

# MGA'S 2019 BEST BAGGER CONTEST!



## READY, SET, BAG!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 2019

11:30AM — 1:00PM

MALL OF AMERICA

BLOOMINGTON, MN



### GRAND PRIZES

#### 1<sup>st</sup> PLACE

\$500 Cash & Trophy

Trip to the National

Best Bagger

Championship in

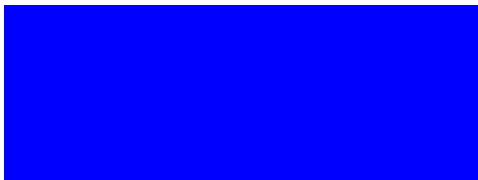
San Diego, CA

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE

\$250 Cash & Trophy

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> PLACE

\$150 Cash & Trophy



# Best Bagger Registration & Bio Form

Email form back to [kfrederick@mngrocers.com](mailto:kfrederick@mngrocers.com) by July 19, 2019

Store's Contact (Manager): \_\_\_\_\_

Store Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Twitter Account: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Facebook Account: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Manager Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## BAGGER INFORMATION

Contestant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contestant Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Store/City of Employment: \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt Size: S \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_ XL \_\_\_\_\_ XXL \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you worked at the store: \_\_\_\_\_

Most memorable experience in bagging: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Return to the Minnesota Grocers Association • Attn: Katie Frederick • 1360 Energy Park Dr., Suite 110 •

St. Paul, MN 55108 • Phone: 651-228-0973 • Email: [kfrederick@mngrocers.com](mailto:kfrederick@mngrocers.com)



# READY, SET, BAG!

In 1989, the Minnesota Grocers Association hosted its first ever Best Bagger Contest at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Since then the MGA has been bringing grocers from all across the state together to send their best of the best to bag-off to hold the title of Best Bagger. This event showcases the Minnesota grocery industry and one of its key employees.

We are looking for Minnesota's best baggers to compete in this year's bagging contest! Come join us at the **Mall of America** at **11:30AM** on **August 17, 2019**. Assistance is available for in-store contests, training, and any questions regarding the contest. Please contact Katie Frederick at [kfrederick@mngrocers.com](mailto:kfrederick@mngrocers.com) or 651-228-0973.

In the 2019 contest, baggers will be tested on their ability to pack the ever popular reusable bags with commonly bought items. The contestants will be scored on their speed, weight distribution, proper bag building technique, and style.

**MGA will award a \$50 prize to each participant as a congratulations!**

**We are looking forward to a fun and exciting event this year!**

**Thank you to our 2019 sponsoring company UNFI**



# OFFICIAL RULES & REGULATIONS

**Who can participate?** Only ONE employee who primarily bags groceries from an **MGA member company** can compete in the finals held on **August 17, 2019**

**What do we need to send MGA?** Please e-mail back the bio sheet to Katie Frederick at [kfrederick@mngrocers.com](mailto:kfrederick@mngrocers.com). Your bio sheet needs to be in by July 19, 2019 to have a spot reserved for your bagger.

**Do we need to use the list of groceries provided?** Not necessarily, but the selection of items does correspond with the points awarded for speed. Changing the type of products to be bagged would require changing the times in each bracket.

**MGA prize money:** Prize money is made possible through the generous support to this event from our sponsor **UNFI**.

The prizes will be awarded to the bagger at the Best Bagger Contest. Winners will receive the amount indicated below:

## **Grand Prizes:**

1st Place: \$500 and a trophy with a trip to the National Best Bagger Championship in San Diego, CA

2nd Place: \$250 cash and a trophy

3rd Place: \$150 cash and a trophy

## **Excellence Awards:**

Balance Award: \$50 cash and a trophy

Spirit Award: \$50 cash and a trophy

Style Award: \$50 cash and a trophy

Traveler Award: \$50 cash and a trophy

MGA will award a \$50 prize to each participant as a congratulations!

**When is the Championship?** The preliminary and final rounds are held at the NGA Show in San Diego, CA on February 23-26, 2020. All state winners will compete in the preliminary rounds. The final round will feature the top 5 contestants from the preliminary rounds.

## **Additional Rules**

- A previous winner of the MN Best Bagger Contest may not re-enter if he/she has already represented Minnesota in the National Best Bagger Championship.
- Contestants may not move the items to be bagged prior to the start of the contest.
- Bags are to remain folded before the start of the contest. Contestants may place the unopened bags in a place which is comfortable for them.
- Judges' decisions are final.



