



# Illinois Bootblack Contest Application



Welcome to the Illinois Leather Alliance contests! We're very excited that you're considering competing in the Bootblack contest. We hope that the experience you have in competing for the Illinois title is fulfilling and exciting. It's our mission to provide you with the opportunity to be as successful as you want to be.

The bootblack community is known for their skills at the chair in making those leather shine, as well as carrying the torch of tradition and values for the leather community. The Bootblack title track is a very grueling, technically challenging and thoroughly rewarding process, where contestants find a family of people who laugh, love, have hot/dirty boot/Leather sex and share a common love and journey of polish and brushes.

Do you feel the call to stand up and represent Illinois and be counted as a Bootblack? Does Hubbards, polish and boots turn you on? We hope so!

The Illinois Bootblack contest is a feeder contest into the Great Lakes regional Bootblack contest, which takes place in Indianapolis, Indiana. The winner of the Great Lakes contest has many options for them - International Mr. Bootblack, International Ms. Bootblack or International Community Bootblack (run alongside of the International Leather Sir/Leather boy contest.)

The following pages contain the official application for the Illinois Bootblack contest. Please take a look at the application, fill it out completely and send it back to us via email. If you cannot submit it via email, please contact us at [info@illinoisleatheralliance.com](mailto:info@illinoisleatheralliance.com) and we will provide a mailing address to you.

For the March 17th/18th 2017 competition, **applications are due by March 3rd, 2017.**

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at [info@illinoisleatheralliance.com](mailto:info@illinoisleatheralliance.com). Thank you for your interest and we can't wait to see you compete!

Sincerely,

*Michael and Angie Shorten*

Executive Producers, Illinois Leather Alliance



# Illinois Bootblack Contest Application



## Illinois Bootblack Contest Information

- A. Each individual contestant must read and sign the “Contestant Qualifications” sheet. If you don’t meet the qualifications, you may not enter the contest.
- B. Each individual contestant must read and sign the “What Is Expected Of the Winners” sheet. Should you win, this is your agreement of what you will do as an Illinois Bootblack titleholder. In return, we will provide you with a travel fund to go towards your Great Lakes contest weekend hotel/registration/travel expenses, with any extra funds going towards your other title year expenses. There is no guarantee that we will be able to raise enough funds to fully pay for all your travel expenses, but that is our goal and part of our mission.
- C. Each individual contestant must fill out the Contestant Application/Agreement fully and sign it, as well as sign the “Photographic Release.” You will also provide a photocopy (or electronic scan) of your drivers license to prove your age.
- D. Each individual contestant shall donate a gift basket for auction during the Illinois Leather contest event to raise funds for the Illinois titleholders travel fund. The basket should have items that say something about you personally (for example, if you are an artist, you might donate an artwork, if you’re into cigars, you might get some cigars and cutters, etc.)
- E. Each individual contestant will provide a 100 word bio and a head shot picture (no more than 3” x 3”, 300dpi minimum) in electronic format upon acceptance of their application. This bio/picture will be used on the Illinois Leather Alliance website and any promotional materials/contest programs created for your contest year.
- F. All Contestants must arrive in the contest location no later than 8 pm on Friday before the start of the event and appear in person and on time for all the scheduled events during the Illinois Leather contest weekend.
- G. There are five elements to the Illinois Bootblack contest: Judging Categories, Two Minute Speech, On-Stage Question and Answer, Open Interview, and the Technical and Teaching Presentations.
  - a. **Judging Categories:** Contestants will be scored by a panel of judges during these elements in the categories and points outlined below:



# Illinois Bootblack Contest Application



- i. **Physical Skills:** Judges will evaluate the technique or procedure used to serve a customer's boots, leather and rubber, etc. What is physically done to create the best end product and ensure customer satisfaction?
  - ii. **Social Skills:** Judges will evaluate how well each contestant interacts in the social sphere. How does the contestant interact with the customer, spectators, judges, and other contestants?
  - iii. **General Knowledge:** Judges will evaluate each contestant's demonstrated knowledge of boot and leather care in addition to history of bootblacking in the leather community. To what extent does the contestant demonstrate an understanding of bootblacking in historical and contemporary contexts? Does the contestant have a working knowledge of leather history, traditions, and some understanding of commonly held protocols?
  - iv. **Purpose:** Judges will evaluate each contestant's special skills or unique contribution to the art of bootblacking. Is there some flair or distinctive element to the bootblack's presentation or skill, or does the act of blacking seem rote or mundane?
  - v. **Public Speaking:** Judges will evaluate each contestant's ability to speak on stage in a clear and concise manner. This category will be evaluated especially during the Speech and Pop Question elements.
- b. **Introduction speech:** Each individual contestant will appear onstage to introduce him or herself to the audience and briefly describe their background or interest in the leather community, while wearing the attire that best represents their Bootblack image. It is not encouraged to expound on a political "platform." The onstage Introduction shall be no longer than two (2) minutes.
  - c. **Pop Questions:** Each individual contestant will appear onstage and answer a pop question.
  - d. **Open Interview:** The public is invited to take part in the open interview process. A box will be set up at the Bootblack Contest area for the public to submit interview questions. These questions will be reviewed by contest staff and will be drawn and read aloud by the head judge during the community interview segment. If there are questions remaining, they will be placed into the pool of possible questions for the On-Stage Question and Answer section. The interview itself is also open to the public, and if time allows, questions will be taken from attendees in person as a supplement to submitted interview questions.



