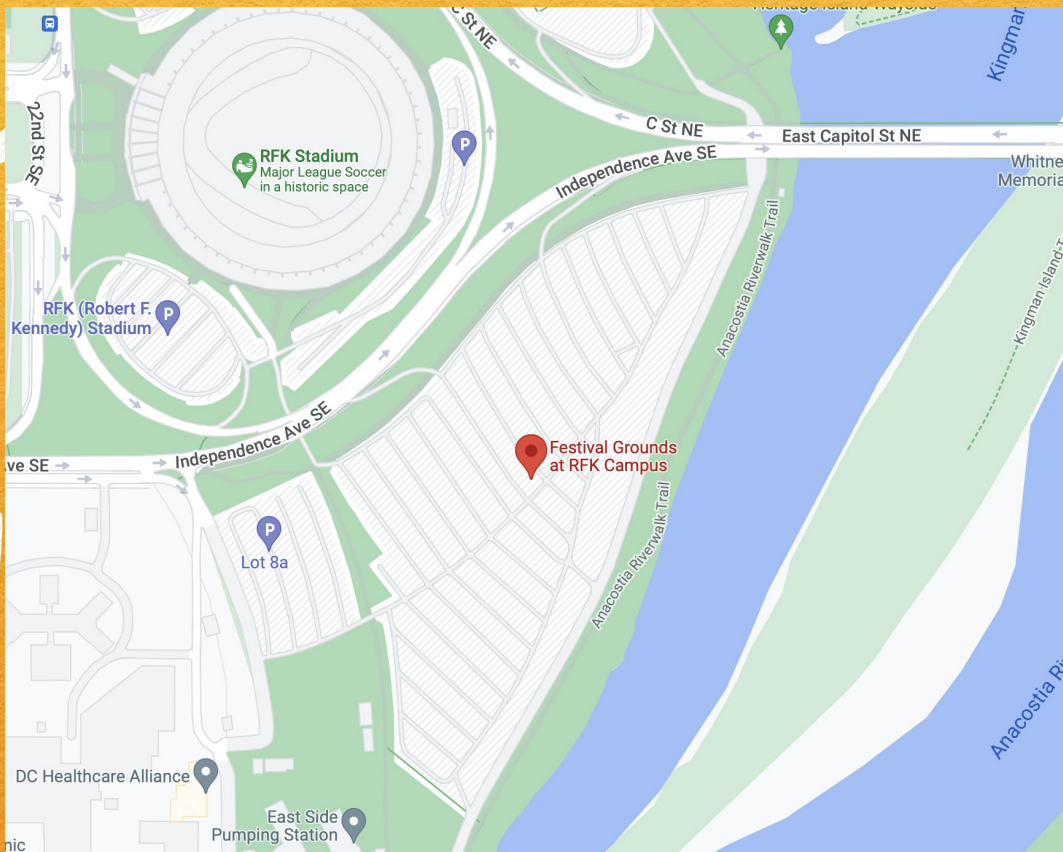
Awards Presentation:

Live Friday, day 1 of the [National Cannabis Festival](#)

April 19th, 2024

Location:

[The Festival Grounds at RFK Campus, lot 8](#)



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WHO CAN COMPETE?

NCC is open to homegrown **cannabis entries from Washington, D.C., Virginia, and Maryland.**

Some day, we hope to welcome submissions from our neighbors in Pennsylvania, West Virginia and across the United States, but due to restrictive state laws, we are unable to welcome them into the contest at this time.

If you live in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, or another state that restricts homegrowing, and you'd like to see that change, please [contact your state representatives](#) and let them know that it's time for "The Right to Grow".

- ★ For specific information on Maryland's home cultivation laws please see: [Maryland](#)
- ★ For specific information on Virginia's home cultivation laws please see: [Virginia](#)
- ★ For specific information on Washington, D.C.'s home cultivation laws please see: [DC](#)
- ★ To find your current State's home grow laws, click [here](#).





HOW TO ENTER, FEES, & DEADLINES

HOW TO ENTER & PAY:

1. Read all **Official Rules & Guidelines**.
2. As soon as possible, secure your entry spot by completing the **NCC ENTRY FORM**.
3. A Championship Coordinator will review your registration and once accepted, you will be sent final instructions including payment and how to setup your **PRODUCT ENTRY APPOINTMENT**.

Visit the FAQ page for more information about **NCC ENTRY APPOINTMENTS**.

Please note: Each individual entry requires a separate registration & fee.

ENTRY FEE:

The entry fee for the National Cannabis Championship (\$200.00) includes your ticket to attend the National Cannabis Festival.