# HOSTING YOUR OWN CONTEST

The 2019 state competition is set for **August 17, 2019** at the **Mall of America at 11:30AM**. Now is the time to prepare your employees for your contest and generate excitement. We suggest that you form a committee to plan all the aspects of an in-store competition. The committee should include key personnel to generate the necessary enthusiasm to guarantee employee participation. The committee can focus on these elements:

1. **Choose your site:** Choose a location where there is ample space. The location should be easily visible to observers to help create a festive atmosphere. This helps build morale among the contestants and other employees.
2. **Contestant Sign-up:** Encourage participation through posters, signs, and word-of-mouth. Full support from managers is important in promoting a successful bag-off.
3. **Prizes:** Cash awards for first, second, and third place encourages participation. Other incentives can include t-shirts or caps to all participants with the store logo and colors. Trophies are also a nice idea.
4. **Publicity:** Four to six weeks prior to your event, announce it to the press (radio, news paper, TV stations). This is a great opportunity to get exposure for your store. Take pictures and send them to your local newspaper as well.
5. **Refreshments:** Help promote a festive atmosphere by providing refreshments at your event. This will make it fun for on-lookers and constants.
6. **Decorations:** Try holding a bag painting party in preparation for the event, then decorate the site with those bags. Use balloons, music, signage, etc. to make it a fun atmosphere.
7. **Judging:** It's best to use the same judging criteria used in the state contest. Judges can include store managers, department managers, or supervisors. Make sure the judges have the contest rules prior to the event to familiarize themselves.



# ITEMS AND PEOPLE NEEDED TO RUN A SUCCESSFUL BAG-OFF

## MC:

Pick someone who is comfortable speaking in front of a crowd. They will need to explain the purpose of the contest, go over the judging criteria, introduce the contestants, giving a running commentary during the contest, and provide some type of entertainment between the heats. (Usually provided by interviewing each contestant).

## Judges:

The best number of judges to have is three. Each judge is responsible for scoring the bags using the form enclosed. The standards and criteria are outlines in each category. After all three judges have scored a contestant, the three scores should be averaged and recorded on the master score sheet provided in this booklet.

One judge should be selected to weigh each contestant's bags on an electronic scale. Each bag should have its weight written on it by the judge. Judges should walk over and look at the bags.

**Timers:** One timer will be needed for each table in the competition and is responsible for:

1. Timing the contestant. Timing should begin when the starts says "go". The stopwatch is stopped when the contestant has finished bagging items and raises his/her hands.
2. After the timer has read the time, the contestant's time is written on each bag.
3. The bags are loaded into a shopping cart and taken over to the judges.
4. While the judges are examining the bags, the timer will alternate the set of groceries and reset the lane with the items in proper formation. An item arrangement sheet is enclosed.

## Supplies and Equipment Needed:

**Groceries:** To help move the event along, we recommend 2 sets of groceries should be available for each bagger.

**Reusable Bags:** Verify the bags are not defective by opening prior to contest.

**Grocery Carts:** Can be used to move the groceries to the judging area.

**Stopwatches:** Have one for each timer.

**Scale:** An electronic scale is needed for accuracy.

**Markers:** For timers and judges for writing on the bags, etc.

**Calculator:** For scoring and averaging the contestant's results.

**Copies:** Have the item arrangement sheet available for the person resetting the groceries, individual scoring sheets for each judge for each contestant, and the master scoring sheet for judges.

After a champion has been determined, e-mail the registration/bio for to Katie Frederick at

[kfrederick@mngrocers.com](mailto:kfrederick@mngrocers.com). **The MGA must receive this by July 19, 2019.**



# SAMPLE GROCERY LIST

- 1..... 18 oz. glass jar of jelly/jam
- 1..... 16 oz. glass jar of pickles
- 1..... 24 oz. glass jar of pasta sauce
- 1..... 7 oz. box of snack crackers
- 1..... 16 oz. box of spaghetti noodles
- 1..... 13.7 oz. box of crackers
- 1..... 12 oz. box of cereal
- 1..... 6 oz. can of cooking spray
- 2.....15 oz. can of pasta
- 2..... 6 oz. can of tomato paste
- 2..... 10 3/4 oz. can of soup
- 1..... 28 oz. can of baked beans
- 1..... 18 oz. BBQ sauce
- 1.....8 oz. plastic container of mustard
- 1.....SPAM
- 1..... 12 oz. bag of pretzels
- 1..... 10 oz. bag of chips
- 1..... dozen large eggs
- 1..... tube of potato chips
- 1..... 5 oz. bag of sunflower seeds
- 1..... Slim Jim beef stick
- 1..... 14.3 oz. package of cookies
- 2..... 3 oz. box of pudding
- 1..... M & M's (approx. 2 oz.)
- 1..... brick of coffee
- 1..... 4 pack of 4 oz. fruit cups
- 1..... seasoning packet
- 1..... cup of oatmeal
- 1..... paper towel
- 1..... Knorr's pasta sides
- 1.....Baby wipes



