



**OFFICIAL
QUALIFYING
EVENT**

Vegetarian Taco Challenge - Presented by Cooking Contest Central

Official Contest Rules

Contest Theme: Who says tacos need meat? The Vegetarian Taco Challenge is all about proving plants can do it better. We're looking for creative, craveable taco recipes where vegetables, grains, legumes, and plant-based ingredients take center stage. From globally inspired flavor profiles to inventive toppings, sauces, and salsas, show us how you can build an unforgettable meatless taco. Whether it's smoky roasted veggies, crispy components, bright and zesty finishes, or rich, savory fillings, every element should work together to create a standout vegetarian taco.

1. Eligibility

The Vegetarian Taco Challenge is open to paying legal residents of the United States who are 18 years of age or older at the time of entry. Proof of residency may be required. A [paid Cooking Contest Central membership](#) is required for entry. Use discount code **WFC2026** for \$10 off a yearly membership.

Entrants must be able to attend the 2026 World Food Championships (October 15-18) at their sole cost and expense. Not eligible for current 2026 registered World Food Championships (WFC) competitors.

In order to enter into the Contest or receive the prize, you must fully comply with the Official Rules and, by entering, you represent and warrant that you agree to be bound by these Official Rules and the decisions of Cooking Contest Central on behalf of Cooking Contest Central, whose decisions shall be binding and final in all respects relating to this Contest. Employees, officers, and directors of Cooking Contest Central and its sponsors, and, affiliates, or advertising agencies are not eligible to enter.

2. Entry Period

The Vegetarian Taco Challenge will feature a contest entry window. This contest will commence Saturday, August 1, 2026, at 12:01 AM EST and conclude on Friday, August 14, 2026, at 11:59 PM EST.

3. How to Enter

To enter, participants must complete the online entry form and submit an original recipe, along with required information and media (e.g., photo). Participants may submit multiple entries.

To enter the Online Recipe Contest:

- a. Entrants must “Like” the official Cooking Contest Central [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages.
- b. Entrants must log in to their Cooking Contest Central account or [become a member](#) to access the contest entry form. Use discount code **WFC2026** for \$10 off a yearly membership.
- c. Entrants must fill out the contest entry form with all required fields which includes entrant’s information and a complete, original recipe with a photo of the dish.

4. Submission Requirements

Recipe: All recipes must be original, unpublished, and created solely by the entrant. AI generated recipes and images will not be accepted. Recipe submissions should include a list of ingredients with measurements and a full breakdown of step-by-step instructions. All recipes must be written in English using standard United States measurements, also known as the Imperial measurement system.

Photo: Submissions must include a high-quality photo that showcases the completed recipe. Submissions must not include offensive, inappropriate, or copyrighted content. Cooking Contest Central reserves the right to disqualify any entry that does not comply with these standards.

The recipe submission must comply with the following requirements: (i) the submission must adhere to the contest theme: vegetarian tacos; (ii) the submission must be entrant’s own original work, created solely by entrant and not as part of a group (i.e. two or more); (iii) the submission must not have been previously published or submitted in any other contests or competitions and/or to any media, including, without limitation, any printed books or magazines (self-published blog recipes are allowed, as long as they have not been previously published elsewhere); must not have won any award(s); and must not infringe the copyright, trademark, privacy, publicity, or other personal or proprietary rights of any person or entity; the title of the recipe may not indicate the competitor or teams identity (iv) the submission must not contain, mention, refer to or otherwise allude to any material that is violent, lewd, obscene, sexually explicit, pornographic, disparaging, defamatory, libelous, racially or morally offensive or otherwise contain inappropriate content or objectionable material; (v) the submission cannot promote illegal drugs or tobacco, firearms/weapons (or the use of any of the foregoing), any activities that may appear unsafe or dangerous, or any political agenda or message; (vi) Cooking Contest Central reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to disqualify any submission that Cooking Contest Central believes, does not comply with or is in violation of these Official Rules or that otherwise contains prohibited or inappropriate content.

