

65th Annual National Morel Mushroom Festival

May 15-18, 2025

P.O. Box 184

Boyne City, MI 49712

www.bcmorelfestival.com

National Competitive Morel Mushroom Hunt Rules & Information

Saturday, May 17, 2025: 7:30 – 11:30 am

Timeline:

- 7:30 – 8:00 AM: Registration at Boyne City High School, 1035 Boyne Ave. Boyne City, MI 49712. Online Pre-Registration is HIGHLY recommended, as this event sells out.
- 8:00-8:40 AM Online Pre-Registration participants must check-in at registration to fill out participation waivers and obtain their mushroom bag. **Those arriving after 8:40 will lose their space and no refund will be issued.**
- 8:45 AM: Buses leave registration for the hunt site. Buses are supplied by the Festival. **No other vehicles are allowed to accompany the buses.** **Only hunt competitors can ride the buses. No smoking, vaping, or drinking of alcohol are permitted on the bus.**
- 9am – 11 AM: National Morel Mushroom Festival Competitive Hunt

Cost:

- Pre-registration \$30. Additional \$10 fee for on-site registration.

Number of Hunters:

- Limited to the first 200 entrants on a first-come, first-serve basis. Each competitor is required to sign a Waiver of Liability releasing the Festival in the event of an injury or accident.

Rules of the Hunt:

- All participants receive an official mesh sack for mushroom collecting. Hunters cannot use their own bags.
- The hunt is 90 minutes and begins with a shotgun start – bring a phone and/or stopwatch!
- No one is permitted in the woods until the start is announced. Hunters are penalized 10 mushrooms for being late to the end of the hunt. An additional 10 mushrooms are deducted for each minute thereafter. Anyone more than 10 minutes late to the end of the hunt is disqualified.
- Hunters cannot be accompanied in the woods by non-participants.
- Anyone observed pooling mushrooms or getting unauthorized help will be disqualified. Complaints may be submitted to the Hunt officials for settlement.
- Only morel mushrooms (species Morchella) are eligible. **NO CAPS** will be accepted. **IMPORTANT:** Mushrooms must be torn or cut above ground level. Any mushroom showing sign of root damage is disqualified.
- Mushrooms must be submitted for counting in the provided mesh bag.
- If a contestant does not agree with the official count, they must request a recount before mushrooms are removed from the custody of hunt officials.
- Any count done outside the custody of hunt officials is not valid.
- Bags of mushrooms are available for pick-up after the official count is complete. Contestants are responsible for picking up their mushrooms. Hunt officials are not responsible for mushrooms after the winners are announced.
- Hunt officials are not responsible for accidents or anyone arrested on private land during the hunt. Anyone determined to have trespassed during the hunt is disqualified.

Prizes:

- **First Place - National Morel Mushroom Festival Grand Champion:** Trophy and \$100
- **Second Place:** Trophy and \$75
- **Third Place:** Trophy and \$50
- In the event of a tie, the total weight of the mushrooms will determine the winner. The judges' decision is final.