

BUTLER COUNTY CHILI AND SALSA COOKOFF

START YOUR FIRES!

COMPETITORS,

The Butler County Fair is almost here! Hope everyone has their recipes fine tuned and ready for battle this weekend. This letter is to touch base with everyone before this Sunday so that everyone knows what to expect and what to do. There have been a few slight changes from the first Welcome letter you received so read this one carefully.

Date: Sunday, July 25th

Place: Butler County Fairgrounds, under the Open Air Building north of the Round Building

Time: **THIS IS IMPORTANT**

You can begin to setup your booth as early as **8:30 a.m.** No Earlier. If you feel that you need more time to setup remember that you have the 3 hours during cooking time. Voting for Booth Decoration does not begin until noon. If you feel you still need more time you can request to come earlier by calling Rick Holgate or Cheryl Prothman

Cooks meeting is at 8:45 a.m. You must be checked in with the Coordinators and attend this meeting in order to compete. **One person from your team must attend this meeting or your team cannot compete.**

9a.m. START FIRES! Cooking and food prep may begin at this point.

Noon Sampling and Voting begin. This year will be completely PEOPLE'S CHOICE. The public that attends the event will be allowed to buy small sample cups and be given a ballot to choose their favorites.

1:45p.m. Voting Ends. Final results will be tallied and winners will be announced as soon as all votes are counted. Booth cleanup/teardown may begin at this time.

2:15p.m. Awards Ceremony.

PRIZES

Red Chili 1st Place \$300 2nd \$200 3rd \$100

Green Chili 1st Place \$200 2nd \$100 3rd \$50

Salsa 1st Place \$100 2nd \$75 3rd \$50

There will also be prizes again for Best Booth Decorations, Most Enthusiastic Team, and Best Team Name.

Each team will be responsible for clean up of their area after the competition. You should bring your own clean up materials such as paper towels, rags, buckets, garbage bags, etc. Water will be available if needed. Each team's table area must be cleaned and trash removed before your team leaves.

WE PROVIDE:

An open air building space for contestants will be given to the entrants based on time of arrival the day of the event, "First come, first serve."

1 table approx. 6 feet in length. Only ONE table per team even if the Team has multiple entries. If you need more tables for prep are you may bring your own. Your own tables must be set up behind or to the side of the table we provide for you. You must also provide your own chairs to sit on.

Electricity will be provided. We will have some extension cords available but it is recommended that you bring some of your own as well.

This year the Fair Board is providing a beer garden adjacent to the Cook-off tent as well as trying to supply some bottled water.

YOU PROVIDE:

You will bring all of your own chili ingredients, cooking utensils, and means for cooking. You cannot go out to get more ingredients after the Start Fires command has been given. What you bring, is what you cook with. If you forgot an ingredient or utensil you may try to borrow from a neighbor or will just have to do without. You will bring your own method of cooking, such as a camp stove, Crockpot, or hot plate. No open fires (charcoal grills, fire rings/pits, etc.) are allowed.

ALL preparation must be done on site! (Such as browning your meat, chopping or dicing your vegetables, etc.) Additional seasonings and ingredients may be added any time during the cooking as long as you brought the items prior to Start Fires command. You will have 3 hours to cook your chili or salsa before People's Choice judging begins! Commercially purchased precooked meat (i.e. Tyson Cutting Board chicken) will be allowed as long as the original packaged is unopened and inspected before the Start Fires command. Canned products are also allowed but should remain unopened before the Start Fires command.

You should make at a **minimum 1 gallon of chili** for the event and as much extra as you wish. You should make **2 quarts of salsa minimum** for the event and as much extra as you wish. Remember this is being judged completely as People's Choice and, **if you run out early you risk losing votes.** Some ran out early with 2 gallons last year. You may not cook another batch after voting has begun. The sample cups for the public will hold about 1-2 ounces per sample. You will dish out your own samples. You may not sell excess chili. This is a competition not a food vending event. If you do run out early please remain at your booth and do not begin teardown until voting has ended.

You will want to bring your own table covering and any other table decorations or signs or fun items to decorate your table and the area of your table. Go as crazy and creative as you want but keep in mind your safety, the safety and sanity of your neighbors, and the public. Remember there are prizes for Best Booth Decoration, Most Enthusiastic Team, and Best Team Name!

All teams must allow Event Coordinators to inspect meat and any home canned items for freshness and safety. We are mainly looking to make sure meat is untainted (i.e. no roadkill!!) and the seals are not broken on home canned products. This is purely for the safety of the public.

Beer from beer garden may not be used in the cooking of your chili. You may use bottled or canned beer brought from home. Please allow plenty of time for the alcohol to cook off in the chili. Remember this is a family event and there may be children sampling.

Infractions

If any of these rules are broken and the problem can be undone on site at the immediate request of the Committee the team will be allowed to compete. If the problem cannot be undone or solved the team is immediately disqualified and is not allowed any prize money or prizes awarded. The Cookoff Committee must witness the problem. Unfortunately, we cannot go on just the word of another team that there was an infraction. The Cookoff Committee will be watching competitors during the cooking phase. **No refund of entry fees will be awarded for any reason. Remember that all judging decisions are final.**

The Cook-off Committee or the Fair Board reserves the right to deny any food items, cooking methods, decorations or activities deemed unsafe for the public or other competitors at ANY time during the competition. If unsure about an idea or method, ASK FIRST! Remember that all judging decisions are final. Let's all be good sports.

#1 RULE HAVE FUN!!!

This is a very fun event and provides for a nice day for friends and family at the County Fair. Bring the family out and call your friends to come out and sample and vote for their favorite chili or salsa (hopefully yours!). Sample cups will be sold 10 for \$1 at the front entrance of the tent and one ballot is given with each 10 cups sold. Voters may choose one favorite in each category and their favorite in the Special Awards (best booth, etc.) for each ballot. Don't be afraid to beg for votes....just don't buy any!!

The ballots will be collected by the Committee members and tabulated. Winners will be determined by the total number of votes received. **The team with the most votes will win 1st and second most votes 2nd and so on. The same will go for the Special Awards as well.** In the event of a tie the cash award will be divided between the two winning teams. If a lower place (2nd or 3rd) prize is not awarded the cash from the vacant prize will be divided in half added to the tying team's award.

HAVE FUN AND GET THOSE CHILI POTS AND SALSA BOWLS **FIRE UP!**

Any questions or concerns please contact us immediately.

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