

Dear Amateur Wine Maker:

Welcome to the fourth Windber Wine in the Park Amateur Wine Competition! Enclosed you will find this year's application form for your consideration / use when entering your home made crafted wines into our updated Amateur Wine Competition. The Windber Wine in the Park tasting / sales event will be held on May 14, 2016 in the historic Ballroom at Windber Recreation Park, 160 Recreation Road, Windber, Pa. Winners of this competition will be announced at this event.

This year, we are again honored to have only American Wine Society (AWS) certified judges scoring and critiquing the wines. These judges go through extensive training of a minimum of 3 years. There are a limited number of judges throughout the nation and we are lucky enough to have a few in our area. Each wine entry will receive individual score sheets with hand written comments from each certified judge completing the judging. If a total of three judges are present during the judging, then three separate comment/score sheets will be returned to the winemaker. These score sheets with judges' comments often contain insightful feedback and suggestions for improving the wine making process. All score sheets will be handed to winemakers attending either session of Wine in the Park event on May 14th. Medal winners will be announced and handed their medals both of these sessions as well. Any winners not present will be mailed their score sheets and any medals they may have won.

Our goal remains to grow and improve all aspects of this event from year to year. This year we shall continue using the American Wine Society (AWS) guidelines exclusively for both categorizing and again for judging. By using AWS exclusively, we will be placing this competition onto the same plane as other national amateur competitions. You can read more about the standard 20 point scoring system that is utilized by AWS on their website, www.americanwinesociety.org under AWS Wine Evaluation Form.

Similar to last year's competition, the drop off location remains the same. All wine entries can be dropped off at the Windber Community Building, 1605 Graham Avenue, Windber, Pa 15963. Please read through the enclosed application for specific instructions regarding how to register your wine entries. The fee for entering the wine competition remains unchanged and you will have the opportunity to purchase additional tickets for the wine tasting event at the Community Building at the same time you are registering your wine submission. Deadline to enter your wines in the competition is Thursday, April 28th at 6PM.

If you have any questions, please contact Jason Zablotney at cell phone 814.254.5106. Jason is the committee member spearheading this year's competition and will be happy to answer your wine competition questions and assist in any way possible with registering or collecting your wine entries.

In closing, we look forward to your wine submissions this year!

The Wine in the Park Committee