



WEST VIRGINIA GOLD RUSH 2026 OFFICIAL CONTEST RULES

- **Void where prohibited by law.**
- **Affidavit of eligibility, release of liability, and prize acceptance agreement may be required.**
- **Open to all resident and non-resident anglers who possess a valid West Virginia fishing license and trout stamp or are exempt from having a license in the State of West Virginia.**
- **By participating in the contest, you agree to these official rules, which create a contract. Without limitation, such a contract includes grants of certain rights to you but also includes indemnity, a class action waiver, and a limitation of your rights and remedies.**
- **By entering the Gold Rush Contest, you are granting the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources permission to post your submission photo on the Department of Commerce's social media channels.**

SPONSOR: West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, 112 California Avenue, Charleston, WV 25311

ELIGIBILITY: To enter the 2026 Gold Rush Contest (the "Contest"), you must be a properly licensed angler or exempt from having a license in the State of West Virginia. Anyone under the age of 18 must have parental consent. The trout submitted in the photo must have been legally caught in the State of West Virginia between March 30, 2026 and May 11, 2026.

Employees of Sponsor or its affiliates, sales representatives, agencies, dealers, retailers, wholesalers, distributors, and promotional and other vendor agencies involved in the Contest, their respective parent companies, affiliates, subsidiaries, service agencies, independent contractors, and the immediate family (parent, spouse, sibling, child, grandparent, grandchild, regardless of where they reside) and household members of all such employees, are NOT eligible. The contest is subject to all federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Void where prohibited or restricted by law.

HOW TO ENTER: To enter the Contest, you must catch one of 100 tagged golden trout. Eligible trout will be tagged with a yellow tag. Take a photograph of you with your catch and record the tag number. Submit all required information online at vdnr.gov/fishing/gold-rush/gold-rush-giveaway.

ENTRY PERIODS: Entry Periods begin at 12:01 a.m. ET on March 30, 2026; Entry Periods end at 11:59 p.m. ET on Monday, May 11, 2026. All Entry Periods are for 2026.

WINNER DETERMINATION: Anglers who catch one of these fish and submit a photo of themselves with the fish and submit the tag number and all other required information online will be eligible to win a resident lifetime fishing license, a one night cabin stay at a West Virginia State Park or forest, or a \$25 West Virginia State Parks Gift Certificate.

PRIZES AND APPROXIMATE RETAIL VALUE (“ARV”):

- One (1) West Virginia Resident Lifetime Fishing License valued at \$552.00 or the equivalent value (\$552.00) credited towards the one-time purchase of One (1) West Virginia Nonresident Lifetime Fishing License.
- Five (5) one night West Virginia State Park or Forest cabin stay valued at approximately \$150.
- Five (5) West Virginia State Parks Gift Certificates valued at \$25.

Winning a prize is contingent upon fulfilling all requirements set forth herein.

PLEASE NOTE: Any taxes on the prizes are the sole responsibility of the winner. Where not prohibited, affidavit of eligibility (including SSN), residency, prize acceptance form, tax information, publicity release, and/or mutually acceptable liability releases may be required from the winner upon request by Sponsor. Prize is not transferable, and no substitution or cash equivalent is allowed, except at the Sponsor’s sole discretion. Sponsor reserves the right to substitute a prize of the same approximate retail value if the advertised prize becomes unavailable for any reason. Grand Prize consists of only items specifically listed as part of the prize. All costs and expenses not specified herein relating to a prize are the sole responsibility of the winner. Limit one (1) prize per person during the Contest Period.

WINNER CONFIRMATION: To be confirmed a winner, you must: (1) Submit all required information by the contest deadline; and (2) if requested by the Sponsor, winner must execute and return within a reasonable specified time an Affidavit of Eligibility, Publicity Release, and Release of Liability (collectively, “Winner Documents”), that may include, without limitation, acceptance of the prize, tax information, and/or mutually acceptable liability releases, as requested by Sponsor, except where prohibited by law. If you cannot be confirmed a winner for any reason, or if any Winner’s Documents requested by Sponsor are not fully completed within the specified time or are returned as undeliverable, you may be disqualified and the prize will be forfeited and an alternate winner may be chosen.

PUBLICITY RELEASE: Except where prohibited, acceptance of a prize constitutes the winner’s consent that his or her name, likeness, voice and/or biographical data may be used for advertising and promotional purposes without limitation and without additional notice, compensation, or consent.

ACCEPTANCE BY PARENT OR GUARDIAN: All entries for youth (under 18) must be made by the youth participant’s parent or legal guardian to be deemed valid. By submitting an entry form, the parent or legal guardian is agreeing that the Official Rules shall apply to the youth participant, same as any adult participant, and that all lawful requirements, releases, and consents are duly authorized by the parent or legal guardian on behalf of, and as applied to, the child.

