

READY TO SPICE THINGS UP? Let's bring the flavor to the Chili showdown!

There is no additional fee to enter the Chili Cook-Off; however, all attendees planning to work at the Chili Cook-Off booth must register and pay for a BBQ ticket. Space is limited to 15 chili competitors, and a \$250 cancellation fee will be assessed after June 1, 2026.

As previously determined, all 2025 lottery winners are automatically entered into this year's competition. Should there be a cancellation, a runner-up will be chosen by lottery and notified as soon as space becomes available.

NEW to 2026: We will be at a new location of Alameda County Fairgrounds called Walnut Grove. Parking instructions to come.

CHILI COOK-OFF SCHEDULE:

2:00 - 4:00 pm	Chili Cook-Off Set Up
4:30 - 5:45 pm	Registration & Chili Cook-Off Competition
5:00 pm	Chili Brought to Judges
5:30 pm	Last Call to Vote
5:45 pm	Chili Voting Closes
6:15 pm	Chili Cook-Off Awards
8:00 pm	Booth Teardown - Vehicles are NOT Permitted

PRIZES: All winners for each category receive a cash prize, a category trophy, hats and aprons for the team, and an automatic entry into the 2027 competition.

- **Judge's Choice:** Best Chili 1st - \$300 cash prize
- **Judge's Choice:** Best Chili 2nd and 3rd - \$200 cash prize
- **People's Choice:** Best Chili - \$300 cash prize
- **People's Choice:** Best Booth - \$300 cash prize

VOTING/JUDGING:

- Panel of Judges: Blind Tasting
 - In your supply tub is a lettered-tasting cup. Fill this with chili, add a spoon, and bring to the voting tent on the tray provided **NO LATER THAN 5:00 PM.**
 - Garnishes are allowed.
 - When you arrive at the voting tent, look for the judges' trays marked with letters. Place your tasting cup next to the letter that matches the letter on your tasting cup.
- People's Choice: All attendees will be given one vote for their favorite chili & booth.

- There will be a designated voting booth where all ballots will be filled out and submitted. Participants may only vote one time. Pre-filled ballots are not allowed.
- All voters must obtain a ballot from the voting booth. Distributing pre-filled ballots and/or offering ballots from your booth is not permitted.

RULES & REGULATIONS:

BASIC RULES:

- Chili must be prepared and cooked offsite. Spices, garnishes, etc., can be added onsite.
- Chili must be prepared from scratch with no commercial mixes.
- Since chili will be provided to judges and guests (over 1,400 attendees), you must provide 7-8 gallons of chili.
- Chili must be served in the cups provided by UCON.
- No alcohol can be served.
- Shared wattage available

ARRIVAL & SET UP:

- **The booth locations are RANDOMLY assigned to contestants. Swapping of booth assignments is not allowed.**
- Each booth will have a tub with the supplies noted in the “What We Provide” Section.
- Set-up duration is 2 hours, with the arrival time of 2:00 pm.
- **NOTE** - No company vehicles or trailers are allowed for any reason.

WHAT WE PROVIDE:

- Designated 10x10 Booth space
- 8 ft. table
- Sample 3 oz. plastic cups (Chili must be served **in the cups provided**)
- Tasting Spoons
- Napkins
- Trash receptacles
- Power outlets (shared) behind your tent

WHAT YOU PROVIDE:

- 7-8 gallons of your chili, ready to serve
- Heating element for chili (i.e. crockpots) – NO OPEN FLAMES
- Extension cord to connect to power
- Serving utensils
- Items to clean up your cook area
- Pop-up tents, additional tables, banners, signs etc. that will fit in a 10 x 10 space

- Items for cook site decoration (vehicles & trailers will NOT be permitted). Be creative with your booth and team and have fun!

ALCOHOL:

- Absolutely **no outside alcohol** (liquid or otherwise) is permitted into the fairgrounds, nor can it be served at your booth. If any outside alcohol is found at your booth, your team will automatically forfeit the competition, be ineligible for future participation, and will need to immediately vacate the booth.
- Contenders can purchase drinks at the bar and consume them in the chili cook-off tents.

For questions please contact:

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CHILI COOK-OFF REGISTRATION:

Contact Name _____ Company _____

Phone _____ *Email _____

Chili Team Name _____

COMMITMENT:

- You will have a 10 ft x 10 ft space to set up your booth.
- **If you arrive after 4:00 pm you will not be able to participate.**
- You must provide your own source of heat to keep the chili warm. NO OPEN FLAMES.
- No vehicles permitted on the field.
- **NO ALCOHOL WILL BE SERVED AT OUR BOOTH, or we will be asked to vacate our booth immediately, forfeit our spot in the competition, and be ineligible for future participation _____ initial**

I understand that there are limited spots available for the Chili Competition and you are now holding a spot for me. I agree to pay a \$250 cancellation fee if I cancel after **June 1st** or if I do not show up to the Chili Cook-Off. I understand that participating in the Chili Cook-Off this year does not guarantee me a spot in the competition next year. I understand that if I do not comply with these rules and regulations, my company will not be able to participate in this event in the future.

Signature _____ Print Name _____

Date _____ Company Name _____