# Illinois Bootblack Contest Application



e. **Technical Presentation and Teaching Presentation:**

A timed technical presentation by each bootblack will take place during the forum that is open to the public. Each contestant will draw a technical boot on Friday and will be expected to revamp the boot and present their process to the judges and assembled guests. Contestants must complete all work on their boot, but they may consult with each other. Contestants may not utilize outside individuals/resources to wear the boot or consult on the condition of the boot.

A timed teaching presentation by each bootblack will take place during a special workshop slot that is open to the public. Each contestant will randomly select from a small range of basic bootblacking topics and will be expected to briefly present on their topic. The outgoing titleholder will round out the remainder of the workshop.

**The time restrictions shall be strictly enforced for each of these categories. The time restrictions and allocation of points may be modified with prior notice to the contestants and judges.**

Scoring will be done on an aggregate basis. The contestant whose aggregate score is highest will be declared as the winner. The contestant whose score is second highest will be declared as the runner-up. In the event of a tie in aggregate scores, the highest score in a specific category, such as Interview, will determine the winner. The judges will determine which category to use as the tie breaker. Contestants must score 70% or better of the overall points to win, whether or not they are competing on their own or against others.

- H. All contestants are prohibited from having private meetings or engaging in sexual activity or leather scene play with the judges prior to the announcement of the results. Any behavior that might create even the appearance of bias will be brought to the attention of the head judge, who will decide if the disqualification of the judge and/or contestant is warranted. To avoid accidental violation of this policy, contestants and judges will be introduced to each other prior to the contest event beginning.
- I. Winners will receive a patch and medallion denoting their title and year, an equal portion of the travel fund to be paid after Great Lakes Leather Alliance Weekend (divided up by the number of current titleholders in the same title class) and any donated sponsorship gifts for the winners. Winners get to wear a sash for their title for their title year, but must return the sash to the Producers at the end of their year.



# Illinois Bootblack Contest Application



## Illinois Bootblack Contestant Qualifications

Each contestant in the *Illinois Bootblack* contest:

- a) must be at least twenty-one years old;
- b) may be of any gender, sexual orientation, or personal identity;
- c) must be a resident of the state of Illinois;
- d) must not hold a current leather title;
- e) must agree to represent their title, if they win, throughout their title year and refrain from competing in any other leather title contest, except Great Lakes Bootblack, until the conclusion of her title year;
- f) must agree to return to the Illinois Leather Contest event next year, if they wins, to step aside from their title;
- g) must sign the photographic release; and
- h) read and agree to the terms of the statement of "What is Expected of the Winners."

PRINTED NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_



# Illinois Bootblack Contest Application



## Illinois Bootblack - What Is Expected of the Winners

- The foremost duty of the Winners is to promote the goals of the Illinois Bootblack title, the Illinois Leather Alliance and its local sponsors in a positive light throughout the year.
- One of the foremost expectations that we have of our Winners is that during their title year, they will conduct themselves as positive role models. Flagrant violation of this expectation may result in forfeiture of their title.
- The Winners may not compete in any other “leather” or “fantasy” contests during their Illinois title year, except for Great Lakes Bootblack at GLLA Weekend. We strongly encourage our Bootblack titleholders to complete at GLLA, but it is not a requirement to do so.
- We strongly encourage titleholders to consider the Great Lakes Bootblack contest as their next step. However, we want you to pursue the opportunities that you are passionate about. Talk to us about your ideas!
- The Winners are expected to march in the Chicago Pride Parade (end of June) with the Chicago Leather Pride float - usually organized by Touché.
- The Winners are expected to participate in at least two leather events in the state of Illinois - some suggestions are: volunteering at International Mr. Leather, volunteering at American Brotherhood Weekend, volunteering for a local leather club’s run, fundraiser or bar night, organizing or presenting at a kink/BDSM/leather educational event.
- The Winners are expected to participate in at least one fundraising event to benefit the Illinois Leather titleholders’ travel fund.
- In addition to participating in an Illinois Leather titleholders’ travel fundraising events, the Winners are encouraged to help with fundraising for other worthy causes.
- The Winners are encouraged to attend as many other state, regional or major leather events and contests as they may see fit.
- If funds are available for travel expenses above and beyond traveling to Great Lakes Leather Alliance Weekend for the Great Lakes contests, Winners will need to submit receipts for expenses to be reimbursed. There is no guarantee that funds will be available.