ENTRANTS’ AGREEMENT TO ABIDE BY OFFICIAL RULES: By entering, you agree that you have read, accepted, and will abide by and be bound by these Official Rules and agrees that any dispute with regard to the conduct of this Contest, rule interpretation, or the awarding of a prize shall be submitted to Sponsor, whose decision shall be binding and final.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY: By entering, you agree to release and hold harmless Sponsor and its dealers and retailers, affiliates, sales representatives, agencies, wholesalers, distributors and promotional and other vendor agencies involved in the Contest, their respective parent companies, affiliates, subsidiaries, service agencies, independent contractors, and the officers, directors, employees, agents and representatives of any of the above organizations (collectively, “Releasees”) from any injury, loss or damage to any person, including death, or property damage, due in-whole or in-part, directly or indirectly, to the acceptance or use/misuse of a prize, participation in any Contest-related activity, or participation in the Contest.

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY: Releasees are not responsible for, and you release and hold harmless, the Releasees from and against any losses, damages, actions, demands, liabilities or claims of whatever nature or kind arising out of, or in connection with, a prize or any portion thereof for this Contest. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Releasees will not be responsible for any typographical or other error in the printed or other related material related of this Contest, the administration of the Contest, the selection of entrants, in the announcement of the prizes, including erroneous appearance of qualification for a prize, any entries or entrants disqualified for any of the reasons stated in these Official Rules, or any loss, damage or claims caused by, or in any way related to a prize of the Contest itself.

WARNING: Any attempt by any person to deliberately undermine the legitimate operation of the contest may be a violation of criminal and/or civil laws. Should such an attempt be made, Sponsor reserves the right to seek remedies and damage from any such person to the fullest extent permitted by law and to ban or disqualify such person from this and future contests. In addition, all fishing is subject to the 2026 Fishing Regulations for the State of West Virginia and failure to comply with those regulations may result in the issuance of citations and other penalties.

DISPUTES REGARDING THE IDENTITY OF ENTRANT: Entries will be deemed made by the authorized account holder of the email address submitted at the time of entry. In the event of a dispute, you may be required to provide proof that they are the authorized holder of the identified email account.

CHANGES TO CONTEST, OFFICIAL RULES, ETC.: Under no circumstances will more than the stated number of prizes be awarded. Sponsor reserves the right, in its sole and absolute discretion, to modify, cancel, or suspend this Contest, or to amend the Official Rules at any time, without prior individual notice, should any factor interfere with the administration, security, or proper play of this Contest as contemplated by these Official Rules. If for any reason Sponsor is prevented from continuing with this Contest, or the integrity and/or feasibility of the Contest is undermined by any event including but not limited to fire, flood, epidemic, earthquake, explosion, labor dispute or strike, act of God or public enemy, satellite or equipment failure, riot or civil disturbance, war (declared or undeclared), terrorist threat or activity, or any federal, state, provincial/territorial or local government law, order or regulation, order of any court or jurisdiction, Sponsor shall have the right, but not the obligation, in its sole and absolute discretion, to award the prizes from among all entries received to date.

DISPUTES/CHOICE OF LAW: You agree that (1) any and all disputes, claims, and causes of action arising out of or in connection with this contest, or any prize awarded, shall be resolved individually, without resort to any form of class action, and any judicial proceeding shall take place in a federal or state court in West Virginia; (2) any and all claims, judgments, and awards shall be limited to actual out-of-pocket costs incurred, including costs associated with entering this contest, but in no event attorneys' fees, and (3) under no circumstances will you be permitted to obtain award for, and you hereby waive all rights to claim punitive, incidental, and consequential damages, and any other questions concerning the construction, validity, interpretation, and enforceability of these official rules, or the rights and obligations of you and the Sponsor in connection with this contest shall be governed by, and constructed in accordance with, the laws of the state of West Virginia, without giving effect to any choice of law rules or provisions of any other jurisdiction that would cause the application of laws of any jurisdiction other than those of the state of West Virginia.

RULES GOVERN: The Contest will be run in accordance with these Official Rules, which shall prevail, govern, and control in the event of any inconsistency with any Contest-related materials.

PRIVACY: Personally identifiable information that is submitted by you as part of this Contest will be used to administer the Contest, to select the prize winners, and to fulfill the prizes, and will be treated in accordance with Sponsor's Privacy Policy available at commerce.wv.gov/privacy-policy.

AGREEMENT TO RECEIVE COMMUNICATION: By entering, you agree to receive communications, including communications by email and United States mail, from the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. You may unsubscribe at any time.

WINNERS' LIST: For the name of winners, send a self-addressed stamped envelope by December 31, 2026 to: Winner's List - 2026 WVDNR Gold Rush Contest, West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, 112 California Avenue, Charleston, WV 25305.