



OVERVIEW

The Bartender of the Year Competition presented by the Alabama Restaurant & Hospitality Association and Old Forester will begin with four regional competitions. Contests are open to all professional bartenders throughout the state. Contestants who finish in first place are recognized as that region/city Bartender of the Year, and are entered to compete for the title of State Bartender of the Year. Regional competitions will be held in Huntsville, Birmingham, Auburn and Mobile in October. Regional winners will compete during the reception for the Stars of the Industry Awards Dinner. The reception and dinner will be hosted at the Grand Bohemian Hotel Mountain Brook on Monday, November 8, 2021.

- The sponsor will supply the Old Forester for the competition. The host venue will supply standard mixers and garnishes needed for the cocktails. Contestants are welcome to bring their own mixers and garnishes as well. Contestants can bring other liquors, but Old Forester needs to be the main spirit. The host venue will also supply “rocks” glasses and cocktail glasses but contestants may bring their own glasses if they prefer.
- Contestants will have adequate space in order for them to construct their cocktails. Depending on the venue, this could be either one or two “wells” in a standard bar set up, one or two portable bars as used by many hotels, or standard rectangular draped tables.
- All competing bartenders should be present at the host venue **one hour** prior to the start of the contest.
- Competition order will be determined and representatives will review contest rules and regulations with the contestants.
- Contestants will have 5 minutes to set up the bar. Each bartender will have 5 minutes to prepare their drink.
- **The submitted drink must contain at least 1.5 ounces of Old Forester.**
- A clock will be visible to the bartenders and the judges.
- While each bartender prepares their drink, it is required that the contestants describe the drink and its ingredients to the judges, including any reasoning behind the combinations they have chosen. Use of a jigger is optional.
- A contestant can remake a drink as long as it is within the time limit. The bartender should complete their drink within the time limit, or they will be penalized.
- Three judges will score each participant. Judging criteria will be based on creativity and uniqueness of cocktail, technique, appearance, taste, and presentation. **Each contestant will have a 5-minute time limit with points being deducted for every minute over time.**
- Contestants can sign up on the ARHA website at www.arhaonline.com

FOR QUESTIONS call 334-233-4519 or email sperkins@arhaonline.com