



2025 Surgical Technologists Behind the Mask Contest Rules



- Your photo entry must depict a photo of the surgical technologist you'd like to recognize. The photo DOES NOT NEED to be in the OR.
- Your entry cannot show name badges, boards or screens containing patient names, or any other view that would violate HIPAA regulations. It is your responsibility to know your employer's policy about photography/videography and the use of cell phones in your facility. AST is not liable for any disciplinary action taken against you for failing to know and follow your employer's policy.
- If your photo shows people other than yourself, you must get usage permission from the people in your photo before entering it into this contest. Your entry will appear online and, possibly, in print. By entering, you are verifying that everyone in the photo gave you (and subsequently AST) approval to use their likeness.
- Photos must be submitted through the contest website by September 30. Although entries will continue to be visible online as we post submissions, new entries will not be accepted after September 30. Mailed or emailed entries will not be accepted, nor will photos or videos posted only to AST's Facebook page. If you are having trouble uploading photos from your phone or computer, contact communications@ast.org.
- Only one person can enter a photo (no duplicate entries), and only one entry is allowed per person. The person who submits the photo to the contest and the surgical technologist being recognized will win a prize. Prizes are nontransferable. Prizes are redeemable only within the stated timeframe. Failure to respond during the stated timeframe will forfeit the prize.
- Photo entries may be disqualified and removed at AST's discretion at any time, without notification. Causes for disqualification include a HIPAA violation, lack of permission from subjects in the photo, profanity/obscenities, blatant sales or product pitches, etc.
- Winner selection and notification: Winners of the contest will be selected in a random drawing under the supervision of AST. Winners will be notified via phone or email via the contact information they provide on the registration form. Winners names will be announced on AST's website and Facebook account by November 25, 2025. AST shall have no liability for a winner's failure to receive notices due to winners' spam, junk e-mail or other security settings or for winners' provision of incorrect or otherwise non-functioning contact information. If the selected winner cannot be contacted, is ineligible, fails to claim the prize within 15 days of notification, their prize may be forfeited, and an alternate winner selected. The winner of the grand prize of a 2026 conference registration to AST's national event in Seattle, must be a member of AST to earn their prize. For further rules, visit the AST website.
- Previous grand prize winners of National Surgical Technologists Week contests are not eligible to win the grand prize again but are eligible for other prizes.

REMINDER: The number of likes for a recognition will have NO impact on whether it qualifies for the drawing but will make it eligible for AST promotional prizes. Liking and sharing your entry and others' raises awareness and helps the public understand the profession and the role of the surgical technologist.