# SAMPLE ITEM ARRANGEMENT

(Using sample list from previous page)

Box of cereal	4 pack of fruit cups	Bag of chips	paper towel	Can of pasta	Tube of potato chips
Box of pudding	Eggs	Jelly/Jam	Box of snack crackers	Can of baked beans	Container of BBQ sauce
Glass jar of pasta sauce	Brick of Coffee	Can of soup	Can of soup	Box of crackers	Jar of pickles
			Mustard		Tomato paste
Baby wipes	Bag of pretzels	Cooking spray	Box of spaghetti noodles	Seasoning packet	Can of pasta
Knorr's pasta side				Cup of oatmeal	
SPAM	Tomato paste	Package of cookies	Box of Pudding	M & M's	Sunflower seeds
Beef stick					





# 2019 BEST BAGGER INDIVIDUAL SCORE SHEET

Contestant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Check Stand # \_\_\_\_\_

Store Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Skill	Possible Points	Points Awarded																										
<p><b>SPEED TIME:</b> _____</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 50%;">TIME</th> <th style="width: 50%;">POINTS</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>00:00-53:00 Seconds</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>53:01-57:00 Seconds</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>57:01-61:00 Seconds</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>61:01-65:00 Seconds</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>65:01-73:00 Seconds</td> <td>6</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </td> <td style="width: 50%; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 50%;">TIME</th> <th style="width: 50%;">POINTS</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>73:01-77:00 Seconds</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>77:01-81:00 Seconds</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>81:01-85:00 Seconds</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>85:01-89:00 Seconds</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>More than 89:01 Seconds</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </td> </tr> </table>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 50%;">TIME</th> <th style="width: 50%;">POINTS</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>00:00-53:00 Seconds</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>53:01-57:00 Seconds</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>57:01-61:00 Seconds</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>61:01-65:00 Seconds</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>65:01-73:00 Seconds</td> <td>6</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	TIME	POINTS	00:00-53:00 Seconds	10	53:01-57:00 Seconds	9	57:01-61:00 Seconds	8	61:01-65:00 Seconds	7	65:01-73:00 Seconds	6	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 50%;">TIME</th> <th style="width: 50%;">POINTS</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>73:01-77:00 Seconds</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>77:01-81:00 Seconds</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>81:01-85:00 Seconds</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>85:01-89:00 Seconds</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>More than 89:01 Seconds</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	TIME	POINTS	73:01-77:00 Seconds	5	77:01-81:00 Seconds	4	81:01-85:00 Seconds	3	85:01-89:00 Seconds	2	More than 89:01 Seconds	1	<b>10</b>	
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<p><b>DISTRIBUTION OF WEIGHT BETWEEN BAGS</b></p> <p>Weigh each bag and record each weight on this form. Take the heaviest bag weight, minus the lightest bag weight and subtract the difference from the total possible points.</p> <p><b>EXAMPLE:</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">Heaviest bag</td> <td style="width: 25%;">15.75lbs.</td> <td style="width: 25%;">Total possible points</td> <td style="width: 25%;">5.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lightest bag</td> <td>-14.25lbs.</td> <td>Weight difference</td> <td>-1.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Weight difference</td> <td>1.50</td> <td><b>Total points to award</b></td> <td><b>3.50</b></td> </tr> </table>	Heaviest bag	15.75lbs.	Total possible points	5.00	Lightest bag	-14.25lbs.	Weight difference	-1.50	Weight difference	1.50	<b>Total points to award</b>	<b>3.50</b>	<b>5</b>															
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<p><b>PROPER BAG BUILDING TECHNIQUE</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Y or N</b> Did any times fall out of the bag when picked up? (deduct 1 point for Y)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Y or N</b> Are item(s) left on the table? (deduct 1 point for each item left on the table)</p>																												
<p><b>One point for each YES circled</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Y or N</b> Are crushable items, such as bread, eggs, and bags of chips placed on top of the bag?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Y or N</b> Are cans / jars on the bottom of the bags and not stacked?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Y or N</b> Are boxes on the sides or walls of bags (cannot be lying flat)?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Y or N</b> Are "filler" items in spaces between items (sunflower seeds, seasoning package)?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Y or N</b> Are bottles and other glass-encased items in the center of the bag?</p>	<b>5</b>																											
<p><b>On point for each NO Circled</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Y or N</b> Are bags disorderly (items just thrown in the bag)?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Y or N</b> Are items damaged (bent, torn, etc.)?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Y or N</b> Are there glass bottles next to each other (without fillers separating)?</p>	<b>3</b>																											
<p><b>PRINCIPLES OF BAGGING</b></p> <p>Did the bags excel in the principals of bagging: solid foundation, manageable for customer, product represented well, and overall appearance of bagging knowledge.</p>	<b>2</b>																											
<p><b>STYLE, ATTITUDE, AND APPEARANCE</b></p> <p>All contestants should present a neat appearance, be polite, and convey customer-oriented attitude. Contestants will be judged in part on their composure and self-confidence.</p>	<b>5</b>																											
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>30</b>																											

