



PASADENA STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL ANNUAL BBQ COOK-OFF May 19 - 21, 2017

BBQ COOK-OFF CONTEST

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. The BBQ Contest will be held at the Pasadena Fairgrounds, located at 7603 Red Bluff, Pasadena, Texas.
2. Applications will be available in the Strawberry Festival office during regular business hours or on line at www.strawberryfest.org (Note: Application for any year other than 2017 is invalid and unacceptable).
3. Previous year's contestants will have first right of refusal for their space(s) until 5:00 pm March 1, 2017.
4. All other contestants will be admitted on a first come, first serve basis beginning March 2, 2017.
5. A single team may occupy no more than three (3) spaces.
6. Contestants must supply their own needed equipment and supplies.
7. Holes, dug pits, or open flames in boxes are not permitted. All pits must be diapered to prevent damage to the surface of the concrete and/or asphalt areas of the cook-off area.
8. Tent stakes will be allowed. Tent companies **MUST** provide Certificate of Liability Insurance. See "Tents" below.
9. Exterior decor and interaction with the public must be appropriate for viewing by a public audience of all ages and may not consist of material having a political, religious, discriminatory, or lewd nature.
10. The SJDF/PSF will not be responsible for theft or damage.
11. The SJDF/PSF reserves the right to make additional changes to the rules and regulations.
12. Decisions of the SJDF/PSF Judges are FINAL.
13. Those attending or participating in the BBQ Contest are required to wear appropriate clothing at all times. (No one will be admitted without shoes or shirts.)
14. The SJDF/PSF must approve all give-a-ways to the general public.
15. Excessively loud music, horns, air horns, etc. are strictly prohibited (SJDF/PSF discretion).
16. Persons associated as a member, committee person, director, etc. of the Pasadena Strawberry Festival **MAY NOT** be listed as a cook team member.
17. The SJDF/PSF reserves the right to refuse to rent a space or spaces to a cook team and/or the responsible head cook for one or more years if the Foundation's board has previously adjudged the team or the head cook to be in violation of a state law, city ordinance, festival rule or other conduct deemed by the board to be contrary to good order and discipline or the family nature of the festival's activities. The decision of the board will be final as to all judgments resulting in a refusal to rent. A cook team may not avoid the effects of a judgment of refusal simply by changing its name or head cook. A cook team under a different name will be deemed to be the same cook team as was refused rental if it has the same head cook and/or if it has two or more assistant cooks as listed on the application for the year when the violation occurred.
18. Violation of any Rules or Regulations in this document are grounds for expulsion.

ENTRY FEES

1. The entry fee is \$485.00 per 40' x 40' space.
2. Each space will be given 5 cooker wristbands and 5 admission tickets. Additional admission tickets may be purchased for \$12.00 each prior to 5:00 pm on Thursday, May 18, 2017. After 5:00 pm May 18th all General Admission tickets will be \$15.00 at the gate.
3. **NO ADMISSION WILL BE CHARGED TO:**
 - a. Contestants with cooker wristbands.
 - b. All SJDF/Strawberry Festival Committeemen wearing badges.
 - c. Children under 5 years of age.

COOK'S MEETINGS

1. Monday, May 1, 2017 at 6:30 pm in the rodeo arena.
 - a. Rules explanation
 - b. Q & A
2. Friday, May 19, 2017 at 9:00 am in the rodeo arena.
 - a. Containers will be distributed at this meeting.
 - b. Dessert, Cook's Choice, and Margarita times will be provided.

CHECK IN

1. Monday and Tuesday, May 15 & 16, ONLY tent companies will be allowed to set up. Any equipment brought onto the fairgrounds will be staged (unsecured) outside the cook off perimeter until Wednesday.
2. Wednesday, May 17, 2017 -- 8:00 am until 12:00 pm:
 - a. All cooking rigs/equipment 26 feet and larger. All other sizes noon - 10:00 pm.
3. Thursday, May 18, 2017 8:00 am until 10:00 pm and Friday, May 19, 2017 8:00 am until 1:00 pm:
 - a. All other cooking rigs and equipment.
4. CONTESTANTS ARE RESTRICTED TO 25 CASES OF BEER PER TEAM COOK SPACE. TO BE BROUGHT IN DURING CHECK IN, AND MAY BE SUBJECT TO INSPECTION.
 - a. All beer and ice must be brought in during check-in on Thursday, May 18, 2017 between 8:00 am and 10:00 pm, and Friday, May 19, 2017 between 8:00 am and 1:00 pm.

