



Sombbrero Festival 2024

Frijolympics Rules & Regulations

The event will be held Saturday, March 2, 2024 at Washington Park in Brownsville, TX under the Big Tent.

REGISTRATION: The entry fee is \$100.00 and must be paid upon registration.

The previous year's cooking teams will have until January 6, 2023 to pay for and reserve a designated cooking location, which the team will choose from the 2023 event map. On January 6, 2023, registration will open for all teams not yet registered. At that time, registrations will be accepted on a **FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS, AND WILL SELECT THEIR COOKING LOCATION IN ORDER OF PAID REGISTRATION.** A map of the assigned spots will be sent to all teams 2 weeks prior to the event.

(NOTE: The date listed for the final registration drive should not be misconstrued to imply that teams will be accepted until this date. Only a limited number of slots are available, and once those slots are filled no new teams will be accepted)

UNLOADING OF EQUIPMENT: You will be assigned a specific gate to enter through to unload your cooking equipment. **THERE WILL BE NO PARKING INSIDE THE PARK.**

COOKING: All ingredients will be inspected prior to start of contest for the following:

Beans must be dry pinto beans prior to start. **NO PRE-SOAKING** prior to arrival at the event. ONLY after inspection by the promoters may the beans be washed and/or soaked. Only **Pinto Beans** may be cooked. All other ingredients must be brought to the event raw and uncut. You may not begin cutting/chopping ingredients until the contest begins.

A minimum of four (4) pounds is required. EVERYTHING MUST BE COOKED ON-SITE.

SAFETY: No "open-campfire" type fires are allowed; please utilize a gas or propane burner. Electricity will not be provided & portable generators are not allowed. **NO BAR-B-QUE PITS ARE ALLOWED.** The Fire Marshall will be inspecting for open fires and for Bar-B-Que pits.

****EACH TEAM IS REQUIRED TO HAVE A FIRE EXTINGUISHER ON-SITE****

Cooks are to prepare and cook in as sanitary manner as possible. Cooking conditions are subject to inspection by the promoter.

SET-UP: All participants will be provided 1 table and 2 folding chairs, and are encouraged to decorate their prospective cooking areas. Teams should not exceed the **space limitation of 10' x 10'**. This includes all decorations and structures. Teams may bring 1 additional table no larger than 2' x 4' for food prep. Participants may not use extra space other than the area or space provided. You may be asked to move if you are infringing on a fellow cooker's space, or the right-of-way footpath. Contestants are responsible for supplying their own cooking utensils, etc. We recommend providing sample cups and spoons for festival-goers to taste.



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JUDGING: Each contestant will be issued an official judging cup the day of the event, along with a set of tickets. These two tickets, bearing the same number, will both be used—one firmly attached to the cup in a manner which hides the number, and the other ticket that is easily removable by the Head Cook for retention after signing the Head Cook's name on it. Winning numbers will not be revealed until the award ceremony. At this time, the winning teams' numbers will be announced.

Each contestant is responsible for delivering their cup to the judging area at the designated time for judging. At the discretion of the head judge, cooks may be required to remove the lids from their entries and taste their entry before turning it in for judging (if a contestant refuses, their beans will be disqualified). If a cup is damaged, a replacement cup can be obtained only after the head cook turns in the damaged cup and BOTH tickets.

JUDGES: Judges must be 18 years or older. Judges will vote for the beans they like best based on the following: Good Flavor, Texture of Beans, Consistency, Blends of Spices, Aroma, and Color. **THE DECISION OF THE JUDGES IS FINAL.** After the cup has been turned in, any cup found in violation of the rules will be disqualified at the discretion of the Head Judge.

MISCELLANEOUS: Sombbrero Festival is a fun, family-friendly environment; as such, Team Names and Recipe Names are not allowed to be political in nature, vulgar, or offensive. They are also not allowed to be corporate in nature, or an attempt to market any commercial product, good or service. Determination on the appropriateness of any Team or Recipe name is at the sole discretion of Sombbrero Festival, Ltd. Names and designs are subject to approval of Sombbrero Festival, Ltd.

Any and all items distributed from a cooking area, or distributed by a cooking team, including but not limited to giveaways, are subject to approval by Sombbrero Festival, Ltd.

Any and all items displayed from a cooking area, or displayed by a cooking team, are subject to approval by Sombbrero Festival, Ltd. including but not limited to signs, banners, flags, shirts, cups, placards, etc.



