



## 2019 Pasadena Strawberry Festival

### BBQ COOK-OFF CONTEST

### RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. The BBQ Contest will be held May 17 and 18, 2019, 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 online at [www.strawberryfest.org](http://www.strawberryfest.org) (Note: an application for any year other than 2019 is invalid and unacceptable).
3. Previous year's contestants will have first right of refusal for their space(s) until **5:00 pm on March 8, 2019.**
4. All other contestants will be admitted on a first come, first serve basis beginning **March 9, 2019.**
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. NO Tent stakes will be allowed. All tents will be water barreled.
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 Pasadena Strawberry Festival (henceforth "PSF") will not be responsible for theft or damage.
11. The PSF reserves the right to make additional changes to the rules and regulations.
12. Decisions of the PSF Judges are FINAL.
13. Those attending or participating in the BBQ Contest are required to wear appropriate clothing. No one will be admitted without shoes or shirts.
14. Excessively loud music, horns, air horns, etc. are strictly prohibited (at PSF's discretion).

15. Persons associated as a member, committee person, director, etc. of the Pasadena Strawberry Festival MAY NOT be listed as a cook team member.

16. The 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 Festival'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 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.

17. Violation of any Rules or Regulations in this document are grounds for expulsion.

### **ENTRY FEES**

1. The entry fee is \$250.00 per 40' x 40' space; additional fees include \$75 Electrical fee, \$100 Clean up Fee, and a \$10 Processing Fee. Total entry fee per spot is \$435.00 - \$50 lower than 2018! This entry fee covers brisket, fajitas, chicken, ribs, and beans.

2. You may purchase up to three (3) spots.

3. Entry fees are due no later than April 1, 2019 and may be remitted at the Strawberry Festival office.

4. Cook's Choice, Strawberry Dessert, Margaritas, and Showmanship are additional categories; you may purchase entries in these categories for \$25 per entry, per spot (up to three entries/spots).

5. Each space will be given five (5) cooker wristbands and five (5) Festival admission tickets. Additional Festival admission tickets may be purchased for \$10.00 each **prior to 5:00 pm on Thursday, May 16, 2019**. All General Admission tickets will be \$12.00 at the gate.

6. NO ADMISSION WILL BE CHARGED TO:

- Contestants with cooker wristbands.
- All Strawberry Festival Committeemen wearing badges.
- Children under five (5) years of age.

### **COOK'S MEETINGS**

1. **Monday, April 29, 2019 at 6:30 pm in the rodeo arena.** This meeting will include:

- Explanation of the rules
- a Q & A session, for clarification of rules, etc.

2. **Friday, May 17, 2019 at 9:00 am in the rodeo arena.** This meeting will include:

- Distribution of turn-in containers.
- Assignment of Strawberry Dessert, Cook's Choice, and Margarita turn-in times.

## **CHECK IN**

1. Tent companies will be allowed to set up on **Monday and Tuesday, May 13 & 14**. ONLY tent companies are allowed in to set up at this time. Any equipment brought onto the fairgrounds will be staged (unsecured) outside the cook off perimeter until Wednesday, May 15.
2. On **Wednesday, May 15, 2019 -- 8:00 am until 12:00 pm, you can begin moving in and setting up:**
  - All cooking rigs/equipment 26 feet and larger.
  - All other sizes after will arrive and set up on this date from 12:00 noon until 10:00 pm.
3. Arrival and set up will be open on **Thursday, May 16, 2019 8:00 am until 10:00 pm**.
4. Arrival and set up will be open on **Friday, May 17, 2019 8:00 am until 1:00 pm – you can move in and set up:**
  - All other cooking rigs and equipment.

**ALL VEHICLES MUST BE OUT OF THE COOK OFF AREA ON FRIDAY, MAY 17 BY 1:00 PM. THIS RULE MUST BE ADHERED TO AND WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED.**

5. CONTESTANTS ARE RESTRICTED TO TWENTY-FIVE (25) CASES OF BEER PER TEAM COOK SPACE, TO BE BROUGHT IN DURING CHECK IN. TEAMS ARE SUBJECT TO INSPECTION.
  - All beer and ice must be brought in during check-in on **Thursday, May 16, 2019 between 8:00 am and 10:00 pm, and Friday, May 17, 2019 between 8:00 am and 1:00 pm.**

## **BRISKET INSPECTION**

1. Brisket inspection will be conducted on **Friday, May 17, 2019, between the hours of 12:00 PM (noon) and 3:00 p.m.**
2. No contest brisket will be allowed on pits **until after they have been tagged on Friday, May 17th**, and must be inspected and tagged by the Team Rep Committee.
3. Each team will be allowed to tag two (2) 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. To reduce traffic congestion during move in, each team is limited to only three (3) vehicles inside the grounds. A hang tag will be given to a vehicle at the gate and if all 3 tags are given out, an arriving team member will have to wait for one of the vehicles inside to leave before they can enter the grounds. *Your help with managing this is greatly appreciated.*
2. Gates to thru traffic will be locked at **1:00 pm, Friday, May 17, 2019.**

3. No vehicle will be allowed to enter or leave the contest area **after 1:00 pm on Friday, May 17, 2019.**  
NO EXCEPTIONS.

