



2017

MGA BEST BAGGER

COMPETITION



The proper bagging of groceries is an important part of the operation of a successful retail grocery business. The Missouri Grocers Association endeavors to help grocers recognize this important aspect of customer service by conducting an annual state "Best Bagger" Contest.

Since states are limited to one contestant in the NGA contest, many retailers develop and conduct their own contests to select their representative for the state contest. This year, the contestants will be using both reusable and plastic bags during the competition. This manual will provide you with the necessary information for you to conduct your own contest. Any questions regarding this contest should be directed to Jenna Gaddie at the MGA office.

There are several advantages to holding a competition yourself:

- Ensures that the most qualified individual is selected to represent your company
- Increases employee motivation and builds a "team spirit" for a competition
- Highlights customer service by showing customers the importance placed on the proper bagging of their groceries.
- Provides recognition for good employees
- MGA will issue a press release to your local newspaper to announce the winner from your store

MGA's Best Bagger Rules:

1. Contestant must spend more than 25% of their time at work bagging groceries to be eligible to compete
2. Contestant can only represent Missouri Grocers Association one time at the National Grocers Association competition
3. There are no age restrictions for the best bagger competition

First Place

Trophy, a \$500 cash award, and a \$250 award sponsored by the National Grocers Association. MGA will provide hotel, airfare and registration to the National Grocers Association Convention for the bagger representing MGA at the National Competition to be held February 11-14, 2018 at The Mirage Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

*Special Note: NGA will award the prize money of \$250 to the bagger at the National Championship. First place winner is responsible for meals & incidentals while in Las Vegas.

Second Place

Trophy and a \$200 cash award.

All Other Contestants

\$50 participation award.

Friday, July 21st

Tan-Tar-A Resort • Osage Beach, Missouri • Preliminary & Finals • 7:00 pm

TIPS AND TRICKS FOR RUNNING YOUR OWN BAGGING CONTEST

Organizing a bagging contest is a fun and rewarding project that emphasizes the value of customer service and can highlight some of your best employees. Take a look at the tips below, to will help you begin planning your contest. If you need more specific information, feel free to call the MGA office at 417-831-6667 and ask for Jenna Gaddie.

Contestants will be judged on the following criteria:

- Speed
- Proper bag building techniques
- Distribution of weight between bags
- Style, attitude and appearance

Contest Personnel

- **MC** - Someone who is comfortable speaking in front of a group. This person will need to explain the purpose of the contest, go over the judging criteria, introduce the contestants, give a running commentary during the contest, interview each contestant after each heat and also provide some type of entertainment between the heats
- **Judges** - The most important traits of a judge are impartiality, fairness, and consistency. All judges should be furnished and trained with the judging criteria rules prior to the competition so that they are prepared to work as quickly as possible between each heat. It is imperative to gather your judges in advance and reach a consensus on how to score consistently
- **Timers** - You will need one timer for each contestant in a heat. The timers will be required to arrange the groceries on the check stands as well as time each heat
- **Judging Assistant** - You will need at least two assistants to assist the judges with weighing the groceries, calculating the scores and clearing the judging area for the next heat
- Get your sponsors involved by providing cheerleaders!

Contest Area

- Staging can be simple or sophisticated, but must be the same for all contestants.
- Tables/check stands for each contestant in a heat
- Microphone and PA system for MC
- Signs acknowledging sponsors
- Racks to hold bags

Judging Area should be close to, but set aside from the bagging stations

Supplies

- Timer sheets with name, check stand # for each heat so timers have the sheet available to write down time
- Electronic scale for weighing groceries (have a backup scale)
- Calculator for tabulating scores
- Stop watches for each timer (have one on backup)
- Judging sheets and clipboards
- Complete set of groceries
- Ample supply of bags

Instructions for Timers

- Check stop watches
- Arrange all groceries on the check stands according to the same schematic for all contestants
- Time baggers. Begin when MC says "GO" and stop when the contestant raises his/her hands
- Write down time and do not touch the bags until the judges are done and they have been weighed
- Help the judging assistant set up groceries for the next heat after the bags have been weighed

