



2026 Technician Competition Information

May 15-16, 2026

Kalahari Resort & Conference Center
7000 Kalahari Drive; Sandusky, Ohio 44870
877-525-2427

Questions? Contact:

Bradie Berry, Ohio Trucking Association
bradie@ohiotrucking.org or 614-519-6462

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** Technician registrations must be made online or via the forms sent by the Ohio Trucking Association through email and are due no later than **Friday, April 17, 2026**. Payment is due at the time of registration. No refunds will be given after this date except in extreme circumstances.*

Technician Competition Contestant Certification

All contestants must certify that during the twelve months prior to the 2026 Technician Competition (TechComp):

- ✓ the technician has been continuously employed by their company as a Commercial Vehicle Technician;
- ✓ the technician lives in Ohio or is based at a company with a physical address located in Ohio; and
- ✓ the technician is in good standing within their company OR
- ✓ the competitor is a current student studying to be a diesel technician at an Ohio school or university.

Technicians must wear work-appropriate shirts, long pants, and work shoes meeting acceptable industry safety standards. You will be provided with a t-shirt that you will wear on Saturday, May 16, 2026, during the hands-on station competition.

Companies will complete the 2026 Ohio Trucking Association Technician Competition registration spreadsheet. The company representative of that company will certify at the top of the spreadsheet that the registered technicians meet the above qualifications.

Technicians may only compete in one state competition during the calendar year.

Summary of Contestant Ground Rules and Expectations

Registration & Orientation

All TechComp contestants must report to the Zambezi Room for event registration and orientation on Friday, May 15, 2026, between 12:30PM and 1:00PM. Failure to register or attend orientation will result in disqualification, unless the reason for absence given from a company representative is deemed acceptable by the majority of the Ohio Trucking Association or TechComp Steering Committee. If the technician in question is from a Steering Committee Member's company, a different company representative must plead the driver's case if available.

Written Exam

All TechComp contestants will be required to complete their written exam on Friday, May 15, 2026 at 1:00PM.

Stations

Stations will be completed on Saturday, May 16, 2026. A final agenda will be sent out before the event.

If a contestant has a concern or problem, it is to be reported to their station chair, a judge, or an Ohio Trucking Association staff member. These individuals will be marked as such on their name badges. These individuals will then notify the TechComp chairman and/or the committee if necessary.

Only a station chair, TechComp Committee member or OTA staff member can release technicians to leave a designated area.

Meals

Please be advised that all technicians receive breakfast and lunch on Saturday. No meals are provided on Friday.

Audience

Spectators, including families and technicians (when not competing) are welcome to enjoy the Kalahari Resort during their free time. *Please note that family members are not permitted in the competition areas or restricted areas unless escorted by a committee or staff member, and only in the event of an emergency.*

Safety Protocols

If you have tested positive for COVID-19, are waiting for COVID-19 test results, have COVID-19 symptoms, or if you have had close contact with a person who has tested positive for or who has symptoms of COVID-19, please do not attend the 2026 Ohio Technician Competition.

Code of Conduct

Professionalism is required of all contestants, judges, volunteers, staff, and company and industry representatives. The Code of Conduct must be adhered to at all times.

1. No alcohol is permitted in or around the competition area during the entire event; alcohol must not be consumed at any time during competition days, until the competition is over.
2. Kalahari is a smoke-free area. Smoking is allowed only in designated areas.
3. No abusive or profane language will be tolerated.
4. Respect will be shown to all fellow contestants, judges, and volunteers.
5. No destruction of personal or private property will be tolerated.
6. All contestants and their families are expected to behave responsibly and in a professional manner.
7. Cell phones, smartwatches, headphones, and earbuds are not permitted to be with the technician at any time during the competition (including written test and hands-on challenge). Additionally, competitors are not permitted to wear any hat covering their ears. Volunteers must take calls outside of the competition area.
8. For all situations not addressed in this code, or for more stringent company policy, please see your company official or representative for clarification.