BRISKET INSPECTION

1. Brisket inspection will be conducted on Friday, May 19, 2017, between the hours of 1:00 pm and 3:00 p.m.
2. No contest brisket will be allowed on pits before 1:00 pm on Friday, May 19th, and must be inspected and tagged by the Team Rep Committee.
3. Each team will be allowed to tag two briskets per cook space. Only one will be allowed entry into competition.
4. Pre-cooked, salted, seasoned or marinated meat is not allowed.
5. Fires must be wood or wood substances; no electric or gas fires are allowed.

VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT

1. A detailed description of the equipment used by each cook-off team must be made in writing and submitted to the Strawberry Festival office (Attn: BBQ committee), with the completed application by 5:00 pm May 12, 2017.
2. A layout drawing of equipment must be included with the application packet.
3. Gates to thru traffic will be locked at 1:00 pm, Friday, May 19, 2017.
4. No vehicle will be allowed to enter or leave the contest area after 1:00 pm on Friday, May 19, 2017. NO EXCEPTIONS.
5. Under no circumstances will contestants block any aisle after set up period ends at 1:00 pm, Friday, May 19, 2017.
6. Vehicles not removed by 1:00 pm Friday, May 19, 2017, and/or left unattended, will be subject to removal by a wrecker, at the contestant's expense.
7. Parking Permits for vehicles that will remain inside the cook space will be placed in the window of the contestant's vehicle by a member of the Team Rep Committee during check in period, and must remain there until the end of the contest.
8. Under no circumstances are the Parking Permits transferable.
9. **Under no circumstances will any contestant, or member of the public, be allowed to bring onto the grounds: golf carts, motor vehicles, carts, bicycles, roller skates, skate boards, scooters, segways, remote-controlled toys, drones, motorized coolers or any type of transportation, with the exception of wheelchairs for handicapped individuals. Use of any of the above mentioned items would justify cooking team disqualification.**

COOK OFF TEAMS AND SPACES

1. A cook team shall consist of one (1) head cook and four (4) assistant cooks.
 - Team names may be listed as: Acme #1, Acme #2, Acme #3.
 - Team names may not be offensive and are subject to approval by SJDF/PSF Cook-Off Director.
 - Head cook and team members may not cook on more than one team. Doing so will be cause for disqualification.
 - Each team must have unique members.
2. Each paid cook-off space will be allocated a 40' x 40' space.
3. Props, trailers, motor homes, tents, covering or any other part of contestant's or team's equipment **must not exceed** the boundaries of the assigned space.
4. One cooking pit & one self-contained motor home, camper or vehicle will be allowed per space.
5. Teams may not extend, under any circumstances, into any utility alleys created between, behind or beside team spaces. All power alleys and easements must be left clear and open at all times, including during move-in.
6. Tent companies may be scheduled to set up between 8:00 am and 8:00 pm on Monday, May 15, or Tuesday, May 16, 2017.
7. Tent tear down can begin after 5:00 pm on Sunday, May 21, 2017.
8. A team representative must be present while a tent is being erected to ensure the tent is placed correctly in the space. If a tent is set up outside a team's allocated space, the team bears all responsibility to ensure correction of tent placement.
9. Due to unpredictable weather, it is suggested that contestants bring suitable shelter for their space/team.
10. No hay, straw, shavings or similar combustible materials are allowed.
11. Teams wishing to utilize perimeter fencing within their allocated space(s) will be allowed to do so as long as it is secure. Any stakes used for stability must not exceed 8" into the ground to avoid potential water and/or electrical line damage.
12. It will be the cook-off team's responsibility to abide by all tent requirements as noted on the City of Pasadena Fire Marshal's Office document. See attached.

