

2018 Sweet- Heat Chili Cook-Off

OFFICIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. The Basics: Chili is defined by the Downtown Redevelopment Committee as having the basic elements of meat cooked with chili peppers, various spices and other ingredients. While beef is the most common meat used in chili, for the purposes of this competition other meats may be used including venison, chicken, pork, meat substitutes, etc. Beans, pasta and rice are also permissible. Non-traditional chili recipes are welcome, including vegetarian chili, white chili and other variations.

2. The Competition: There are three distinct competitions for chili teams. All teams are automatically placed into all three areas of the competition, unless an action by the team disqualifies the team from one area of competition.

A. The Judges Table: A judging sample will be collected from each team at 12:00 pm, after which time the team may begin serving festival-goers. The judges will be presented with a blind tasting of each team's chili and will score each sample based on flavor, texture, aroma and overall appearance. Points will be awarded in each of these four categories, with flavor being given twice the weight as the other three. A sample judge's ballot is available upon request. The decisions of the Judging Panel shall be final. The winner of the judges' competition will be awarded a cash prize, the amount of which is based on the number of chili teams entering the competition.

B. People's Choice Award: Festival-goers who purchase a chili tasting cup & spoon for \$5 will be issued one ticket to be used to vote for the team serving their favorite recipe. Votes will be collected in ballot boxes that are placed in a prominent, central location at the Festival. The People's Choice winner is selected solely based on the of the greatest number of votes collected, and the winner will be presented with a trophy.

C. Spirit Award: Teams are encouraged to decorate their booth and promote a theme for their team or chili recipe. The judges will be observing the teams and their interaction with the crowd and will select the winner of the Spirit Award. The winner of the Spirit Award will be presented with a trophy.

D. All winners will be announced at the close of the festival, at 3:00pm.

3. Registration: A \$25 entry fee per team is required, and payment must be received no later than February 9th 2018, 7 days prior to the festival date. The Planning Committee reserves the right to cancel the festival due to inclement or dangerous weather. No refund will be offered as a result of such cancellation.

4. Par cooking is desirable for time constraints, but total preparation may be accomplished on site. For total preparation on site, all utensils will be provided by entries.

5. Toppings: At the judging table, no toppings such as chips, sour cream, or cheese are allowed. All ingredients must be mixed into the chili. Chili with toppings will be disqualified from the judges table. However, teams are permitted to offer toppings to festival-goers as part of the People's Choice and Spirit Award Competition.

6. Arrival at the festival: Teams may arrive and set up any time after 6:30am on the morning of the festival. Once you are ready to begin cooking, you must check in with a member of the Chili Cook-Off Committee. Remember, your judging portion **MUST** be ready to be served at 12:00pm.

7. How much chili should I make? A portion of chili will be collected from each team for the judges. The remaining chili will be served to festival-goers as part of the Spirit Award and People's Choice Competition. Teams are asked to prepare at least 3 gallons of chili. Teams may not distribute any chili for crowd samples until after the judges' portion has been dished out. Hint: Teams who distribute samples judiciously and/or are prepared to supply more chili tend to be able to serve a larger portion of the crowd and are thereby given a slight advantage when it comes to the People's Choice Competition.

8. Food Safety: Teams are responsible for maintaining their chili at a food safe temperature during the competition and are required to follow good food safety practices at all times. This includes wearing latex gloves when handling any and all foods.

TEAM CONDUCT

The goal of the Sweet - Heat Chili Cook Offl is to create a fun competition for everyone to enjoy. We encourage all types of organizations to participate in the Chili Cook-Off including corporate teams, families/children, churches, social organizations, government entities, and groups of friends. Teams are expected to conduct themselves in a responsible manner during the competition, and Team Captains are expected to ensure that their team members are conducting themselves appropriately. The Chili Cook-Off Committee reserves the right to remove any individual who is not acting appropriately.

EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES LIST

We have compiled a list of equipment and supplies your team will need/might find useful in preparing for the Cook-Off:

- 1.** Items you are required to bring: You will be required to bring your chili in a crock pot, a probe type thermometer, disposable gloves, hand sanitizer, tables, and chairs. You will also need to provide one extension cord and more than one ladle to be used only for your chili.
- 2.** Trash cans will be on site in the common areas. Teams will find it more convenient if they have a box of trash bags at their booth. Once your bags are full you can then take them to the common area cans. All teams are responsible to remove all trash and return their booth space to the condition in which they found it.
- 3.** Several rolls of paper towels will also be handy. Bring bowls and utensils for your team to eat with after you've submitted your entry. Oven mitts are nice to have for moving pots and lids. Tasting cups and spoons will be provided by the committee.
- 4.** Each team will be given a ballot box to label and decorate prior to the competition. These boxes will be placed in a prominent central location and will be used to collect votes for the People's Choice Competition.

HELPFUL HINTS

A few more things to consider as you prepare:

1. The Festival will provide you with tasting cups. Teams who distribute samples judiciously (2 ounces max per guest) and/or are prepared to supply more chili tend to be able to serve a larger portion of the crowd and are thereby given a slight advantage when it comes to the People's Choice Competition. Each team is asked to prepare a minimum of 3 gallons of chili.
2. Tasters who have paid for their tasting will be sporting a brightly colored wristband. While we cannot stop folks from skirting the system and trying your chili for free, please keep in mind that these illegal tasters do not have any votes to give in the People's Choice Competition. Please support the festival and kindly direct festival-goers to the ticket booth to purchase their official sampling packet.
3. Recruit your friends, family, neighbors and social media friends to the festival! The more people you can stack the crowd with, the better your chances of winning the coveted People's Choice Award. Posts to social media are encouraged before, during and after the festival.

All parties are required to meet with a committee member to go over food safety and handling before any cooking is to be started on-site.

Sweet-Heat Chili Cook Off

Official Team Entry Form

Team Name: _____

Team Captain: _____

Team Captain Contact Information:

Phone (include area code): _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Please provide a number at which we can reach you on the day of the festival:

Special Needs: Electrical connection. Number of outlets: _____ Space configuration (if deviating from 10' x10') Crowd frontage: _____ Booth depth: _____

Anticipated Arrival Time: _____ Requested Set-up Time: _____

As the official representative of the _____, I affirm that I have read the Sweet – Heat Chili Cook-Off Official Rules and Regulations, including the Team Conduct section, and hereby agree to abide by such rules and regulations.

All consideration of acceptance of the entry, I hereby waive any and all claims for myself and my heirs against the Sweet – Heat Chili Cook-Off, the City of Ozark, Ozark Downtown Redevelopment Committee, and each of their agents, servants, officers, and employees, for injury or illness which may directly or indirectly result from my participation in the event. I further agree to save and hold said parties harmless and agree to indemnify each said person against any liability for any loss, cost, injury, or damage to persons or property which may arise by virtue of the undersigned engaging in the competition. I further state that I am in proper physical condition to participate in this event. The Cook-Off organizers reserve the right to postpone, cancel, or modify the event due to weathers conditions or other factors beyond their control that might affect the health or safety of the participants. All “Prizes” are subject to change based on participation level.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please return completed form and \$25.00 entry fee by February 9th.
Any Entry received after the 9th will be \$30.00.

Make all checks payable to **THE CITY OF OZARK**

in the memo area please put **SWEET HEAT COOK OFF.**

Mail completed entry form with \$25 entry fee to
THE CITY OF OZARK
PO BOX 1987
OZARK, AL 36361

Thank you!
Good Luck and may the Best
Chili Win!!!