

LELAND, MISSISSIPPI • OCTOBER 22, 2016

FROGFEST

kids fun run • chili cookoff • children's art • southern music

2016 Frog Fest Chili Cook-Off OFFICIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. **The Basics.** Chili is defined by the Chili Cook-Off Committee as having the basic elements of beef 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, 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 11:00am, 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 rank the samples in order of preference. Judges will base their scoring on chili flavor, texture, aroma, and overall appearance with points given for each category. 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. An independent observer from the Delta Democrat Times will be present for all judging activity and will certify the results have been presented accurately and fairly.
 - 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 on the basis 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 2:00pm.**
3. **Registration.** A \$50 entry fee per team is required, and payment must be received one week 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. **Preparation.** All cooking **MUST** be done on site. Ingredients will be inspected by the Chili Cook-Off Committee prior to commencement of cooking. Any pre-cooked meats or vegetables will be grounds for automatic disqualification.
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 midnight 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. Ingredient inspections will start as early as 5:00am. *No preparation of ingredients or cooking may begin until after an inspection by a member of the Chili Cook-Off Committee.* Remember, your judging portion **MUST** be ready to be served at 11:00am.
7. **How much chili should I make?** A 16oz 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 ingredients, keeping raw meat separated from other ingredients, and cooking all meats to the recommended food-safe temperature.
9. **Beverages.** What's better than chili and beer? (We don't know.) The festival will be offering cold, tasty beer for a reasonable price. Chili teams are prohibited from bringing their own beer to consume on-site (although it's okay to bring a little to put into the chili), and teams are strictly prohibited from distributing beverages of any sort from their booths. Each chili team will be given five wristbands that will allow them free beer during the festival hours of

9am to 2pm. Please remember that this is a family-friendly festival and all participants are expected to consume their chili and their beer responsibly.

10. **Sales.** Chili Teams are not allowed to sell chili or any other items from their booth. If a team is interested in being a vendor please contact the organizing committee by emailing lelandcoc@gmail.com or calling 662-379-3764.

TEAM CONDUCT

The goal of the Frogfest Chili Festival is to create a fun competition for everyone to enjoy. We encourage all types of organizations to participate in the Chili Cook-Off including 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

From team experiences during last year's competition we have compiled a list of equipment and supplies that your team might find useful in preparing for the Cook-Off:

1. Most teams use some form of propane fueled cooker for their chili. We would suggest planning for some sort of wind blocking device to protect your flame in case it's windy. If you will be using an electric heater please let us know, so we can provide you with a power connection.
2. While not required, pop-up tents are nice to use for your booth, along with tables and chairs for your supplies and team members. Please plan for a space measuring 10' x 10'.
3. Some of your cooking supplies may be in cans. Don't forget your can opener!
4. 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.
5. Several rolls of paper towels will also be handy.
6. Bring bowls and utensils for your team to eat with after you've submitted your entry.
7. Oven mitts are nice to have for moving pots and lids.
8. A cooler with ice works well to transport your meat and other perishables to the competition.
9. 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.
10. **Tasting cups will be provided by the committee.**

HELPFUL HINTS

A few more things to consider as you prepare:

1. We would suggest a test run of your recipe using the equipment you will be using during the competition. That's the best way to figure out what you will need, not to mention a good excuse to get together with friends and eat some good chili!
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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. The Festival organizers are working on providing free wi-fi during the event to help encourage social media usage.