TENTS

ALL tent companies **MUST** provide a Certificate of Liability Insurance naming the San Jacinto Day Foundation/Pasadena Strawberry Festival and the City of Pasadena as additional insured **BEFORE** a tent is erected. It will be the cook-off team's responsibility to ensure this documentation is provided to the Strawberry Festival office **NO LATER THAN 5:00 pm Friday, May 12, 2017.**

Personal "pop up tents" will be allowed. Stakes to secure these type of tents must not exceed 8 inches long to avoid potential water and/or electrical line damage.

It will be the cook-off team's responsibility to abide by all tent requirements as noted on the **City of Pasadena Fire Marshal's Office** document. See attached.

ELECTRICITY AND WATER

1. The SJDF/PSF provides spaces with:
 - a. one (1) 20 amp plug
 - b. one (1) 30 amp plug

{	120	}
	volts	
2. Water is also provided for each space. Hoses must be provided by each team.

TRASH

1. Trash receptacles will be placed throughout the contest area for each contestant's use.
2. It is the contestant's responsibility to have their trash readily available to be emptied into the garbage trailer when it arrives at the space. (Plastic trash liners will be furnished after check in.)
3. **No free liquids or glass** should be put into trash bags, barrels or boxes.
4. **No hot coals or heavy trash** should be put in trash bags, barrels or boxes.

PITS

1. Each participating team is restricted to one (1) competition pit per space.
2. Contestants are not allowed to share cooking equipment.
3. Fires must be wood or wood substances.

PORT-A-CAN and MOTOR HOME (RV) SERVICE

1. Service will be provided by an exclusive vendor - **Texas Outhouse - phone: 713-785-8050** or www.events@texasouthouse.com
2. It is the responsibility of the cook team to contact Texas Outhouse to reserve and pay for port-a-can service, prior to the contest.
3. Port-a-can event price is \$75 per unit for the weekend.
4. The port-a-can should be placed in an area inside the cooking space that will be easily accessible for cleaning.
5. RV clean out is \$25 per request unless other contractual arrangements are made, and must be scheduled with Texas Outhouse accordingly.

COOK TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Each cook team with air conditioning must furnish their own drain line and water over flow must be drained into the city-drain systems or a concealed container.
 - a. Disbursement of drain water is the cook team's responsibility.
 - b. Under no circumstances may drain water be drained into adjoining cooking spaces.
 - c. The SJDF can assist with unloading/loading AC units but will not be responsible for any damages.
2. The chief cook is responsible for the conduct of his/her team and guests.
3. Under no circumstances are alcoholic beverages to be distributed to the public by contestants.
4. Liquor in bottles must be kept out of sight.
5. Any cook team having inappropriate entertainment, contests, sales, raffles, etc. may be asked to leave the contest area.
6. Cook teams with an enclosed area to which the public is not allowed shall furnish their own security.
7. Each cook team is responsible for fully cleaning their entire cook space(s).
 - a. **SJDF/PSF IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR CLEAN UP OF SPACES.**
 - b. If a space is not clean at the end of the contest, the clean up deposit will not be refunded and the team is subject to exclusion from the 2017 and/or subsequent year's events.
8. Each cook team must comply with all laws pertaining to the serving and consumption of alcoholic beverages.
9. Tear down may begin the morning of Sunday, May 21, 2017, however:
 - a. Each space number must remain visible at all times.
 - b. Vehicles will not be allowed into cook-off area until one (1) hour after awards.

HEALTH

The following guidelines are recommended by the City of Pasadena Health Department. All teams are required to follow these guidelines:

1. A cover is required over all open food preparation areas.
2. Three containers of water must be utilized at all times. Minimum one gallon each:
 - a. First bucket – soap and water for washing; unless a sink and running water are available and usable.
 - b. Second bucket – clean water for rinsing; unless a sink and water are available and usable.
 - c. Third bucket – one cap of bleach per gallon of water for sanitizing.
3. Keep all food covered.
4. Cold food stored on ice or refrigerated must be maintained at 45 degrees Fahrenheit at all times.
5. Heated food should be maintained at 140 degrees Fahrenheit.
6. Smoking tobacco shall not be permitted in food serving area.

