

THE BEST TASTING WATER IN TENNESSEE



Do you think your water utility produces the best tasting water in the state or the country??

If so, and if your utility produces its own water, and is a member of TAUD you will want to enter TAUD's "Best Tasting Water in Tennessee" contest.

Each TAUD Region will be conducting a contest to determine the "Best Tasting Water in the Region".

Winners in each Region will be entered in the Statewide contest to determine "The Best Tasting Water in Tennessee" This contest will be conducted at The TAUD Business Conference in Gatlinburg. Region Leaders of each Region will provide the Judges for this contest. The winning water will be entered into the National contest "The Great American Water Taste Test" that will be held in Washington D.C. as part of The NRWA Rural Water Rally.

TAUD will fly the winning water and a representative from the winning utility to Washington for the contest. TAUD will cover the cost of the flight, hotel and meals for the representative.



Guidelines/Rules

Region leaders or their representative will assign a number to each sample when received; no system name should be on the sample. Only the entrant and the region leader will know this number.

The following information should be submitted to the Region leader with the sample: name of utility submitting, date of collection, time of collection and the name of the certified operator collecting the sample.

- All samples shall be representative of the utility's distribution system.
- Samples shall be collected within 48 hours of the contest in which they are to be entered.
- Operators shall collect the sample in properly cleaned container; from a customer's tap that is free from any point of use devices such as a filters or water softeners, etc.
- When sampling from the tap, remove any screens, aerators or treatment devices and minimize turbulence. Flush the tap for at least 5 minutes. Reduce the flow rate during sampling. Rinse the bottle with the sample, and then fill it to the top, with no headspace.
- Only one sample per Utility will be allowed.
- Utility must be a member of TAUD.
- Samples should be chilled by transporting the sample to the contest on ice.

Samples shall be collected by a state "Certified Operator". The operator collecting the sample is certifying that by entering the contest that the water was taken from a "representative tap" located in the system and has received no further treatment before and after collection, and that the operator has sole possession of the sample from the time it was taken until delivered to the Region Leader. The amount of the sample will be not less than one half gallon or more than a gallon. It should be kept cool and be no more than 24 to 48 hours old.

Sample must be delivered to the Region meeting at least 15 minutes before judging is to commence. Utilities that wish to enter the contest should email or contact the Region leaders at least one week in advance of the meeting.

What it is delivered in is based on personal preference. You may wish to use glass containers so as to not get any other "flavor" (plastic, etc) in the water. However, with so many of today's modern plastics being completely "taste-proof", most water delivered in some plastic containers taste just great.

Scoring system of 1 through 10 (1 being bad, 10 being great). Three categories for the judging (see attached judges score sheet) Taste, Clarity, Bouquet (taste, clearness, no floaties, no cloudiness, etc., and smell). Maximum score for any entry is 30 points, lowest score can be 3. Then we average the three scores for a composite score. Example...Taste 7, Clarity 5, Bouquet 8, total score 20 for one judge. Say the two other judges gave it a total score of 26 and 18 respectively, gives you a total of 64 for all 3 judges.