4. Under no circumstances will contestants block any aisle after setup period ends at **1:00 pm, Friday, May 17, 2019.**

5. Vehicles not removed by **1:00 pm Friday, May 17, 2019,** and/or left unattended outside of your cook space, will be subject to removal by a wrecker, at the contestant's expense.

6. 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 other type of transportation, except for 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 with multiple spots may be listed as: Team Name #1, Team Name #2, Team Name #3.
- Team names may not be offensive and are subject to approval by the PSF Cook-Off Director.
- Head cook and team members may not cook on more than one team. Doing so will be cause for disqualification.

2. 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. One cooking pit & one self-contained motor home, camper or vehicle will be allowed per space.

3. Teams may not extend, under any circumstances, into any utility alleys created between, behind or beside team spaces. All power alleys and easements must always be left clear and open , including during move-in.

4. Tent companies may be scheduled to set up between **8:00 am and 8:00 pm on Monday, May 13, or Tuesday, May 14, 2019.**

5. Tent tear down can begin on **Monday, May 20, 2019.**

6. No hay, straw, shavings or similar combustible materials are allowed. Only wood pellets or chips may be used in cook spaces.

9. Teams wishing to utilize perimeter fencing within their allocated space(s) will be allowed to do so if it is secure.

10. 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**

- NO STAKES WILL BE ALLOWED ON ANY TENT -- ALL TENTS MUST BE WATER BARRELED
- Personal “pop up tents” will be allowed. These type tents must be secured by sand bags or concrete stanchions.
- 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.

## **ELECTRICITY AND WATER**

1. The PSF provides spaces with:

- one (1) 20-amp plug (120)
- one (1) 30-amp plug (volts)

2. Water is provided for each space. Hoses must be provided by cooking teams.

3. Spaces 57-70 will not have electricity provided and the cook teams assigned to those spots are responsible for providing their own power.

Water will be provided for these spaces.

4. All generators supplied by the cook teams will be diesel powered as per the fire code.

## **TRASH**

1. Trash receptacles will be placed throughout the contest area for contestants’ 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 their 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 (one firebox).

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**

Service will be provided by an exclusive vendor:

Texas Outhouse

Phone: 713-785-8050

Email: [events@texasouthouse.com](mailto:events@texasouthouse.com) or [denita@gtxwaste.com](mailto:denita@gtxwaste.com)

1. 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.
2. The port-a-can should be placed in an area inside the cooking space that will be easily accessible for cleaning and it is the cook teams' responsibility to arrange for their port-a-cans to be cleaned.

## **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.
  - Disbursement of drain water is the cook team's responsibility.
  - Under no circumstances may drain water be drained into adjoining cooking spaces.
  - The PSF 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 anyone.
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 will furnish their own security.
7. Each cook team is responsible for fully cleaning their entire cook space(s). **Leave your space in the same condition in which you found it!**
  - PSF IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR CLEAN UP OF SPACES.
  - If a space is not clean at the end of the contest, the cleanup deposit will not be refunded, and the team is subject to exclusion from the 2020 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 19, 2019, at 3:00 AM**. Each space number must always remain visible during tear down and move out.

## **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, a minimum of one (1) gallon each, must always be utilized.
  - First bucket/container of water should contain soap and water for washing, unless a sink and running water are available and usable.

- Second bucket/container of water should contain clean water for rinsing, unless a sink and water are available and usable.
- Third bucket/container of water should contain one cap of bleach per gallon of water for sanitizing.

3. Keep all food covered.

4. Cold food stored on ice or refrigerated must always be maintained at 45 degrees Fahrenheit.

5. Heated food should be maintained at 140 degrees Fahrenheit.

6. Smoking tobacco shall not be permitted in food serving area.

## **SAFETY**

1. Each team must have the appropriate number and type of portable fire extinguishers mounted in full view.

- One (1) 2a10bc-200-500 sq. ft.
- Two (2) 2a106c-501-1000 sq. ft. for each additional 2000 sq. ft.
- One (1) 2a10bc extinguisher is required.