A photo of your recipe submission will also be required and will be used to evaluate and judge the ‘Execution’ and ‘Appearance’ portion of your score. All photos should be well lit,

free of harsh shadows, free of background clutter, clear and focused on your submitted recipe. All recipe elements should be clearly shown in the photo. This includes but is not limited to; sauces, toppings, fillings, and any side dishes included in the recipe that needs to be judged. If a technique or skill is listed in your recipe, the execution of that skill or technique should be evident in the photo.

Your written recipe will be judged on the 'Perceived Taste' as described in your recipe; the use of the ingredients listed, the amounts of each ingredient, the flavor profiles, as well as the creative and unique aspects of your recipe will be evaluated to determine your score. All products or ingredients used are not required to be in the submitted photo.

Once your recipe is submitted, you will see an on-screen confirmation. A confirmation email will not be sent.

5. Grant of Rights by Submitting Content

The entrant represents and warrants that he/she has all right, title, and interest in and to the submission and hereby grants to Cooking Contest Central the worldwide, irrevocable, unrestricted, and royalty-free right and license in perpetuity to adapt, publish, use, edit, and/or modify such submission in any way and post the submission on the Internet or use the submission in any other way in any media whether now existing or hereafter created and agrees to indemnify and hold Cooking Contest Central harmless from any claims to the contrary.

6. Judging Criteria

A panel of qualified judges selected by Cooking Contest Central will select the best submissions among all eligible submissions based on an application of the following criteria:

- Perceived Taste (40%)
 - Balance and harmony of flavors
 - Ingredient pairing and seasoning choices
 - Depth, complexity, and overall appeal as described
- Execution (30%)
 - Adherence to contest rules and theme
 - Logical, repeatable steps
 - Accuracy and completeness of instructions
 - Proper use of ingredients and techniques appropriate to the recipe
- Appearance (15%)
 - Photo quality, lighting, and focus
 - Composition, plating, or styling
 - Visibility of key elements referenced in the recipe
- Creativity (15%)
 - Unique concept, flavor combinations, or approach

- Creative interpretation of the contest theme

The winners of each contest will be officially announced on Cooking Contest Central's official Facebook and Instagram page.

Odds of winning depend on the number of eligible entries received during the Contest Entry Period and the quality of the submissions. Decisions as to the administration and operation of the contest and the selection of the potential winner is final and binding in all matters related to the Contest.

Judging will be a blind process, where judges will not know the competitors name or background information.

7. Prize

The grand prize is a free "Golden Ticket" registration and automatic qualification into the 2026 World Food Championships for the vegetarian category.

Grand Prize: 1 WFC 2026 Golden Ticket - Vegetarian Category (ERV: \$1,000)

Winners must register within 30 days after the winner has been notified. Failure to do this will forfeit entry. Golden Tickets may not be transferred or sold, and any attempt to do so will render them automatically null and void.

Learn more about WFC 2026 by visiting worldfoodchampionships.com.

8. Prize Forfeiture

Should a winner choose to forfeit their prize and/or not compete in WFC 2026, Cooking Contest Central reserves the right to select the next highest placing contestant of that contest to receive the prize and/or earn qualification to compete in the 2026 event.

9. Governing Law/Limitation of Liability

All issues and questions concerning the construction, validity, interpretation and enforceability of these Official Rules or the rights and obligations of entrants, Sponsor or the Contest Entities in connection with the Contest will be governed by and construed in accordance with the internal laws of the State of West Virginia, without giving effect to any choice of law or conflict of law rules or provisions that would cause the application of any other state's laws. By entering, you agree to release and hold harmless Cooking Contest Central, Cooking Contest Central and its subsidiaries, affiliates, advertising and promotion agencies, partners, representatives, agents, successors, assigns, members, employees, officers, and directors from any liability, illness, injury, death, loss, litigation, claim, or damage that may occur, directly or indirectly, whether caused by negligence or not, from: (i) such entrant's participation in the Contest and/or his/her acceptance, possession, use, or misuse of any prize or any portion thereof; (ii) technical failures of any kind, including but not limited to the malfunction of any computer, cable, network, hardware, or software, or

other mechanical equipment; (iii) the unavailability or inaccessibility of any transmissions, telephone, or Internet service; (iv) unauthorized human intervention in any part of the entry process or the Contest; (v) electronic or human error in the administration of the promotion or the processing of entries.