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****Management Rules****

- Sombbrero Festival is not responsible for any lost or stolen items.
- Decisions made by judges and event promoters are final.
- NO alcoholic beverages or soft drinks may be brought into the park.
- NO concealed weapons may be brought into the park.
- The Head Cook is responsible for:
 - Keeping their area clean and safe
 - The conduct of their team and guests

****Violation(s) of the above rules and/or failure to comply with the rules, regulations or standards established will result in disqualification of the entire team and the entry fee will be forfeited.**

****Cancellation Clause****

The performance of this Agreement by either party shall be subject to force majeure, including but not limited to acts of God, fire, flood, natural disaster, acts or threats of terrorism, civil disorder, unauthorized strikes, governmental regulation or advisory, recognized health threats as determined by the World Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control, or local government authority or health agencies (including but not limited to the health threats of COVID-19, H1N1, or similar infectious diseases), or other similar occurrence beyond the control of the parties, where any of those factors, circumstances, situations, or conditions or similar ones prevent, dissuade, or unreasonably delay at least 25 percent of prospective Event attendees from attending, or where any of them make it illegal, impossible, inadvisable, or commercially impracticable to hold the Event or to fully perform the terms of the Agreement. The Agreement may be canceled by either party, without liability, damages, fees, or penalty, and any unused deposits or amounts paid shall be refunded, for any one or more of the above reasons, by written notice to the other party.



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PACKET PICK-UP:

This is where T-Shirts for the Cook and the Assistant Cook will be distributed along with wristbands for admission that **must be worn** to gain admission to the park on the day of the event.

Packet Pick-Up will take place at the following locations in the days leading up to the Festival:

- Saturday, February 24, 2024 from 11:00 A.M - 1:00 P.M.
 - Falcon International Bank, 1805 US-77, Brownsville, TX 78526
- Sunday, February 25, 2023 from 1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
 - Cobbleheads, Brownsville, TX 78520

Cash Prizes will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place winners, as well as the Showmanship Award.

****Tentative Schedule of Events****

9:00 AM: Big Tent opens for set-up

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM: Set-up/decoration, and inspection of ingredients. Pre-Soaking is NOT ALLOWED until official inspection is complete.

12:00 PM (Noon): GRITO, begin cutting ingredients and frijoles on the fire

1:00 PM: Head cook meeting at judging area (pick-up of official judging cup)

3:30 PM: FINAL Judging Cups containing frijoles submitted for judging (the earliest time the cup containing the beans can be submitted is 3:20 p.m. and the latest time the cup can be submitted is 3:45 p.m. No late submissions will be taken)

6:00 PM: Announcement of winners

****Times are subject to change according to number of contestants or unforeseen circumstances****

Sign-up and Contacts

All Cook-off sign-ups will be handled by:

Charlie Abrego, VP of Cook-Off Events

Email: SFCookoffs@gmail.com

Phone: (832) 362-2960

Any additional questions or concerns please contact:

AVP of Cook-Off Events

Arnulfo "ARod" Rodriguez / Phone: (956) 827-9263

Blanca Gomez, / Phone: (956) 545-4824

Jacob Tamayo / Phone: (956) 371 - 5290

Johnathan Gonzalez / Phone: (956) 207-7766

Email: SFCookoffs@gmail.com



Cook-Off Registration Irrevocable Agreement & Waiver Form

I waive any and all claims for myself, my partner and heirs against all officials, sponsors and organizations connected with Sombbrero Festival, Ltd. for any injury, which may directly or indirectly result from my participation in this event.

Signed _____ Date _____

Chili Cook-Off

Frijolympics

Please Print: Name of your recipe/team
(Subject to approval by Sombbrero Festival, Ltd.)

Name of Head Cook

Name of Assistant Cook

Email Address

Email Address

Mailing Address

Mailing Address

City, State, Zip

City, State, Zip

Home Phone

Home Phone

Cell Phone (On-site number)

Cell Phone (On-site number)

T-Shirt Size: _____

T-Shirt Size: _____

Entry Fee (Due upon submission - \$100= one event/\$200=both)

Cash _____ Chk No. _____

Date: _____

PayPal _____

Received by: _____

Contact: SFCookoffs@gmail.com



Cook-Off Registration Drives

Cook-Off registration packets will be distributed to RETURNING teams on October 12, 2023. Returning teams will have until December 9, 2023 to reclaim their cooking spots from Sombbrero Festival 2023. Packets can be turned in to Sombbrero Festival Cook-Off Organizers at the following Registration Drives:

Date	Location	Time	Notes
October 12, 2023	Luke Fruia Motors	6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Same Location as Membership Drive
October 21, 2023	The Lucky Barrel	4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	
November 15, 2023	Main Event	6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	
December 9, 2023	Cobbleheads	4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	

On January 6, 2023 Cook-Off registration will open to the public, and spots will be assigned on a first come first served basis. Additional sign-up dates are TBD, as Cooking Spots are limited.

Date	Location	Time	Notes
January 6, 2023	The Lucky Barrel	4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	
January 12, 2023	Cobbleheads	6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	
January 25, 2023	Luke Fruia Motors	4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	