

## Downtown Magnolia District Chili Cook-Off Rules and Regs 2024

### Rules & Regs

- For this Chili Cook-off, chili will be defined as ANY combination of approved meat\*, spices and seasonings along with tomatoes, onions, peppers, beans and liquid such as broth. Whatever you call CHILI we will call chili. \*Approved meat shall be defined as any beef, pork, chicken or turkey. ***Venison (deer) meat will not be allowed in the competition.***
- All entries must be homemade.
- You may enter meatless or beanless.
- You may choose to provide garnishes such as but not limited to cheese, cilantro, sour cream, crackers, Fritos, etc. This is optional but encouraged.
- Any food prep, such as washing, peeling, slicing, cutting, grating but no limited to these actions must be done in advance.
- No items can be pre-cooked before the event. Canned goods, such as tomatoes and beans, are not considered pre-cooked.
- You must ensure reasonable sanitary conditions of the food. If any staff, judge or volunteer sees unsanitary conditions, you will be disqualified from judging.
- You are required to have 10x10 tent and a table (preferably a 6') to serve from during the event. The location for the cookers can get hot and there is not a lot of shade, so a tent is a necessity.
- Power is very limited. If you require power for your cooking purposes, you must register for it ahead of time. It will be determined on a first come first serve basis. Note: Registering for power does not guarantee the ability to use it. Since spots are limited, you will be contacted by a Chili Cook-off coordinator regarding the approval of the assignment. ***Power will be used for cooking purposes only; plugging in fans and/or other devices are strictly prohibited. Violation of this will result in disqualification. The power source is not unlimited- if you trip the breakers, you will ruin the other contestants' ability to cook as well as your own.***
- You may get a "Sponsor" to purchase your supplies. If you do get a sponsor, please let us know in advance so we can advertise as such.
- On the day of the event, you will check in at the Vendor/Volunteer registration table in front of Warnock Furniture. You will get a map of the festival site, and which place you are to set up at. You will also receive a tabletop sign, a People's Choice award box, your entry submission supplies and two chili tickets.
- You must have your tent and table in place before 10:00 on the square. ***No vehicles will be permitted on the square after 9:45***, this will ensure safety for all attending the Festival.
- The tabletop sign will have your name, sponsors name (if applicable), type of chili, spice level and list of components. Components are listed for allergy and religious purposes. The sign must stay displayed on the table at all times. The People's Choice Award box will have your name and sponsor on it. \*See below for People Choice Judging.
- You may begin cooking as early as 10:00 a.m. but must start cooking no later than 2:00 p.m.
- You must provide your own serving utensils. Chili Bowls, spoons and napkins will be given at the Chili Cook Off Tent, when they turn their ticket in.
- You must have at least one person to distribute chili from 5:00-6:00.
- Failure to comply with any of the above-mentioned items will result in disqualification.

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### **Serving**

- Patrons will be able to get chili starting at 5:00 and ending at 6:00. They must go to the Chili Tent to receive their bowls, spoons and napkins.
- Patrons will have purchased a ticket for a 16oz serving. Their serving choices will be decided at the Chili Tent, when they turn in their ticket. This serving can be distributed 1 of 3 ways:
  - 4ea of 4oz bowl (1/2 cup)                      The Sampler
  - 2ea of 8oz bowl (1 cup)                        The In-Between
  - 1ea of 16oz bowl (2 cups)                    The Classic
- Please do not serve chili before 5:00 or to anyone without an official bowl.
- Since serving size is crucial to the ticket sales, please be mindful during the serving period.
- Remember this chili cook-off is a fundraiser for improvements to the downtown area. Tickets were for single portions, please refrain from serving chili in a bowl more than once.
- After 6:00 you can distribute any leftover chili at your discretion.

### **Judging**

- Judging will be defined as a “blind judging.”
- Entries must be brought, prepared to judge, to the Chamber of Commerce no earlier than 4:30 and no later than 4:45. You must use the approved containers and transportation carrier.
- When you turn in your entry, you will receive a random number. You must keep that number to identify yourself.
- Judging will be on a scale of 1-10. 10 being the best and 1 being the worst.
- Maximum possible score will be 50 points.
- Judging will be based off the following criteria:
  - Taste- Chili should taste good above all else.
  - Consistency- Chili should have a good ratio between sauce and meat.
  - Presentation and Color- Chili should look appetizing
  - Aroma- Chili should smell good (this also indicates what is in store when tasted)
  - Afterbite- Chili should have a pleasant after taste
- Prizes are as follows:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> place: \$500 cash prize
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> place: \$250 cash prize
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> place: \$100 cash prize
  - People’s Choice: Gift basket from the Downtown Magnolia District with gifts from all the Merchants.
- People’s Choice Award: During the serving time, patrons can drop their ticket stubs in any box “casting their vote” for the best chili. This will determine who wins the People’s Choice portion of the night. Boxes will be collected at 5:45 to determine the winner.
- Disqualifications:
  - Any entry that is not in the proper judging containers will be disqualified.
  - Any entry not brought by 4:45 will not be judged and is considered disqualified.
  - Any person/team who is in violation of reasonable sanitation practices will be disqualified.

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**Schedule of Events**

9:00-9:45	Set-Up
10:00	Cooking (can begin)
2:00	Cooking (must be started no later than now)
4:30	Entries to Chamber
5:00-6:00	Public Serving
5:30	Awards
5:45	People's Choice Collected
6:00	People's Choice Announced