



# Great Lakes Cider And Perry 2026 Official Schedule May 13-15

The world's largest cider judging competition! Two full decades of elevating cider craftsmanship, delivering constructive feedback, recognizing excellence, and building a global community. Get ready for a celebration of apples, innovation, and cider excellence in Grand Rapids, Michigan!

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

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## 9 AM | Certified Pommelier Exam at [Embassy Suites](#)

- 8:45 AM - Theory registration opens
- 9:00 AM - Theory exam starts (strictly no late entries!)
- 11:00 AM - Theory exam ends
- 11:15 AM - Sensory registration opens
- 11:30 AM - Sensory exam begins (strictly no late entries!)
- 12:45 PM - Sensory exam ends

## 1:00 PM | Arrival & Registration at [Embassy Suites](#)

## 4:00PM | Welcome / Judges' Calibration [Embassy Suites](#)

Calibrate your palates, explore the hallmark attributes of cider styles across two decades, and get fully prepped on the cutting-edge BAP digital judging platform. Required for judges; highly recommended for volunteers!

**5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Cider Institute** Engaging session facilitated by CI staff and board members for GLINTCAP judges and stewards. A deeper dive into sensory analysis training. Required for all GLINTCAP judges and optional for other volunteers.

**7:30 PM - 9:30 PM | GLINTCAP Kickoff Social at [Vander Mill](#)** Mingle with fellow judges, stewards, special guest judges, and renowned cidemakers during this bottle share experience. Exclusive to GLINTCAP volunteers

Thursday, May 14, 2026

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## 6:30 AM - 8 AM | Complimentary breakfast for guests staying at [Embassy Suites](#)

## 7:45 AM - 6:00 PM | Judging Day 1 at [Embassy Suites](#)

7:45 AM - Stewards & Support Team Report  
8:15 AM - Judges Report  
8:30 AM - Calibration/Judging Round 1  
10:30 AM - Judging Round 2  
12:30 PM - Lunch Break at Embassy Suites Breakfast Lounge  
1:30 PM - Judging Round 3  
3:30 PM - Judging Round 4

**6 PM - 11 PM | Enjoy [Cider Week GR](#) events and/or [Experience GR](#) dining recommendations**

Friday, May 15, 2026

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**6:30 AM - 8 AM | Complimentary breakfast for guests staying at [Embassy Suites](#)**

**8:30 AM - 4 PM | Judging Day 2 at [Embassy Suites](#)**

8:30 AM - Stewards & Support Team Report  
9:00 AM - Judges Report  
9:15 AM - Judging Round 5  
11:15 AM - Stewards & Support Team Lunch at [Big E's Sports Grill](#)  
**11:45 AM - Judge Lunch & Learn at [Embassy Suites](#)**

Savor a delicious catered lunch paired with inspiring talks from guest judges!

12:30 PM - Stewards & Support Team Report  
2:00 PM - Judges Report  
2:15 PM - Best in Class Judging

**4 PM - 5:30 PM | Gold Cider Share & Volunteer Celebration at [Embassy Suites](#)**

A celebration for all competition volunteers! Sip on ciders awarded a gold medal during the first round of judging and enjoy appetizers and conversation from a picturesque balcony overlooking the Grand River.

**8:00 PM - 12:00 AM | GLINTCAP Awards Celebration at [Elevation](#)**

Experience the pinnacle of cider excellence at the GLINTCAP Awards Celebration! Enjoy a lively cocktail hour and delicious roaming dinner, and then witness the unveiling of awards like "Best in Class" and "Producers of the Year." This ticketed event is open to all cider enthusiasts.

8:00 PM - Arrival, Cocktails, Food Stations  
9:00 PM - Awards and recognition  
10:00 PM - MIDNIGHT - Music, drinks, food, and fun