Violation of the Code of Conduct will result in immediate disqualification from this year's event. If a technician has completed any or all of the competition when the violation occurs, the technician's scores will be voided. Company officials will be notified and, depending on the severity of the violation, an individual or company may be denied entry in further TechComp events.

The Contestant Ground Rules and Expectations and the Code of Conduct have been implemented to ensure safety for technicians, their families, and volunteers, as well as fair and equal opportunities for all technicians competing.

Tentative Technician Competition Schedule

Friday, May 15, 2026

12:30 PM	Registration & Orientation	Zambezi Room
1:00 PM	Written Test	Zambezi Room
3:00 PM	Educational Seminar	Zambezi Room
5:00 PM	Station Walkthrough	Kilimanjaro Ballroom

Saturday, May 16, 2026

6:00 AM	Breakfast	Orange Room
7:15 AM	Report to Bullpen	Aloeswood Room
12:00	Lunch	North Pathway
1:00 PM	Report to Bullpen	Aloeswood Room
6:00 PM	Reception & Awards Banquet	Kilimanjaro Ballroom

All times are subject to change based on the competition pace.

Additional Information

Facility Information

All TechComp stations will be in or around the Kilimanjaro Ballroom. There are ten stations, each of which are timed in the following fields: brakes, engine diagnostics, fasteners, fifth wheel, HVAC, lighting, live engine, PMI, starting and charging station & tire and wheel. Spectators are not permitted inside the competition area.

Outside Food and Beverage Policy

All food and beverages associated with the Ohio Technician Competition must be provided, prepared, and served by the Kalahari and must be consumed on Hotel premises.

Hotel Information

Hotel Reservations

Room reservations will be made through the company representatives. Room availability is on a first-come, first-serve basis and will sell out very quickly.

For companies booking fewer than ten sleeping rooms, contact:

Kalahari Reservation Department
877-525-2427 or book online [here](#)

For companies booking more than ten sleeping rooms, contact:

Jerry Simon, Director of Sales
419-433-7081
jsimon@kalahariresorts.com

The sleeping room rate starts at \$159/night. Please be aware of all deposit and cancellation policies. All reservations must be made on or before Friday, April 10, 2026. When contacting Kalahari, make sure that they are aware you are calling for the "2026 Truck Driving Championships" room block.

Hotel Key Pickup

Company representatives should direct each competitor to check-in directly with the front desk. If you have any questions regarding check-in, please call the Kalahari Reservation Department at 877-525-2427.

Water Park and Amenities Information

Kalahari Resorts & Conventions houses one of the largest water parks in the country. To ensure that all families enjoy these facilities, each sleeping room reservation receives four complimentary water park passes. Additional passes may be purchased.

Volunteer Information

Registration

Volunteers will need to register through their company via the form sent to their company's representative by email or online at ohiotrucking.org.

Meals

Volunteers will receive meals on the days that they work except for the banquet on Saturday night, for which they must pay the standard banquet meal price. The banquet registration deadline is Friday, April 17, 2026.

Banquet Information

Technicians

Each technician competing receives one banquet ticket as part of their registration fee. Technicians will be seated with their company.

Family Members and Guests

Family members and guests must have a banquet ticket, which can be purchased online or using the banquet registration form. The banquet registration deadline is Friday, April 17, 2026.

Volunteers

Volunteers must purchase a banquet ticket if they wish to attend the banquet. These tickets can be purchased online or using the banquet registration form. The banquet registration deadline is Friday, April 17, 2026. Volunteers will be seated with their company.

Dress Code

The dress code for the banquet is business professional; a photographer will be present to take pictures of the audience as well as sponsors and award winners.

Technician Competition Sponsorship Information

Our Technician Competition is made possible through the generous support of sponsors. Contact Director of Business Development Deb Seiple at 614-653-1991 or deb@ohiotrucking.org to secure your spot! *Sponsorships are sold on a first-come, first-serve basis.*

Kalahari Map