2. Each team who utilizes a diesel 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.

3. 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 new purchase receipt for their extinguisher(s).

## **ANIMALS**

1. ONLY registered service animals are allowed on the fair grounds.

2. 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 as part of its fundraising efforts - please purchase through PSF and help support the scholarship program.

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/PERFORMERS**

1. Bands/performers must be pre-registered with PSF. Any cook team having a band/performer (or musical equipment) that requires entry into the cooking area after **1:00 pm Friday, May 17, 2019**, must submit a Band Registration Form to the Strawberry Festival office by **5:00 pm on Friday, May 10, 2019**.
2. Bands/performers must end all performances each night by **MIDNIGHT on Friday**, and **1:00 AM on Saturday night/Sunday morning**.
3. Loud, disruptive or inappropriate music will not be allowed.

## **CONTEST JUDGING**

1. A cook team's entry fee entitles contestants to enter the Beef Fajitas, Pork Spare Ribs, Brisket, Beans, and Chicken categories. You are allowed ONE entry per cook space. Teams can purchase turns ins for Cooks' Choice, Margaritas, Strawberry Dessert and Showmanship for **\$25.00 per category per cook space**.
2. Judging will be held in the Northeast corner of the Pasadena Convention Center unless otherwise noted.
3. All turn in times, except for Margaritas, Cook's Choice, Strawberry Dessert, and Showmanship, will begin fifteen (15) minutes before the scheduled judging time, and must be turned in by the turn in time given. It is the contestant's responsibility to have the entries delivered to the respective judging area in a timely manner.
4. Nothing except your contest entry is allowed inside your container(s). Sauces, garnishes or foil will not be allowed in the judging container and will be grounds for disqualification.
5. Competition brisket will be inspected prior to cutting for turn in to judging area.
6. 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, Dessert and Margaritas, which are judged onsite).
  - 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.
  - The second half of the ticket is placed inside the judging container. This ticket should be retained by the contestant.
7. 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.
8. All entries will be scored on a scale of 1 to 10 in each of the judging criteria, with 10 being the highest score possible.



## **COOK'S CHOICE RULES**

**Cook's Choice judging will begin on Friday, May 17, at 7:00 PM.**

1. One (1) entry is allowed per team.
2. All Cook's Choice judging will be held in the cook team spaces.
3. Judging times will be provided at the **Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup> cook's meeting** in the rodeo arena.
4. Teams should prepare enough food to serve four (4) judges.
5. All Cook's Choice entries must be cooked onsite.
6. Entries may consist of a full course meal, i.e. appetizer, salad, soup, entrée, dessert, or any combination thereof, or any single course.
7. Each team will be given a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes per space to present their entry to the Cook's Choice judges.
8. Entries will be judged on the following criteria:
  - Appearance
  - Taste
  - Overall Presentation
  - Hospitality

Teams of judges will be escorted to each participating cook space to judge. Only four (4) judges will participate at a time (sometimes alternating one judge in/out). Each space will be allowed fifteen (15) minutes for the judges to sample and score their entry. The judges will have five (5) minutes to move to the next participating space.

## **BEANS RULES**

**Beans judging will begin on Friday, May 17, at 5:30 PM.**

1. One (1) bean entry is allowed per team.
2. Beans must be Pinto Beans and must be cooked on-site.
3. Nothing larger than the bean is allowed in the sample cup.
4. A cup will be provided for entry; it must be **filled to the top line**.

## **BEEF FAJITAS RULES**

**Beef fajitas judging will begin on Friday, May 17, at 4:00 PM.**

1. One (1) beef fajitas entry is allowed per team.
2. The turn-in container should be **filled** with beef fajita meat.

3. All Beef Fajitas entries must be cooked onsite.

### **PORK SPARE RIBS RULES**

**Pork spare ribs judging will begin on Saturday, May 18, at 1:00 PM.**

1. One (1) pork spare ribs entry is allowed per team.
2. Turn-ins will consist of pork spare ribs only, with knuckles removed. Baby back ribs are not permitted for entry.
3. Turn-in container should be full; at least 8 ribs should be provided.
4. All Pork Spare Ribs entries must be cooked onsite.

### **MARGARITAS RULES**

**Margaritas judging will begin on Saturday, May 18, at 1:00 PM.**

1. One (1) entry is allowed per team
2. Judging begins **Saturday, May 18 at 1:00 pm.**
3. Teams will use their own cups to serve their margaritas in.
4. The head cook of the cook team entering the contest must be 21 years of age.
5. All margarita recipes must be original.
6. Entries may not be pre-mixed.
7. Fire is not allowed as a special effect.
8. Costumes and themes are encouraged, but not required.
9. All Margaritas entries must be prepared onsite.
10. Judging will be based on the following criteria:
  - Presentation
  - Taste
  - Originality
  - Hospitality

Teams of judges will be escorted to each participating cook space to judge. Only four (4) judges will participate at a time (sometimes alternating one judge in/out). Each space will be allowed fifteen (15) minutes for the judges to sample and score their entry. The judges will have five (5) minutes to move to the next participating space.

