

Starke Tank 2025 – The Countywide Business Pitch Competition

Eligibility Rules and Requirements

1. Starke Tank is open to start-up businesses which commenced business operations less than three years ago as well as new businesses that are not yet operational. This includes established businesses that are under new ownership within the past three years.
2. The competition is not limited to Starke County residents, but the prize is contingent on the winner **locating and maintaining** the business in Starke County. If the winner does not locate or maintain their business within Starke County limits, they choose to forfeit their prize money.
3. The winner(s) will be required to submit a quarterly report, along with receipts and/or records related to your winning business.
4. Your business idea must be **original work** that you will be fully able to disclose.
5. Nonprofit organizations are not eligible.
6. Applicants must agree to the terms of the Starke Tank 2025 – The Countywide Business Pitch Competition rules and requirements.
7. Applications for the Starke Tank 2025 – The Countywide Business Pitch Competition must be received by Thursday, April 4, 2025 and sent by email to executiveassistant@scedf.biz. Applications can also be mailed to Starke County Economic Development Foundation, 1915 S. Heaton St., Knox, IN 46534, or delivered to the office between the hours of 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. CST. Mailed applications must be postmarked by April 4, 2025. SCEDF is not responsible for lost or misdirected mail.
8. Applications are available on the [Starke County Economic Development Foundation](http://www.scedf.biz) (SCEDF) website, www.scedf.biz.
9. Submissions may be entered by individuals or teams. For the sake of this document, everyone will be referred to as “teams” or “participants.”
10. All application forms must be complete at the time of submission. The accompanying business plan and financial projections are due April 4, 2025 and must be submitted to participate. These documents will be shared with the Starke Tank judges but will otherwise remain confidential. Some applications may not be accepted.

11. All finalists must participate in a rehearsal on Thursday, May 15, 2025 at 5:30pm CST at North Judson Community High School Performing Arts Center.
12. The competition will take place on Saturday, May 17, 2025, at 5 p.m. CST at North Judson Community High School Performing Arts Center. Participants **MUST** present in-person, but video submissions are allowed as part of the presentation. Contestants are strongly encouraged to provide a full copy of their presentation for each of the judges. Contestants **MUST** provide a copy of their video if they so choose to present with one (1) week prior to the event to ensure it will be able to be properly presented day of the event.
13. Teams that plan to use any audio-visual materials (including but not limited to PowerPoint presentations, videos, and music) must provide media files on a flash drive in a format compatible with Microsoft Office applications. It is the responsibility of the individual or team to ensure their presentations are compatible and to bring any adapters necessary to ensure that everything works. The media files will be managed on our system.
14. Each individual or team has up to **five (5) minutes** to present their pitch in total. Each judge will have an opportunity to ask one **(1) question** after each presentation.
15. Only the product and/or service can be presented for the audience and judges during the presentation.
16. Participants will be disqualified if they, or someone on their behalf, attempt to approach a judge in connection with this competition.
17. Participants who promote activities which are illegal, illicit, unethical, immoral or which may be considered unworthy of association with SCEDF will be disqualified.
18. By entering the competition, all participants agree to allow SCEDF to use their application materials, photos, likenesses, presentations, and other such information to market, promote and provide information about the event without expectation of financial compensation.