GROCERY LIST AND LAYOUT

Each contestant will bag identical grocery orders consisting of 30 - 34 commonly purchased items. Feel free to use this list or make up your own - just be sure that all items can fit into three bags. Contestants will be required to bag in the contests as if in an everyday store situation. **NO ADVANCE GROCERY LIST WILL AVAILABLE FOR THE 2017 MGA BEST BAGGER CONTEST OR THE 2018 NGA BEST BAGGER CHAMPIONSHIP.**

- 213 oz. glass jar of Jelly/Jam
- 116 oz. glass jar of Pickles
- 16 oz. box of Crunch'n Munch
- 117.4 oz. box of Popcorn
- 17.3 oz. box of Instant Hot Cocoa
- 111.7 oz. box of Crackers
- 120 oz. box of Cereal
- 16 oz. can of Cooking Spray
- 215 oz. cans of Chef Boyardee Beefaroni
- 26 oz. cans of Tomato Paste
- 215 oz. cans of Soup
- 228 oz. cans of Corn/Peas
- 114.5 oz. can of Chef Boyardee Spaghetti & Meatballs
- 112 oz. plastic container of Mustard
- 17 oz. can of Reddi Whip
- 1loaf of Bread
- 18 oz. bag of Pretzels
- 111.3 oz. can of Coffee
- 196 oz. mini 8 pack of Soda
- 116 oz. bag of Chips
- 1Dozen Large Eggs
- 116.3 oz. plastic bottle of Wesson Oil
- 16.41 oz. container of Pringles
- 21.62 oz. packet of seasoning
- 16 oz. bag of Sunflower Seeds
- 1Slim Jim Beef Stick
- 1single-roll of Paper Towels
- 118 oz. package of Cookies

SAMPLE GROCERY LIST

The provided grocery list and layout is a sample.
Both the grocery items and layout at the Missouri contest in July will be different.

CEREAL	EGGS	CHIPS	BEEFARONI	PRINGLES	OIL
SEASONING	REDDI WHIP	JELLY	CRUNCH N' MUNCH	CORN	MUSTARD
COFFEE	POPCORN	SOUP	PAPER TOWELS	CRACKERS	PICKLES
BREAD	PEAS	PRETZELS	COOKING SPRAY	HOT COCOA	TOMATO PASTE
BEEFARONI	BEEF STICK	TOMATO PASTE	COOKIES	JAM	SEASONING
JELL-O	SUNFLOWER SEEDS	SODA	SOUP	MEATBALLS	OATMEAL

REUSABLE BAG JUDGING CRITERIA

Speed

Contestants should bag orders significantly more quickly than the average bagger.

Time Points

0 - 49.00 seconds or less 10

49.01 - 53.00 seconds 9

53.01 - 57.00 seconds 8

57.01 - 61.00 seconds 7

61.01 - 65.00 seconds 6

65.01 - 69.00 seconds 5

69.01 - 73.00 seconds 4

73.01 - 77.00 seconds 3

77.01 - 81.00 seconds 2

More than 81.01 seconds 1

10 Points

Proper Bag Building Technique

Contestants should be able to arrange groceries correctly within a reusable bag.

Packing should involve these steps:

- (1) Placing heavy cans on the bottom of the bag.
- (2) Framing boxed items around the bag's walls to create a "cushion" for other items.
- (3) Placing crushable items, such as produce and eggs on the top.
- (4) Slipping small items, like packs of gum, in the spaces in the bag.
- (5) No glass bottles should be next to each other.
- (6) Bottles and other glass encased items should be in the center of the bag.

10 Points

Distribution of Weight Between Bags

When bagging with reusable bags, the ideal order will fill three bags. Contestants should know how to distribute groceries among sacks so that all bags in an order are approximately equal in weight. To calculate the score, weigh each bag and record the weight. Take the heaviest bag weight, minus the lightest bag weight and subtract the difference from the total possible points.

Example: The heaviest bag weighs 15.75 pounds and the lightest bag weighs 14.25 pounds. The weight difference between the two bags is 1.50 pounds. Subtract this difference from the total possible points ($5.00 - 1.50 = 3.50$). The total points to be awarded is 3.50.

