

NEWS RELEASE



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Contact:

Jamie Pfuhl, President
Minnesota Grocers Association
(651) 228-0973
jpfuhl@mngrocers.com

MINNESOTA GROCERS ASSOCIATION HOLDS 34th ANNUAL BEST BAGGER CONTEST

St Paul, MN – August 30, 2022 - The Minnesota Grocers Association (MGA) held its 34th annual statewide Best Bagger Contest on Saturday, August 27, 2022 at the MGA office in St. Paul, MN. Contestants came from all across the state to compete for the title of Minnesota's Best Bagger.

This is a fun, fast-paced, and entertaining contest that is important to the MGA and its membership as it showcases the talents of one of the industry's key employees. Baggers are the people responsible for the last experience customers have in a store, and this contest truly exemplifies the food industry's dedication to customer service.

The eight participating contestants were judged on speed, style, attitude, proper bag-building technique, and weight distribution between the bags. Contest attendees witnessed the art of "bagging" by some of Minnesota's best. To showcase the food industry's commitment to consumer choice and the well-being of the communities we serve, baggers used the ever-popular reusable bag.

The first place winner in the competition was Tyler Thorvig of Chris' Food Center, Sandstone, winning \$500 cash, a trophy, and a trip to Las Vegas, NV to represent Minnesota at the National Grocers Association Best Bagger Championship in February 2023. Second place receiving a trophy and cash prize was awarded to Aidan Gallagher of Coborn's, Sartell. Thank you to all of our 2022 Best Bagger contestants for their outstanding efforts, Stephen Brownnewell from Fareway, Owatonna; Connor Downs from Hy-Vee, Eagan; Tim Talbot from Jubilee Foods, Mound; Simon Rynders, from Kowalski's Market, Excelsior; Hattie Herdina from Lunds & Byerlys, Minnetonka; and Kennedy Joiner from Mackenthun's Fine Foods, Waconia.

Three of the eight baggers were also given Bagger Excellence Awards, and a cash prize. The "Traveler" award was granted to Tyler Thorvig of Chris' Food Center, Sandstone, for traveling the longest distance to the contest, nearly 90 miles. The "Balance" award was captured by Kennedy Joiner of Mackenthun's Fine Foods, Waconia, whose two bags had only .04 pounds difference between them. Finally, the "Speed" award was awarded to Tyler Thorvig who bagged his two reusable bags in 54.09 seconds.

The Minnesota Grocers Association (MGA) is the only state trade association that represents the food industry of Minnesota from farm to fork. We are one of the oldest trade associations in the state, celebrating over 125 years of advancing industry. We have over 300 retail, manufacture, and wholesale members supporting nearly 1,300 locations statewide. Our member companies employ over 150,000 union and non-union Minnesotans. We actively advance the common interest of all those engaged in any aspect of the retail food industry as a leader and advocate in government affairs.

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