The entry fee covers some of the costs listed below:

- ★ Value \$150 - Pre-sale 2-Day Early Entry General Admission Pass for NCF
- ★ \$50 - Administrative support and judging expenses
- ★ \$150- Analytic testing by one of our Official Lab Partner, TBA
- ★ Value \$25 - NCC Growers Gathering Party



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HOW TO ENTER, FEES, & DEADLINES

ENTRY SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

To allow for adequate testing and judging time, all submission entries must be **received** by NCC before **Saturday March 2nd, 2024**

at 5pm. Please note, PRODUCT ENTRY APPOINTMENTS will be limited and scheduled on a first come first serve basis.

Deadline: All submissions must be **received** by NCC before **Saturday March 2nd, 2024 at 5pm**

Please visit the FAQ page for answers to your questions and for more information about the submission entry deadline.



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AWARDS

Great homegrown cannabis can be cultivated anywhere by the highly skilled. With current laws, this year's competition will only be open to MD, VA, & DC home cultivated cannabis. All entries will compete in competition scored by judges for the **Overall Champion**, as well as the two lab analysis based competitions for the **Cannabinoid Title** and **Terpene Title**. Please continue in the document for details about each of these competitions.

Overall Champion Competition Awards

State Round

- ★ Top 3 competitors from the State Round advance to the Finals and receive prizes from our partners

Finals Round

- ★ **1st Place** (\$500 & Overall 2024 National Cannabis Championship Belt)
- ★ 2nd Place (\$250)
- ★ 3rd Place (\$150)

Lab Analysis based Competition Awards

- ★ **Cannabinoid Title** (\$250 & 2024 National Cannabis Championship Cannabinoid Title Belt)
- ★ The **Terpene Title** (\$250 & 2024 National Cannabis Championship Cannabinoid Title Belt)



GRAND CHAMPION

COMPETITION

First Round: Testing & Analysis

The first round involves three steps:

1. Visual inspection for mold, mildews or foreign residues
2. Olfactory test
3. Cannabinoid profile testing and pass/fail safety analysis

Top qualifying entries selected by NCC Staff advance to a comprehensive pass/fail safety analysis by our third party testing partner before being passed on to our State judges for blind tasting and experience analysis.

Semi-Finals Round: Best in State Competition Round

The Semi-Finals Round is a blind judging round in the State where the flower (or starting material) was cultivated (DC, MD, or VA). The top three competitors from each State competition advance to the Finals Round.

Judging Criteria & Points

- ★ Unique Name - 5 pts
- ★ Unique Genetics - 5 pts
- ★ Unique Cannabinoid Profile - 15 pts
- ★ Unique Terpene Profile - 15 pts
- ★ Overall Appearance - 10 pts
- ★ Aroma - 10 pts
- ★ Flavor - 10 pts
- ★ Experience - 30 pts

Finals Round: Local and Celebrity Judges

This is the Championship Round! Submissions are blindly judged and ranked by our expert and celebrity judging panel.

Judging Criteria & Points

- ★ Unique Name - 5 pts
- ★ Unique Genetics - 5 pts
- ★ Unique Cannabinoid Profile - 15 pts
- ★ Unique Terpene Profile - 15 pts
- ★ Overall Appearance - 10 pts
- ★ Aroma - 10 pts
- ★ Flavor - 10 pts
- ★ Experience - 30 pts

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TERPENES CHAMPION & CANNABINOID CHAMPION

COMPETITIONS

The **Cannabinoid Title** will be awarded to the competitor whose entry is determined to have the highest percentage of 14 cannabinoids by HPLC-UV/Vis, by our Official Lab Partner.

- ★ These cannabinoids include; THC, THCA, CBD, and CBDA, CBC, CBCA, CBD, CBDA, CBDV, CBDVA, CBG, CBGA, CBN, Δ 8-THC, Δ 9-THC, THCA, THCV, THCVA

The **Terpene Title** will be awarded to the competitor whose entry is determined to have the highest percentage of 23 terpenes commonly found in cannabis by headspace-GC/MS by our Official Lab Partner.

- ★ These terpenes include; α -Pinene, Camphene, β -Myrcene, β -Pinene, 3-Carene, α -Terpinene, δ -Limonene, Eucalyptol, γ -Terpinene, Terpinolene, Linalool, Fenchone, Isopulegol, Borneol, Terpeneol, Geraniol, β -Caryophyllene, α -Humulene, Valencene, cis-Nerolidol, trans-Nerolidol, Guaiol, α -Bisabolol



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Read below for full details on preparing your entry for submission and other requirements for each category.

Please Note: Failure to adhere to ALL Requirements may result in being disqualified from competition. Additionally, NCF and NCC want to foster a positive community environment. Please be respectful towards our staff. Unprofessional or harmful behavior will result in immediate disqualification.

ALL ENTRIES

After you fill out the NCC ENTRY FORM, a Championship Coordinator will be in touch to give final entry instructions including how pay for your submission. NCC will review your entry submission and once approved, send you instructions on how schedule your PRODUCT ENTRY APPOINTMENT.

