



ACF Pittsburgh Chapter

Pastry Chef of the Year Award Requirements

The ACF Pittsburgh Chapter is proud to announce the Pastry Chef of the Year Award, an esteemed recognition honoring exceptional pastry chefs who have made significant contributions to the pastry and baking arts. This award celebrates professionals who demonstrate unparalleled skill, creativity, leadership, and dedication to their craft, whether they are members of the ACF Pittsburgh Chapter or part of the broader Pittsburgh culinary community. Nominations are now open, and we invite members in good standing to recognize and nominate deserving pastry chefs who exemplify the highest standards of our profession.

How to Submit a Nomination:

To nominate a pastry chef for this award, please complete the nomination process as outlined in the checklist below and submit all required nomination packet materials through the form on the ACFPC website by the submission deadline. We look forward to honoring the outstanding pastry chefs who continue to elevate the our industry in Pittsburgh and beyond.

Eligibility:

1. **Nominee Status:** The nominee must be a professional pastry chef, baker, or chocolatier actively working in the pastry arts or adjacent fields. This award is open to pastry chefs both within and outside of the ACF Pittsburgh Chapter (ACFPC). The nominee is not eligible if they have won this award within the last 10 years.
2. **Nomination Source:** The nominee must be nominated by an ACFPC member who is in good standing. Self-nominations are **NOT** accepted.

Criteria for Nomination:

1. Professional Excellence:

- Demonstrated excellence in pastry arts, baking, or confectionery, showing technical mastery and creativity.
- Proven track record of innovation and high standards in pastry quality, presentation, and flavor balance.
- Active involvement in advancing pastry arts through mentorship, teaching, competitions, public speaking, or contributions to the greater hospitality industry in some meaningful way within the calendar year they are being nominated in.

2. Leadership and Impact:

- Leadership within the pastry community, including mentorship of peers and younger professionals.
- Significant contributions to the industry, such as sustainable practices, community engagement, or charitable work.
- Positive influence on the local culinary scene, promoting Pittsburgh as a destination for pastry and baking excellence.

3. Commitment to Continuing Education:

- Active participation in continued learning and professional development in the baking and pastry arts.
- Involvement in ACF or other culinary organizations, workshops, seminars, or certifications that further professional growth.

4. Ethical and Professional Conduct:

- Adherence to high standards of ethical conduct in all professional dealings.
- Commitment to the culinary profession's integrity and the values upheld by the ACF.

Nomination Process:

1. Submission Requirements:

- Complete and send the completed application along with the nomination checklist items listed on the following page.

2. Deadline: All nomination materials must be submitted by the deadline posted on the ACFPC website.

3. Selection Process:

- The ACF Pittsburgh Chapter's Awards Committee will review all nominations based on the above criteria and announce a decision on eligibility at the first board meeting of the month of November.
- The committee reserves the right to request additional information or conduct interviews if needed.
- A vote will be held via electronic ballot, and the winner will be announced by the first Friday of the new calendar year.

4. Award Presentation:

- The Pastry Chef of the Year will be recognized at the ACF Pittsburgh Chapter's annual awards ceremony.
- The recipient will receive a medal and plaque and will be featured in the chapter's communications and media outlets.

Additional Information:

- The ACF Pittsburgh Chapter values diversity and encourages nominations of chefs from all backgrounds and culinary traditions.
- Nominators and nominees must ensure all information provided is accurate and truthful.

Chef of the Year Award Nomination Packet Checklist

To ensure a complete and thorough nomination for the ACF Pittsburgh Chapter's Pastry Chef of the Year Award, please compile and submit the following items in a single nomination packet through the form on the ACFPC website. The form must be completed in its entirety by the submission deadline. All incomplete nominations will not be accepted.

1. Nomination Letter

- A detailed letter from the ACFPC member in good standing who is nominating the chef.
- The letter should clearly outline the nominee's qualifications, achievements, and contributions to the culinary industry within the calendar year of this they are being nominated.
- Include specific examples of professional excellence, leadership, and community impact.

2. Letters of Support

- At least **one** additional letter of support from other professionals or organizations within the culinary community.
- These letters should further emphasize the nominee's accomplishments, character, and influence in the culinary field, Pittsburgh region, or ACF.

3. Professional Biography or CV

- A comprehensive biography or curriculum vitae (CV) of the nominee.
- Include details of the nominee's career highlights, awards, recognitions, and any relevant certifications or educational achievements.
- Current headshot of the nominee.

4. Documentation of Achievements (Optional but Encouraged)

- Any supporting materials that highlight the nominee's work, such as:
 - Photos of creations.
 - Articles, reviews, or publications featuring the nominee.
 - Documentation of involvement in community service, culinary events, or educational programs.

5. Contact Information

- Include the full contact information for both the nominator and the nominee:
 - Full name
 - Email address
 - Phone number
 - Mailing address

6. Submission

- Compile all the above materials and fill out the form on the ACFPC website to submit a nomination. All incomplete nominations will not be accepted or considered.

7. Submission Deadline

- Ensure that all materials are submitted by **November 1st**. Late submissions may not be considered.

This checklist is designed to streamline the nomination process and ensure that each nominee's achievements are fully represented for consideration by the ACF Pittsburgh Chapter's Awards Committee.