## **BRISKET RULES**

### **Brisket judging will begin on Saturday, May 18, at 3:00 PM.**

1. Brisket tag verification will begin at **2:00 pm on Saturday, May 18.**
  - Contestants have fifteen (15) minutes in which to provide their Team Rep with their brisket entry and slice it, in the presence of the Team Rep, for entry. Teams failing to present and slice turn-in brisket within the allotted time limit will face possible disqualification. *Your team is responsible for the turn-in of your brisket entry after presentation and slicing.*
2. Only the cut from one (1) tagged brisket, per team, will be allowed to be entered for competition. There are no exceptions to this rule.
3. The turn in container should be completely filled with full width slices of brisket, 1/4" to 3/8" thick.
4. Sauces may be used during the cooking process but shall not be applied for entry presentation or judging.
5. All Brisket entries must be cooked onsite.

## **CHICKEN RULES**

### **Chicken judging will begin on Saturday, May 18, at 11:00 AM.**

1. One (1) chicken entry is allowed per team.
2. The turn-in container should contain one (1) entire chicken half, and bite size pieces of both dark and white meat. The container should be full.
3. All Chicken entries must be cooked onsite.

## **STRAWBERRY DESSERT RULES**

### **Strawberry Dessert judging will begin on Friday, May 17, at 5:30 PM.**

1. One entry is allowed per team.
2. All Strawberry Dessert judging will be held in cook team spaces.
3. Judging times will be provided at the **Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup> cook's meeting.**
4. Teams should prepare enough strawberry dessert to serve 4 (four) judges.
7. Dessert entries **must include strawberries.**
8. Strawberry Desserts must be prepared onsite.
9. Judges will have fifteen minutes (15) to sample/score, and five (5) minutes to proceed to the next cook off space.
10. Entries will be judged on the following criteria:

- Appearance
- Taste
- Presentation
- Originality

## **SHOWMANSHIP RULES**

1. One (1) entry is allowed per team.
2. Nudity and lewdness will not be allowed. Violation of this rule by any contestant will result in immediate disqualification of that team.
3. No outside entertainment or interference (i.e., bands, etc.) will be allowed.
4. No pyrotechnics, firearms or explosives will be allowed. Violation of this rule by any contestant will result in immediate disqualification.
5. Teams of judges must be able to enter each participating team space to judge the space.
6. Judging will be based on the following criteria:
  - Theme
  - Booth Set Up
  - Action
  - Audience Appeal

Teams of judges will be escorted to each participating cook space to judge. Only four (4) judges will participate at a time (sometimes alternating one judge in/out). Each space will be allowed fifteen (15) minutes for the judges to sample and score their entry. The judges will have five (5) minutes to move to the next participating space.

## **OTHER GENERAL INFORMATION**

1. Each contestant will be assigned a Team Representative. The assigned Team Rep must always have free access to the contestant's area.
2. Should any contestant have any complaints regarding their Team Rep, or any committee person, they should immediately report their complaints to the Director of the Team Representatives or Director of the BBQ Cook Off Committee.

## **AWARDS**

1. The awards presentation will be at **6:00 pm on Saturday, May 18, 2019** in a location to be determined and announced soon.
2. Only one person from each winning team should report to the verification table with the winning ticket.
3. Group photos will be taken; please have your team together and ready to take a photo immediately after each award presentation.

4. The top 10 finishers in each category will be posted on the Strawberry Festival office building and Pasadena Convention Center.

**azMOVE OUT:**

**Sunday, May 19, beginning at 3:00 AM**

- Tear down of cook-off space/equipment may begin Saturday evening after awards – **but move out MUST NOT begin until 3:00 AM on Sunday morning.**
- Space number signs should always remain visible during tear down.
- As a safety precaution, ALL Cook Off traffic should avoid public and vendor areas; exit the Fairgrounds using the Cook Off gate and proceed to Eddie Dansby/Cunningham. **There are NO EXCEPTIONS to this.**
- Before leaving the fairgrounds, have a Cook Off representative inspect your space for deposit return.

**We are looking forward to another fun, successful Pasadena Strawberry Festival BBQ Cook Off!**

**As always, we greatly appreciate your support, and thank you for your participation!**

**Good luck to all our 2019 cook teams!**