**PRINTED NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_



# Illinois Bootblack Contest Application



**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Illinois Bootblack - Photographic Release

I, the undersigned, hereby grant to Illinois Leather Alliance (“ILA”) and its licensees, agents, successors and assigns, the exclusive right and permission to own, print, reprint, broadcast, reproduce, and publish any and all photographs, negatives, video and audio recordings, and other electronic media and mechanical images of me, which are taken during any ILA related contest, rehearsal, photographic modeling session, reception or other related event. All photographs and images of me during such events shall be the property of ILA, who shall have the exclusive right to use the photographs and images for any purpose whatsoever in any media or context.

I agree to participate, if asked to do so, in a photographic modeling session arranged by Illinois Leather Alliance during the Illinois Leather contest weekend at a location within the United States. I understand that the photographs may be used exclusively by ILA in its advertisements, website and promotional activities, and for no other purpose unless I grant written permission. I understand that nudity is not required but is optional. I shall receive no compensation for modeling other than the prizes that are awarded to me, if any, as a contest winner.

I hereby release, discharge and agree to hold harmless ILA, its officers and agents, photographers, licensees, agents, successors and assigns, including all publishers, distributors and webmasters who may publish, distribute, broadcast, or otherwise use photographs and images of me, from any liability or claim arising from the publication, distribution, broadcast, or other use of any photographs and images of me, including any distortion, blurring, alteration, optical illusion, or use in composite form, either intentionally or otherwise, that may occur or be produced in the taking, processing, or reproduction of the photographs and images of me, their publication, distribution or broadcast.

I certify that I am twenty one years of age or older, and have read this Release before signing it. I have attached a photocopy of my driver’s license or passport, which shall be used for identification purposes only and shall not be published.

**PRINTED NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_



# Illinois Bootblack Contest Application



## Illinois Bootblack - Contestant Registration Form

1. Read entire Contestant Qualifications Statement, sign the form.
2. Read "What Is Expected of Winners", sign the form.
3. Complete and sign the Photographic Release.
4. Complete and sign this Registration Form.
5. Attach a photocopy of your driver's license or passport showing your age.
6. Return all signed forms (or scans of signed forms) to [contest@illinoisleatheralliance.com](mailto:contest@illinoisleatheralliance.com).
7. Remember to submit your bio (max. 100 words) and HEAD SHOT picture for the program (max. 3" x 3", 300 dpi, jpg or tif).
8. For the March 17th/18th 2017 competition, **applications are due by March 3rd, 2017.**

Legal Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Scene Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Club or group affiliations: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Medical or Other Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you been arrested, indicted or convicted of a crime? If so, please share the nature of the conviction:



# Illinois Bootblack Contest Application



**Sponsor (not required):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Time involved in BDSM/Leather/Fetish:** \_\_\_\_\_

**BDSM/Leather events attended in the past year:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Other leather titles held and dates:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Community Activities and Involvement:**

**How do you flag? (Colors/ Left/Right/Both) What are your fetishes or interests?**

**Why have you decided to run for the Illinois Bootblack title? (Attach additional pages if needed)**

**If you win the Illinois Bootblack title, what would be your goal(s) for your title year? (Attach additional pages if needed.)**

**Any additional information you would like the judges to know? (Attach additional pages if needed.)**



# Illinois Bootblack Contest Application





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I, the undersigned, agree to comply with all the rules and regulations set by Illinois Leather Alliance, my local sponsors, and the management of the facilities where the events are held.

I certify that all information I have provided on this form is accurate.

I certify that I am 21 years of age or older and meet all of the qualifications specified in the attached **CONTESTANT QUALIFICATIONS** statement.

I agree to comply with all of the requirements described in the attached statement of **WHAT IS EXPECTED OF THE WINNERS**.

**PRINTED NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_