



# Welcome

The Kentucky Distillers' Association was founded in 1880 to unite the Commonwealth's signature Bourbon and distilled spirits industry, promote our history and craftsmanship around the world and protect its enduring spirit from those who would do it harm.

Today, our venerable non-profit group encompasses the overwhelming majority of Kentucky's finest distilling companies, from legendary brands and renowned global icons to emerging distillers that are building the next generation of our timeless craft.

All have one common goal: to be part of a distilling family committed to securing the integrity of our industry and strengthening Kentucky's rightful place as the one, true and authentic home for Bourbon.

But to be clear: we're not just about Bourbon. Our members include brandy distilleries, moonshine companies and diverse brands such as rum, gin, vodka and single malt whiskies. All champion tradition and embrace innovation.

We have achieved much by working together. But we have more work to do to modernize Kentucky's archaic alcohol laws, level the playing field with the beer and wine sectors, and elevate and protect Kentucky's booming \$9 billion distilled spirits industry.

We've been waiting for you since 1880.

## Here is why you should join us now.

100 CAPITAL AVENUE  
FRANKFORT, KY 40601

# OUR ROOTS ARE DEEP.

Since 1880, the mission of the KDA has been to Passionately and Responsibly Unite, Promote, Protect & Elevate Kentucky's Signature Bourbon and Distilled Spirits Industry.

## *Member Benefits*

- Governmental & regulatory advocacy
- Media relations
- International trade development
- Technical + regulatory assistance
- Economic development support
- Networking
- Legal defense
- Marketing strategies
- Innovative tourism experiences
- Diversity, equity + inclusion training + development
- Collaborative research programs
- Responsibility best practices
- Sustainability + workforce development initiatives
- High-profile sampling events
- Professional development
- Industry data + reports
- Strategic planning + partnerships

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# MEMBERSHIP

KDA has an open membership policy for individuals, businesses or institutions engaged as a licensed manufacturer, distiller or rectifier of distilled beverage spirits in Kentucky. KDA currently offers three levels of membership to accommodate distilling companies of all sizes: Heritage, Proof, and Craft.

## HERITAGE MEMBERSHIP

Heritage membership is the highest level within the KDA. It is open to licensed distillers or rectifiers in Kentucky that maintain a minimum inventory of 50,000 barrels (or barrel equivalents) of distilled beverage spirits each year.

Heritage members are the KDA's chief guiding voices on industry issues and priorities.

Each Heritage member has the opportunity to appoint a voting representative to the KDA Board of Directors and all advisory panels, including the right to become an esteemed Officer of the Board and lead the historic organization and the industry at large.

Heritage members also have the privilege of increased brand exposure on KDA marketing initiatives and social media channels, prominent visibility at exclusive KDA events, and are eligible to join the prestigious Kentucky Bourbon Trail® tourism experience, among other elite opportunities.

**Annual dues:** Annual dues are based on barrel inventory as of Dec. 31 the preceding year and are set each year by the KDA Board of Directors at the KDA Annual Meeting. Dues for fiscal year 2023 are \$0.10 per barrel and may be paid in quarterly installments. Minimum dues are \$50,000.

**Initiation Fee:** There is a one-time Heritage Member initiation fee of \$75,000. Any initiation or application fee paid by a current KDA member shall be credited towards its Heritage initiation fee.



## PROOF MEMBERSHIP

The Proof level membership is open to licensed distillers or rectifiers in Kentucky that maintain an inventory between 10,000 barrels (or barrel equivalents) and 49,999 barrels of distilled beverage spirits each year. It is the second highest level of KDA membership.

Proof members have the opportunity to appoint a representative to the KDA Board of Directors and have a one (1) collective vote in all Board matters. Additionally, Proof members are encouraged to appoint a representative to each of the KDA advisory panels as they become more involved in industry issues and Association efforts before they transition to the acclaimed Heritage level.

Proof members also have the privilege of increased brand exposure on KDA marketing initiatives and social media channels, prominent visibility at exclusive KDA events, and are eligible to join the prestigious Kentucky Bourbon Trail® or Kentucky Bourbon Trail Craft Tour® experiences, among other elite opportunities.

**Annual dues:** Dues for fiscal year 2023 are \$1 per barrel and may be paid in quarterly installments.

**Initiation Fee:** There is a one-time initiation fee of \$1 multiplied by two times the applicant's barrel inventory. This amount is credited towards the initiation fee required for a Heritage member when the Proof distillery reaches the minimum inventory standards to advance.

## CRAFT MEMBERSHIP

The Craft level membership is for licensed distillers or rectifiers in Kentucky that maintain an inventory below 10,000 barrels (or barrel equivalents) of distilled beverage spirits each year. Craft distilleries currently make up more than half of all KDA members.