# CRITERIA FOR CHOOSING A BEST BAGGER OF REUSABLE

## Speed ----- 10 Points

Contestants should bag orders significantly quicker than the average bagger.

<u>Time</u>	<u>Points</u>
0- 53.00 seconds	10
53.01- 57.00 seconds	9
57.01- 61.00 seconds	8
61.01- 65.00 seconds	7
65.01- 73.00 seconds	6
73.01- 77.00 seconds	5
77.01- 81.00 seconds	4
81.01- 85.00 seconds	3
85.01- 89.00 seconds	2
More than 89.01 seconds	1



## Distribution of Weight Between Bags - - - 5 Points

Contestants should know how to distribute groceries among sacks so that all sacks 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 points possible.

**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.

## Proper Bag Building Technique - - - - 10 Points

Contestants should be able to arrange groceries correctly within a reusable bag. Points will be deducted for improper bagging, damaged products, and missed items. 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.

## 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.



# MGA BEST BAGGER CHAMPIONS


Year	Winner	Store
2018	Tyler Haselkamp	Coborn's, Clearwater
2017	Caleb Meyer	Kowalski's Market, Oak Park Heights
2016	Seth Allen	Chris' Food Center, Sandstone
2015	Lauren Gillson	Lunds & Byerlys
2014	Zach Anderson	Lunds - Normandale
2013	Chelsea Retzer	Lunds - Normandale
2012	Daniel Busquets	Kowalski's Market, Eagan
2011	Blake Westling	Byerlys Eagan
2010	Matt Medley	Lunds Penn Avenue
2009	Jessie Seamans	Lunds Navarre
2008	Jake Jensen	Chris' Food Center, Sandstone
2007	Breanne Haapala	Lunds Navarre
2006	Jon Sandell	Chris' Food Center, Sandstone
2005	Brandon Johnson	Chris' Food Center, Sandstone
2004	Kyle Schultz	Chris' Food Center, Sandstone
2003	Andrew Seymour	Chris' Food Center, Sandstone
2002	Joe Battaglia	Chris' Food Center, Sandstone
2001	Ryan Griffith	Supervalu, Morris
2000	Ben Lochner	Coborn's, Little Falls
1999	Misty Kreklau	Ernie's Market
1998	Haver Owaleon	Coborn's, Little Falls
1997	Brandon Kreklau	Ernie's Market
1996	Jake Paulson	Soderquists, Soderville
1995	Patrick Maloney	Chris' Food Center, Sandstone
1994	Greg Feia	Coborn's, Sartell
1993	Dane Klar	Chris' Food Center, Sandstone
1992	Matt Gangl	Chris' Food Center, Sandstone
1991	Craig Thorvig	Chris' Food Center, Sandstone
1990	Dean Reller	Coborn's, Sauk Rapids
1989	Robb Wintheiser	Coborn's, Sauk Rapids

# MGA BEST BAGGER CONTEST HISTORY

Since 1989, the Minnesota Grocers Association has been bringing grocers from all across the state together to send their best of the best to bag-off and to hold the title of Best Bagger. The contestants are scored on their speed, weight distribution, proper bag building technique, and style.

**1989:**

**The Minnesota Grocers Association hosted its first ever Best Bagger Contest at the Minneapolis Convention Center.**




**1995:**

**The MGA changed venues and held its contest at the Minnesota State Fair.**



**2000:**

**After five years, the MGA moved venues to host the Best Bagger Contest at the Mall of America.**



**2009:**

**The MGA introduced the ever popular reusable bag as the contests bag of choice.**

**UNFI (SUPERVALU) became the official Best Bagger Sponsor.**