

2026-2027 Ohio BPA Trading Pin Design Contest

Purpose	To design a commemorative Ohio BPA Trading Pin that members can exchange with attendees at the National Leadership Conference.
Outstanding Design Award	Two winning designers will be recognized during the Ohio BPA State Leadership Conference Opening Session, Monday evening, and will receive: ➤ 5 complimentary Trading Pins ➤ An award certificate ➤ A \$50 gift card ➤ Recognition as the official designer of the Trading Pin artwork. ○ Each winning design will each be produced as a 1.5 x 1.5-inch pin, distributed to registered NLC attendees, and featured on the Ohio BPA website. ○ Trading pins will also be available for purchase by chapter advisors for their members.
Eligibility	Current ML, S, and PS members of Ohio BPA are eligible to participate. a. Each trading pin design submitted separately. b. Chapters may submit up to two top designs per class. c. Each member may submit only one design.
Design Criteria	Design must represent Ohio and include: a. "Ohio", "OH", the state outline or similar Ohio representation b. "BPA" or "Business Professionals of America" Year: a. The pin design must not include any year. Theme: a. Must reflect Ohio. b. Showcase an original and creative concept. c. You may incorporate themes, imagery, or ideas inspired by businesses, products, innovations, or trends that are strongly associated with Ohio. d. Optional: You may include elements connected to the current BPA NLC theme, as long as the design still relates to Ohio and does not copy the official National BPA design. Copyright: a. No copyrighted mascots, words, diagrams, clipart, artwork, and/or trademarks not in the public domain. b. All external images, graphics, and fonts must be cited on the submission form.

Method of Evaluation	Fonts & Graphics: a. Source of graphics must be listed on the submission form. b. All fonts must be listed on the submission form. c. Downloaded fonts must be 100% free or free for commercial use. d. Remember that pin designs are small, so use clear, easy-to-read fonts and simple graphics to make sure your design remains visible and professional at actual size. Color & Shape: a. Design may use an unlimited number of colors. b. Any shape is acceptable. c. Examples include the outline of Ohio, a standalone graphic shape, a rectangle, a circle, or other creative forms. d. Make sure the background behind your design is solid white, so voters can clearly see the exact shape of the pin. Size & Resolution: a. Canvas/Artboard size: 1.5 x 1.5 inches b. Design size: Must be no bigger than 1.5 by 1.5 inches. a. Fill all or most of the space. c. Resolution: 300 dpi Because the pin design is very small, keep imagery simple and avoid overcrowding the design to ensure it prints clearly. Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI): a. Designs may incorporate AI-generated elements; however, all AI use must be clearly disclosed on the submission form. b. Designers must make significant creative contributions to any AI-generated components; fully AI-generated designs with minimal human input are not permitted and may result in disqualification. c. All AI-assisted or AI-generated elements must follow copyright and originality requirements. Final Composition: a. Design must be created digitally. b. Acceptable file formats for upload include JPEG, PNG, and PDF. c. Designers must also retain and be prepared to submit original, editable source files (such as AI, PSD, or SVG) if selected as the winner. d. Files must be exported as high resolution suitable for printing. e. Only the design itself should be submitted; mock-up on a T-shirt is not permitted and will result in disqualification. The submitted designs will first be reviewed for compliance with all contest guidelines. From these entries, the top 25 qualifying designs will be selected for the final voting round.
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Entry Deadline	Advisors will be notified, and an announcement will be posted on the Ohio BPA website when voting opens for all members to cast their vote for their preferred design. The winning designs will be announced during the Opening Session of the Ohio BPA State Leadership Conference on Monday, February 22, 2027. The entry must be submitted no later than 11:59 pm on November 15, 2026. a. No revisions may be made after submission. b. All submitted designs become the property of Ohio BPA. c. The winning design may be modified as needed for final production.
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Good luck to all participants!