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**Comté Scholarship for Certified Cheese Professionals™**

*Overview:*

The Comté Cheese Association (CIGC) is thrilled to offer an exciting scholarship opportunity for the American Cheese Society’s ***Certified Cheese Professionals*™ (ACS CCP™s)**. Comté is a PDO (European Union Protected Denomination of Origin) cheese that has been made in the Jura mountain region of France for over a thousand years. The winner of this scholarship will receive $750.00 cash award and an all-expenses-paid trip to the Comté region to learn first-hand about the cheese’s unique history and production, as well as to discover the know-how and culture of the region. The trip will take place in June/July 2026 (dates TBC).

To apply, ACS CCP™s must fill out the entry form and answer a short essay question (see attached). The essays will be judged anonymously on the basis of knowledge and creativity by a panel of three judges, who will select the winner.

*Scholarship Judges Include:*

***Cathy Strange***

*Vice President, Ambassador of Food Culture*

*Whole Foods Market, Inc.*

***Matt Thomas***

*Publisher, Culture Magazine*

***Nora Weiser***

*Executive Director, Good Food Foundation and Director Emeritus,*

*American Cheese Society*

*Rules:*

* Applicants must have passed the Certified Cheese Professional™ exam as administered by the American Cheese Society.
* Applicants must be 21 years of age or older, live and work in the United States or Canada and must be currently employed in the cheese industry.
* The Entry Form (see attached) must be emailed to [trade@comte-usa.com](mailto:trade@comte-usa.com) by **December 7, 2025**. **The Required Information and Essay must be typed directly into the Entry Form as a separate Word document and sent as an email attachment. Please do not send other formats.**
* Essay must be 600-800 words in total, the question must be answered and all essays must be original.
* Essays will be judged according to knowledge and creativity. Essays will be judged anonymously, and judges will not have access to contestants’ names or information.
* Winner will receive an all-expenses-paid trip to the Comté region of France tentatively scheduled for June/July 2026 (dates TBD), including transportation from a U.S. airport to the region and back, local transportation in the region, and hotel stays and meals during the visit. The winner will accompany a representative from the Comté Cheese Association and a small group of journalists.
* Winner will be notified by email.
* Winner must sign a publicity/liability release within 7 business days of initial notification or an alternate winner will be selected. They must also write a 100 word essay after the trip describing their experience.
* The winner will be featured in an upcoming edition of Comté News.
* Past winners of the Comté Scholarship for ACS CCP’s cannot apply.
* Comté Cheese Association reserves the right to modify/cancel the trip, at their sole discretion, should adverse circumstances arise.

**Comté Scholarship for Certified Cheese Professionals™** **Entry Form**

*The Required Information and Essay (see attached) can be typed here or in a separate Word document. Email your entry to* [*trade@comte-usa.com*](mailto:trade@comte-usa.com) *by December 7, 2025.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Required Information** | |
| First Name: |  |
| Last Name: |  |
| Date of Birth: |  |
| Mailing Address: |  |
| Telephone: |  |
| Email: |  |
| Name of current employer: |  |
| Address of employment: |  |

***Essay Question:***

Please answer the following question, within a word count of 600-800 words:

***“Have you noticed a growing interest in specialty cheese and Comté in particular among consumers under 40 recently?”*** *In your essay, please share your thoughts on average spent by these consumers, prices, as well as examples to illustrate Comté’s specific situation within this trend.*