SAFETY

Each team must have the appropriate number and type of portable fire extinguishers mounted in full view at (1) 2z10bc-200-500 sq. ft. (2). 2z106c-501-1000 sq. ft. for each additional 2000 sq. ft. (1) 2a10bc extinguisher is required.

Each team who utilizes a generator, electrical hook-up or propane tank shall have a 5 lb multipurpose ABC or BC fire extinguisher readily available. Any use of a fryer will require a Type "K" extinguisher in addition to the ABC extinguisher. Fire extinguishers must be inspected and tagged (within the past year) by a fire equipment company in the State of Texas (see attached Fire Marshal's check list), or must have a purchase receipt for the extinguisher(s).

ANIMALS

1. Only animals specifically designated to service will be allowed in open cook-off area.
2. Animals of any kind will not be permitted in designated food preparation areas.
3. Animals of any kind must be contained by being crated, caged or on a leash, at all times, and within the perimeter of allocated cook team space(s).
4. SJDF/PSF will not be responsible for any injury caused by or to an animal or person.

BEER AND ICE

1. The Pasadena Strawberry Festival will sell beer and ice.
2. At no time, will contestants be allowed to re-stock beer or ice from outside the cook off.
3. **No glass bottles are allowed.**
4. Under no circumstances will outside BEER, ICE or COLD DRINK VENDORS be allowed into the contest area.
5. Bags of ice shall not exceed 25 bags per team during check in period. Cook teams bringing in or having ice boxes/chests delivered during check in will be subject to search.

BANDS

1. Bands must be pre-registered. Any cook team having a band (or musical equipment) that requires entry into the cooking area after 1:00 pm Friday, May 19, 2017, must submit a Band Registration Form to the Strawberry Festival office by 5:00 pm Friday, May 12, 2017.
2. Bands must begin their last set at 11:30 pm on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights– with all music ending at 12:00 am (Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings, respectively).
3. Loud, disruptive or inappropriate music will not be allowed.

JUDGING

1. The above entry fee entitles contestants to enter the Cook's Choice, Beans, Beef Fajitas, Pork Spare Ribs, Margaritas, Brisket, Port-a-Can decorating, Dessert and Showmanship contests.
2. Judging will be held in the Northeast corner of the Pasadena Convention Center unless otherwise noted.
3. Beans, Beef Fajitas, and Pork Spare Rib **turn-in times** will be within 15 minutes BEFORE the scheduled judging time. It is the contestant's responsibility to have the entries delivered to the respective judging area in a timely manner.
4. Competition brisket will be inspected prior to cutting for turn in to judging area and will be retrieved by a SJDF/PSF committee member.
5. SJDF/PSF utilizes a blind judging system that is based on a duplicate numbered ticket which will be utilized in all judging categories (except Cook's Choice, Port-a-Can, Dessert and Margaritas).
 - a. Blind judging consists of one-half of the double ticket being enclosed in a small envelope and being secured by duct tape to the bottom of the turn-in container.
 - b. The second half of the ticket is placed inside the judging container. **This ticket should be retained by the contestant.**
6. Any container that appears to have been deliberately marked or altered will be referred to the General Chairman of the Judging and Scoring committee who will rule on disqualification.
7. All entries will be scored on a scale of 1 to 10 in each of the judging criteria, with 10 being the best.
8. In case of a tie, the computer will be used to break the tie.
9. In addition to the categories listed below, trophies will also be awarded for the Cleanest Area and Showmanship.

Competition categories are as follows:

- a. Cook's Choice:
 - One (1) entry per team.
 - Entries will be limited to the first 50 registered teams. (per forms submitted to Strawberry Festival office)
 - Judging BEGINS, Friday at 7:00 pm.
 - Judging will be in the cook team's space.
 - Participants should prepare food for 4 judges.
- b. Beans:
 - One (1) entry per team.
 - Judging BEGINS Saturday at 11:30 am.
 - Dry pinto beans should be cooked on site.
 - Nothing larger than the bean should be put into the turn in cup.
- c. Beef (only) fajitas:
 - One (1) entry per team.
 - Judging BEGINS Saturday at 1:00 pm.
 - In the event of a need for a second round of judging, the container should be filled with category meat.
 - Sauces, garnishes or foil will not be allowed in the judging container and will be grounds for disqualification.
- d. Pork SPARE (only) ribs:
 - One (1) entry per team.
 - Judging BEGINS Saturday at 2:30 pm.
 - Container shall consist of 10 ribs (bone in; knuckle off)
 - Sauces, garnishes or foil will not be allowed in the judging container and will be grounds for disqualification.
- e. Margaritas:
 - One (1) entry per team.
 - Entries will be limited to the first 50 registered teams. (per forms submitted to Strawberry Festival office).
 - Four, 4 oz cups will be provided to contestants for judges to sample and score competition margaritas.
 - Judging BEGINS, Saturday at 1:00 pm.
 - In the event of inclement weather, the contest will be moved to an appropriate location.
- f. Brisket:
 - Brisket tag verification and pick up will BEGIN at 5:00 pm on Saturday, May 20, 2017.
 - 15 minutes will be allowed per team, for cutting brisket once the brisket tag has been verified.
 - Contestants must provide the SJDF/PSF representative with their brisket entry before the 15 minute time limit expires or face possible disqualification.
 - Brisket judging will BEGIN at 6:00 pm on Saturday, May 20, 2017.
 - Only the cut from one (1) tagged brisket, per team, will be allowed to be entered for competition.
 - NO EXCEPTIONS
 - Container should be filled with full width slices of brisket, 1/4" to 3/8" thick.
 - Double elimination judging for top ten.
 - Sauces may be used during the cooking process but shall not be applied for entry presentation or judging.
 - Neither garnishes nor foil will be allowed in the judging container. Inclusion of these items will be grounds for disqualification.

See separate Entry Forms and Rules for Dessert, Port-a-Can and Showmanship categories.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday – May 19 th		Saturday – May 20 th			Sunday – May 21 st
Judging BEGINS at:		Turn In Times:		Judging Times:	
6:00 pm	Strawberry Desserts	11:15 am - 11:30 am	Beans	11:30 am	
6:00 pm	Port-a-can decorating	12:45pm - 1:00 pm	Beef Fajitas	1:00 pm	
7:00 pm	Cook's Choice	2:15 pm - 2:30 pm	Pork Spare Ribs	2:30 pm	
		Margarita Judging Time begins at 1:00 pm			
		Showmanship Judging Time is 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm			
		Brisket Pick Up Time BEGINS at 5:00 pm			
		Brisket Judging Time BEGINS at 6:00 pm			
					10:00 am Awards

OTHER GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Each contestant will be assigned a Team Rep. The assigned Team Rep will, at all times, have free access to the contestant's area.
2. Should any contestant have any complaints toward their Team Rep, or any committee person, they should report their complaints immediately to the Strawberry Festival office. The office will contact the appropriate person for resolution.

AWARDS

1. The awards presentation will be at 10:00 am, Sunday, May 21, 2017 in a location TBD.
2. Only one person should report to the verification table with the winning ticket.
3. Group photos will be taken; please have your team together and ready.

1st through 3rd place trophies will be awarded for:

- Cook's Choice
- Beans
- Beef Fajitas
- Margaritas
- Showmanship
- Port-a-Can decorating
- Strawberry Dessert

Brisket:

- 1st through 10th place trophies will be awarded.
- First place brisket winner receive \$500.00, paid entry for the 2018 Strawberry Festival cook-off, and a trophy.
- Second place brisket winner will receive \$300.00 and a trophy.
- Third place brisket winner will receive \$150.00 and a trophy.

Ribs:

- First place rib winner will receive \$300.00 and a trophy.
- Second place rib winner will receive 200.00 and a trophy.
- Third place rib winner will receive \$100.00 and a trophy.

A trophy will also be awarded for the Cleanest Area (from 2016).

MOVE – OUT: Sunday - May 21st, 1 hour after awards end.

- **Tear down of cook-off space/equipment may begin Sunday morning.**
- **Space number signs should remain visible at all times.**
- **As a safety precaution ALL cook off traffic will exit Eddie Dansby/Cunningham . *NO EXCEPTIONS!!!***

Before leaving the fairgrounds, have a Team Rep inspect your space for deposit return.

Good Luck Cookers!