ATTESTATION, & RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS:

- ★ All contestants must fill out and complete all sections NCC ENTRY FORM, by doing so you are attesting that you have read, understand, and will abide by the National Cannabis Championship Official Rules & Entry Guidelines during the entire competition.
- ★ All contestants must provide a valid, non-expired, government issued photo ID that shows they are at least 21 years of age and either a Virginia, Maryland, or Washington, D.C. at the time of submitting NCC ENTRY FORM & again at their PRODUCT ENTRY APPOINTMENT.

CULTIVATION VERIFICATION

- ★ **All THC Entries must provide 3 pictures of their entry** at the time of their PRODUCT ENTRY APPOINTMENT. These pictures must taken during the specific times of the flowering phase stage of their product listed here:
 - ☆ One picture at the beginning stage of flowering.
 - ☆ One picture in the middle stage of flowering.
 - ☆ One picture at time of harvest.



SAMPLE ENTRY PREPARATION

After you fill out the NCC ENTRY FORM and have been accepted to compete, a Championship Coordinator will be in touch to schedule your PRODUCT ENTRY APPOINTMENT. **Entry Samples will ONLY be accepted during a PRODUCT ENTRY APPOINTMENT.**

Sample Entry Packaging Instructions

- ★ Your total sample entry must weigh 28 grams and be in an airtight container when dropped off at your PRODUCT ENTRY APPOINTMENT. Please note, you will not get your storage container or any of your sample entry back.
- ★ During your PRODUCT ENTRY APPOINTMENT, NCC staff will assist you in removing approximately 4 grams for testing by our testing partners and a beautiful large bud (approximately 2 grams) for display (only finalist's samples will be on display). NCC will provide these smaller storage containers for your samples.
- ★ The remaining flower will be divided and packaged for judging by NCC staff at a later time..





TESTING REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS FOR DISQUALIFICATION

To emphasize safety and transparency, NCC is testing all entries who qualify with our Official Lab Partner.

Please Note: If your submission does not pass the testing & analysis requirements your sample will be disqualified. If this occurs, a Championship Coordinator will be contacting you privately to share results and answer questions.

Moisture Content/Water Activity

To promote safe and best cultivation practices all submissions will need to attest that their submission was cultivated, dried, and handled in a clean environment to the best of their ability. To ensure this, NCC may have the percent moisture or internal relative humidity determined by our Official Lab Partner.

Pesticide & Heavy Metals Analysis

To promote safe and best cultivation practices all submissions will need to attest that none of the products listed have been used during the cultivation and/or production of the product entered.

Submissions may be tested for these products and if so, must pass the Pesticide & Heavy Metals safety standards set by our Official Lab Partner. Failure to pass these safety standards will result in disqualification. These products can be dangerous to consume and NCC requests cultivators who use any products with these ingredients in their garden to not enter this competition.

The following page is a list of examples of Pesticides, Plant Growth Regulators (PGRs), and Heavy Metals that can not be used or found in any submitted products.



DISQUALIFYING PRODUCTS & SUBSTANCES

PESTICIDES & PGRS

Abamectin	Chlofentezine	Piperonyl Butoxide	Imazalil
Acephate	Chlorfenapyr	Prallethrin	Imidacloprid
Acequinocyl	DDVP	Propiconazole	Kresoxim-methyl
Acetamiprid	Diazinon	Propoxur	Malathion
Aldicarb	Dimethoate	Pyridaben	Metalaxyl
Azoxystrobin	Dimethomorph 1	Spinetoram	Methiocarb
Bifenazate	Dimethomorph 2	Spinosad (A)	Methomyl
Bifenthrin	Ethoprophos	Spinosad (D)	Mgk-264 Isomer 1
Boscalid	Etofenprox	Spiromesifen	Mgk-264 Isomer 2
Carbaryl	Etoxazole	Spirotetramat	Myclobutanil
Carbofuran	Fenhexamid	Spiroxamine	Oxamyl
Chlorantraniliprole	Fenoxycarb	Tebuconazole	Paclobutrazol
Chlorfenapyr	Fenpyroximate	Thiacloprid	Permethrin, cis
Cyfluthrin	Fipronil	Thiamethoxam	Permethrin, trans
Cypermethrin	Fonicamid	Trifloxystrobin	Phosmet
Chlorpyrifos	Fludioxonil	Hexythiazox	

HEAVY METALS

Arsenic (Ar)	Cadmium (Cd)	Mercury (Hg)	Lead (Pb)
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Other Reasons for Disqualification

We want NCC to be a fair experience for all of the applicants. For that reason, we must adhere to event rules and guidelines equally. See below for a list of infractions that may result in disqualification:

- ★ Improper packaging or labeling
- ★ Suspicious/unsafe activity
- ★ Incorrect sample weight or number of submission samples