



American Culinary Federation Student Team of the Year 2027 Regional Qualifier Application

Updated: August 14, 2026

Application Deadline: December 31, 2026

Regional Qualifier Competitions:

- Western Region
February 26-27
Orange Coast College
2701 Fairview Rd
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
- Northeast Region
March 12-13
Columbus State Community
550 E Spring St
Columbus, OH 43215
- Central Region
March 19-20
Johnson County Community College
12345 College Blvd
Overland Park, KS 66210
- Southeast Region
April 2-3
Virginia Western Community College
3098 Colonial Ave SW, Weber Hall, Room 305
Roanoke, VA 24015

ACF National Convention Orlando, FL – July 12-15, 2027

Overview:

Student Team competitions are for teams to display mastery of cooking skills and techniques commensurate with advanced culinary students. This should include good solid cooking and a display of great teamwork.

Application Fee: \$375 (due with application, non-refundable)

NOTE: All qualifier and national competitors and coaches must be ACF members

Email your completed application to competitions@acfchefs.org



American Culinary Federation Student Team of the Year 2027 Regional Qualifier Application

Updated: August 12, 2026

Eligibility:

- It is the coach's responsibility to confirm the membership status of each Team member by contacting the ACF membership department at the National Office.
- Teams whose members are not confirmed ACF members in good standing thirty (30) days prior to the National Qualifier will not be allowed to compete in their respective championships.
- All Team members must keep their memberships current during the thirty (30) days prior to the competition and through the competition dates. All membership renewals should be made prior to this thirty (30) day period and any competitors whose memberships are not current will be disqualified.
- All Team members and coaches must be local chapter members as part of their eligibility to compete and cannot be national members.
- Once a team competes at the National Qualifiers only one (1) member change will be allowed in the Team make up. If more than one (1) member changes then the Team will have to submit a written request to the Culinary Competition Committee Chair with the explanation to receive approval.

NOTE: Past national competitors may reapply at any time. Past National winners cannot reapply.

Please submit all required materials:

- A completed application
- High resolution, digital, color photograph of the Team in white chef coats

Selection Process:

- Regional winners are chosen by competing at the qualifier that is scheduled for their *specific region*. Your specific region is determined by your home address and the region in which it falls on the ACF regions map (Welcome to ACF - How to Register as a Member (acfchefs.org))
- The highest numerical score from each region will advance to the ACF National Competition.
- Applicants can only compete at their designated regional qualifier.
- The four (4) regional winners will move on to compete at the ACF National Convention. The addition of a military representative as the fifth (5) competitor will be decided at the military qualifier.
- The national winner will be determined based on the highest cumulative scores at the ACF National Competition regardless of the medal outcome.
- A minimum score of 70.0 is required to advance from the qualifier to the national competition. Any score below 70.0 will require a review by the Culinary Competition Committee.
- All the regional winners will be acknowledged at the ACF National Convention.

Email your completed application to competitions@acfchefs.org



American Culinary Federation Student Team of the Year 2027 Regional Qualifier Application

Updated: August 12, 2026

Winner Notification:

- The regional winners will be announced at their respective qualifiers and will have ten (10) days to accept the invitation to compete at the ACF National Competitions. If any of the top four (4) decline the invitation, the next highest-scoring competitor will be offered an invitation to advance.

Attendance and Critique Requirements:

- Student teams and coaches are required to attend the judges and competitors meeting at both the qualifier and ACF National Competitions in order to take part in the competition. This meeting usually takes place the day before the competitions begin. This meeting is vital because it is where any last-minute changes or kitchen issues are addressed. It is also where competitors pick their starting time and identify their corresponding stations within the kitchen.
- All the student teams in the qualifier competitions are required to attend the critiques with the judges to be eligible to advance to the ACF National Competition. This is an opportunity for the competitors to receive feedback to help improve and become more competitive should they advance to the national level.
- The student teams and their coaches will be required to attend the President's Gala to take part in the awards ceremony.
- If a competitor or coach is unable to attend any of the required meetings or events, they must notify the Culinary Competition Chair as soon as possible. The Culinary Competition Chair will review the circumstances on a case-by-case basis and decide accordingly on how to proceed. All decisions in these matters are final.
- Coaches must be present for critiques.

Email your completed application to competitions@acfchefs.org



American Culinary Federation
Student Team of the Year
2027 Regional Qualifier Application
Updated: August 12, 2026

Student Team Application

Region: _____ ACF Chapter: _____ Chapter ID#: _____

School Affiliation (if any): _____

Coach: _____ ACF member #: _____

Assistant Coach: _____ ACF member #: _____

Phone (day): _____ E-mail: _____

Team Members:

#1 Name: _____

ACF member #: _____ GPA: _____

#2 Name: _____

ACF member #: _____ GPA: _____

#3 Name: _____

ACF member #: _____ GPA: _____

#4 Name: _____

ACF member #: _____ GPA: _____

#5 Name: _____

ACF member #: _____ GPA: _____

Payment:

Card #: _____ CVC: _____ Exp: _____

Name on Card: _____

Email your completed application to competitions@acfchefs.org



American Culinary Federation Student Team of the Year 2027 Regional Qualifier Application

Updated: August 12, 2026

I hereby certify that the information I have provided is correct and I understand the selection process and attendance requirements for this competition. Furthermore, I grant permission to the ACF and its subsidiaries to use this information for promotion purposes which may include printed or electronic material, videos, and photography. I understand that I will not be compensated and may not be notified before use. All decisions made by the ACF National President are final and not subject to appeal.

Coaches Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Email your completed application to competitions@acfchefs.org