

Rules & Regulations for Cook-Off

DISCLAIMER: Liberty Entertainment is not responsible for damage to any personal property or personal injury sustained during the course of the event by event attendees, cooks, or by provided utilities, if any.

1. **REGISTRATION DATES** – Registration will open on **September 15, 2023**. Entries will be taken up to **April 12, 2024**.
2. **SPOT ASSIGNMENTS** – No spots are guaranteed. Spots will be assigned on a first come, first served basis.
3. **TEAMS & ARRIVAL** – A contestant or team consists of one head cook and no more than four assistants. Contestants may arrive to drop off supplies and RVs on the BBQ Cook-Off grounds beginning at 10:00 AM Friday, April 19th, 2024. Official check-in will begin Friday, April 19th at noon. **The Highway 62 BBQ Cook-Off & Music Festival will go on rain or shine.**
4. **CLEANING** – All contestants will be responsible for keeping their cook sites clean or will be asked to not return next year. These items include but are not limited to returning trash cans, picking up food remains, disposing of grease, etc.
5. **COOKED ON SITE** – All categories will be cooked on-site, without pre-cooking or marinating. Meat inspections may be performed to ensure that meat is not prepared prior to the official start of the competition as defined by the promoter. The meat does not have to be in the original packaging and may be trimmed prior to meat inspection. The meat inspection will take place on Friday, April 19th starting at 1:00 P.M or upon arrival. All meat inspection will be completed by 7:00 P.M.
6. **METHOD OF COOKING** – No gas or propane cooking equipment will be allowed.
7. **SANITATION** – Cooks are to prepare and cook in as sanitary a manner as possible.
8. **OPEN FIRES** – No open ground fires on the ground are allowed, including enclosed backyard fire pits. Each cook site will be required to have burn barrels that must be above the ground.
9. **THE FOLLOWING ARE THE CATEGORIES FOR THIS EVENT** –

Chicken – The blind box must contain 6 pieces or more of chicken (any cut). All pieces must fit inside the closed container provided.

Pork Ribs – The blind box must contain 6 or more individual cut ribs (bone-in). All pieces must fit inside the closed container provided.

Beef Brisket - The blind box must contain 6 pieces or more of beef brisket. All pieces must fit inside the closed container provided.
10. **JUDGING SYSTEM** – The BBQ Competition will use a blind judging system. Food is judged by a panel who examines each entry for their appearance, taste, and texture. Judging will be held on Saturday, April 20, 2024, and will conclude with an award presentation on Saturday, April 20, 2024, at 5:00 P.M.
11. **JUDGING TRAYS** – Styrofoam trays with hinged lids and without dividers or the best readily available judging container approximately 8 inches square on the bottom half will be provided to you by Event Coordinator. All judging containers shall be clean and free of any markings. Marked containers may be disqualified at the Head Judge's discretion. Cooks are responsible for ensuring that the containers they receive remain clean and undamaged.

12. **JUDGING TRAY CONTENTS** – The Head Judge or designated representative will inspect all trays at the time of turn-in in order to ensure compliance with the turn-in criteria. Meat may be cooked with sauces, but once cooking is complete, sauces cannot be added before the meat is placed in the judging tray. Our approved garnishes are parsley (curly or flat), green lettuce or kale.

6 pieces or more per judging tray or samples of any meat category will be accepted.
13. **PEOPLE’S CHOICE** – Tasting plates will be sold to attendees who want to participate in judging the People’s Choice category. Each team will need to make enough of “YOUR CHOICE” to be passed out in small samples from 2pm-4pm. You should have samples of the categories you enter and having additional samples of non-entry BBQ is permissible. Voting tickets will be distributed with each purchased tasting plate. Each team needs a vessel where the voting tickets can be placed as each ticket counts as a “vote”. The votes will be tallied at 4:15pm and winners will be announced during the awards ceremony. Contestants must provide all needed food, equipment, and supplies. All entries must be prepared on-site.
14. **TURN-IN TIME** – Turn-in times for each category shall be pre-set but may be changed at the judge’s discretion. Once this time is set and/or announced no changes will be made. A turn-in window of ten (10) minutes before and after the set turn-in time will be recognized. Judging trays received after that time will not be accepted for judging.
15. **JUDGES** – A minimum of four (4) judges per table will be utilized during initial judging.
16. **JUDGING QUANTITY** – Judges will assign a score from 1 to 9 for each tray sampled. A maximum of twenty (20) trays or containers should be assigned to each judging table. Judges should not be required to sample and judge in excess of this number during any event.
17. **SOUND** – Music and/or sound equipment within your team area is allowed. However, excessively loud or inappropriate music and/or sounds that interfere with announcements, scheduled live bands and entertainment on stage will not be allowed. ***Loud music will not be tolerated after 10:00 P.M. on Friday or Saturday night or before 7:00 A.M. on Saturday morning.***
18. **CONDUCT & ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION** – The Head Cook for each team will be responsible for the conduct of his/her team, guests, or invitees. Also, the Head Cook will be responsible for their team’s compliance with the rules and regulation outlined in this information packet. Alcohol will be allowed on the Cook Off grounds (no glass containers); however excessive use of alcoholic beverages will be grounds for disqualification. Excessive use will be determined by on-site security and the contest organizers.
19. **SELLING ITEMS** – Teams will not be allowed to sell any items from their site. **This includes BBQ and alcoholic beverages.** If your team is interested in selling any sort of item, please contact Kristi 405.812.7427 or email kristi@libertyfireworksok.com directly to see if that option is available to you.
20. **ANIMALS** – Due to the large number of people that will attend the event, and the volume of the music that will be played, it is suggested that teams do not bring pets with them. However, if you have a crowd friendly/loud noise tolerant/well-mannered pet that will not be a distraction to anyone and you choose to bring them, they must be on a leash or always kenneled even in our competition space.
21. **PRIZE PAYOUTS** – Trophies/plaques will be offered for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places in all 4 categories. A special trophy will be awarded to the Grand Champion and Reserve Champion. In addition, there will be cash payouts in places 1-3 in each of the 4 categories. Amount TBD.

Grand Champion – Trophy and free entry into following year's BBQ Cook-Off

Reserve Grand Champion – Trophy and free entry into follow year's BBQ Cook-Off

Chicken

1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place – Award Plaque

Pork Ribs

1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place – Award Plaque

Beef Brisket

1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place – Award Plaque

People's Choice

1st Place – Award Plaque