5 Points

Style, Attitude and Appearance

All contestants should present a neat appearance, be polite and convey a customer-oriented attitude. Contestants will be judged in part on their composure and self-confidence.

5 Points

Best Possible Score

30 Points

PLASTIC BAG JUDGING CRITERIA

Speed

10 Points

Contestants should bag orders significantly more quickly than the average bagger.

Time Points

35 seconds or less 10

35.1-39 seconds 9

39.1-43 seconds 8

43.1-47 seconds 7

47.1-51 seconds 6

51.1-55 seconds 5

55.1-59 seconds 4

59.1-63 seconds 3

63.1-67 seconds 2

More than 67 seconds 1

Proper Bag Building Technique

10 Points

Contestants should be able to arrange groceries correctly within a plastic sack. Packing should involve these steps:

(1) Build the walls first by placing non-crushable items on the sides of the bags. Use items other than crushables or 2 liter bottles.

Once sides are built, they should remain in place.

(2) Fill out the area inside the "walls" to create a tight foundation. Use any non-crushable item for this task by placing the item on the bottom of the bag and between the sides. Be sure to fill out the bag until tight, since this will keep the bag upright.

(3) Top off the bag by sliding small items into the available spaces within the walls of the bag and placing light, noncrushables on top of the bag, being careful not to block the handles. Never try to place something between one of the walls and the bag.

(4) Bag should stand on its own when full, without falling over.

(5) Place all crushable items in a single bag.

(Two points will automatically be deducted from a bagger's "Bag Building Technique" score if more than three bags are used.)

Distribution of Weight Between Bags

5 Points

When bagging with plastic, the ideal order will fill three bags. Contestants should know how to distribute groceries among sacks so that the order contains one crushable bag and two non-crushable bags approximately equal in weight. The weight score will be determined by subtracting the weights of the two non-crushable bags.

Example: Do not weigh the crushable bag. The heaviest non-crushable bag weighs 15.75 pounds and the lightest non-crushable bag weighs 14.25 pounds. The weight difference between the two bags is 1.50 pounds. Subtract this difference from the total possible points ($5.00 - 1.50 = 3.50$). The total points to be awarded is 3.50.

Style, Attitude and Appearance

5 Points

All contestants should present a neat appearance, be polite and convey a customer-oriented attitude. Contestants will be judged in part on their composure and self-confidence.

Best Possible Score

30 Points



2017 BEST BAGGER CONTEST INFORMATION FORM

**Missouri Grocers Association Showcase
Tan-Tar-A Resort • Osage Beach, Missouri • 7:00 PM • July 21, 2017**

Store/Company _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Contact _____ Email _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

- Yes, we will be holding a bagging contest and plan to enter our winning contestant in the 2017 MGA "Best Bagger" Contest.

Date of our contest _____

Location _____

Time _____

Which type(s) of bag(s) will you use in your contest?

(This in no way affects the eligibility of your contestant in the state contest.)

Reusable Plastic Both

***MGA will issue a press release following your contest, to recognize the winner from your store that will compete for the title of "Missouri's Best Bagger" at the 2017 MGA Showcase.**

Return this form to:
Missouri Grocers Association
315 North Ken Avenue
Springfield, Missouri 65802
Phone: 1.800.260.4642
Fax: 417-831-3907
Deadline: July 1, 2017



2017 BEST BAGGER CONTESTANT ENTRY FORM

Missouri Grocers Association Showcase
Tan-Tar-A Resort • Osage Beach, Missouri • 7:00 PM • July 21, 2017

Store Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Owner _____ Coordinator _____

Contestant Name _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Years Employed _____ Years Bagging _____

All contestants must report to the Missouri Grocers Association Registration Desk at Tan-Tar-A Resort by 4:30 pm on Friday, July 21 for orientation. The Best Bagger Contest will be held Friday, July 21st at 7:00 pm.

*MGA will contact your contestant for more information about them so that a local press release can be issued recognizing that they are the winner from your store and will compete for the title of "Missouri's Best Bagger" at the 2017 MGA Showcase.

Return this form to:
Missouri Grocers Association
315 North Ken Avenue
Springfield, Missouri 65802
Phone: 1.800.260.4642
Fax: 417-831-3907
Deadline: July 1, 2017