Craft members have the opportunity to appoint a voting representative to the KDA's Craft Advisory Panel and represent their level on other advisory panels along with Proof and Heritage members, including prominent networking and best practices seminars. The Craft Membership Chair represents the Craft membership on the KDA Board of Directors and casts the collective Craft Membership vote.

Craft members also have the privilege of brand exposure at select KDA marketing initiatives and social media channels, and are eligible to join the popular Kentucky Bourbon Trail Craft Tour® experience, the first tourism attraction devoted to small distilleries in the country, among other unique opportunities.



## CRAFT MEMBERSHIP (cont.)

**Annual dues:** There are two levels of dues for Craft Distillery membership: Introductory and Established. Annual dues are based on barrel inventory as of Dec. 31 the preceding year.

**Introductory level** dues are for Craft distilleries that maintain an annual inventory of up to 1,000 barrels (or barrel equivalent) of Kentucky distilled beverage spirits. Introductory Craft Member dues for fiscal year 2023 are \$1,000 with a one-time, non-refundable application fee of \$100.

**Established level** dues are for Craft distilleries that maintain an annual inventory between 1,000 and 10,000 barrels (or barrel equivalent) of Kentucky distilled beverage spirits. Established Craft Member dues for fiscal year 2023 are \$5,000. There is a one-time, non-refundable application fee of \$500.





## DISTILLERY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & AGREEMENT

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**Company name:** \_\_\_\_\_

hereby applies to join the Kentucky Distillers' Association. While the KDA maintains an open membership policy, a licensed Distiller or Rectifier is considered a member in good standing by abiding by all applicable KDA bylaws, federal, state and local laws and ordinances, and by paying annual dues. The KDA Board of Directors, by majority vote, shall have the right and power to revoke, suspend or censure any Distillery's participation or membership for violation of these standards, the Distilled Spirits Council code of ethics, or laws and regulations that govern standards of identity and aging and labeling requirements in accordance with KDA bylaws.

**Principal Applicant:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Company Profile

**Street address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Business phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Alternate:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Business email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Alternate email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please provide information for the appropriate contact to receive KDA communications:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

## DISTILLERY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & AGREEMENT

### Operational Status

Is applicant licensed by the Kentucky Department of Alcohol Beverage Control? \_\_\_\_\_

Please list licenses currently held:

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Please list any pending licenses:

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DSP number: \_\_\_\_\_

Applying for:

**HERITAGE MEMBERSHIP**

*Applicant certifies that the company maintains an inventory of more than 50,000 barrels or barrel equivalents of Kentucky produced distilled beverage spirits each year.*

**PROOF MEMBERSHIP**

*Applicant certifies that distillery maintains an inventory between 10,000 and 49,999 barrels or barrel equivalents of Kentucky produced distilled beverage spirits each year*

**CRAFT - ESTABLISHED MEMBERSHIP (1,000 - 9,999 barrels)**

*Applicant certifies that distillery maintains an inventory between 1,000 and 9,999 barrels or barrel equivalents of distilled beverage spirits each year.*

**CRAFT - INTRODUCTORY MEMBERSHIP (1 - 999 barrels)**

*Applicant certifies that distillery maintains an inventory of less than 1,000 barrels or barrel equivalents of distilled beverage spirits each year.*

**Please attach copy of most recent *Kentucky Annual Report of Distilled Spirits in Bonded Warehouse* inventory form.**

## DISTILLERY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & AGREEMENT

Applicant agrees to abide by the voluntary Distilled Spirits Council Code of Responsible Practices for Beverage Alcohol Advertising and Marketing, a nationally recognized model of effective self-regulation that ensures responsible marketing behavior by beverage alcohol companies. The KDA expects and encourages its Heritage Distillery members to show the same commitment to social responsibility that our members uphold globally.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
*KDA Chair*

**Co-signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
*KDA Sponsor (if applicable)*

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
*KDA President*

### Submission Instructions

Please enclose your application, fee and copy of your most recent *Kentucky Annual Report of Distilled Spirits in Bonded Warehouse* inventory form, and return to:

Kentucky Distillers' Association  
Attn: Eric Gregory, President  
100 Capital Avenue  
Frankfort, KY 40601

Email: [eric@kybourbon.com](mailto:eric@kybourbon.com)

For more information about the KDA, please call (502) 875-9351 or visit online:

<https://kybourbon.com>

<https://kybourbontrail.com>

<https://www.saferideky.org>

For information about the Distilled Spirits Council Code, visit <https://www.distilledspirits.org>.

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