



Sombbrero Festival 2025 Chili Cook-Off Rules & Regulations

This event will be held Friday, February 28, 2025 at Washington Park in Brownsville, TX under the Big Tent.

REGISTRATION: The entry fee is \$100 & must be paid at the time of registration. Teams from the previous year have until December 9, 2024, to pay & reserve a designated cooking area from the 2025 event map. **Starting December 12, 2024, registration will open to the public for the remaining cooking areas on a first-come, first served basis.** Teams will select their cooking area in the order of their paid registration. A map of the Competition Area will be provided at Packet Pick-Up.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please note that the date for the final Registration Drive IS NOT a guarantee that registrations will be accepted until then. We have a limited number of cooking areas available, & once they are filled, no additional teams will be accepted.

UNLOADING OF EQUIPMENT: You will be assigned a specific gate to enter though to unload your cooking equipment. These directions will be provided at Packet Pick-Up. Cookers will have a 15 minute window to unload their vehicles and/or trailers, after which they will be asked to please move their vehicles.

****THERE WILL BE NO PARKING INSIDE PARK****

COOKING: Traditional Red Chili, as defined by the International Chili Society, consists of any type or combination of meats cooked with red chili peppers, spices, & other ingredients.

****BEANS ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED****

All ingredients will be inspected before the contest for the following:

- **No ingredients may be pre-cooked prior to the start of the contest. ALL COOKING MUST TAKE PLACE ON-SITE.**
- Meat may be cut or ground, but all other ingredients must be brought to the event raw & uncut.
- Competitors cannot begin cutting / chopping ingredients until the contest officially begins.
- A minimum of four (4) pounds of Chili (NO BEANS) is required.
- All gas or propane burners & grills **MUST BE TURNED OFF** at 7:00pm when Judging begins.

SAFETY: Charcoal grills & barbecue pits are not allowed. Please utilize a gas or propane burner or grill. Electricity will not be provided & portable generators are not allowed. The Fire Marshall will be present to inspect all areas for open fires & for wood or charcoal Barbecue pits.

****FOR THEIR SAFETY, EACH TEAM IS REQUIRED TO HAVE A FIRE EXTINGUISHER ON-SITE****

Cooks must prepare their food & cook in the most sanitary manner possible. The promoter reserves the right to inspect cooking conditions at any time during the competition.

SET-UP: Each Cooking Team will be provided with one table & two folding chairs & are encouraged to decorate their cooking area. **Teams must not exceed the 10' x 10' space limit, including decorations & structures.** Teams may bring one additional table, no larger than 2' x 4', for food preparation. **Participants may not use any extra space beyond the designated area. If you infringe on another cook's space or the right-of-way footpath, you will be asked to move.** Contestants are responsible for supplying their own cooking utensils & equipment. It is recommended to provide sample cups & spoons for festival-goers to taste your food.



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JUDGING: Each contestant will receive an official judging cup & a set of tickets on the day of the event. The two tickets, which have matching numbers, will both be used—one will be securely attached to the cup in a way that hides the number, & the other will be retained by the Head Cook. Winning numbers will be revealed at the Award Ceremony, where the winning teams' numbers will be announced onstage.

Each contestant is responsible for delivering their cup to the judging area at the official judging time. At the discretion of the head judge, cooks may be required to remove the lids from their entries & taste their dish before submitting it for judging. If a contestant refuses, their chili will be disqualified. If a cup is damaged, a replacement can only be obtained if the head cook turns in the damaged cup along with BOTH tickets.

Failure to present your ticket in a timely manner if your number is announced may result in disqualification. Only the Head Cook or the Assistant Cook may present their Team's ticket should they be called, though we encourage all Cooking Assistants to come up on stage for pictures upon confirmation of the winning ticket.

JUDGES: Judges must be 18 years or older & will vote for the chili they like best through a blind taste test based on the following criteria: Flavor, Texture of the Meat, Consistency, Blend of Spices, Aroma, & Color. **THE DECISION OF THE JUDGES IS FINAL.** After submission, any cup found to be 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 & 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 & designs are subject to approval of Sombbrero Festival, Ltd.

Any & 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 & 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, Ltd. is not responsible for any lost or stolen items.
- Decisions made by Judges & 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 & safe
 - The conduct of their team & their guests

****Violation(s) of the above rules and/or failure to comply with the rules, regulations or standards established by Sombbrero Festival, Ltd will result in disqualification of the entire team & their 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, & 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: The Cook-Off team will host two Packet Pick-Up events where event T-Shirts for the Cook and the Assistant Cook will be distributed, along with complimentary beverage tickets and wristbands for admission. These wristbands **must be worn** to gain entry to the park on the day of the event. Cooking Teams will also receive a Map of the Competition Area at this time.

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

- Saturday, February 08, 2025 from 11:00 A.M - 1:00 P.M.
 - Falcon International Bank, 1805 US-77, Brownsville, TX 78526
- Saturday, February 15, 2025 from 1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
 - Luke Fruia Motors, 2645 Barnard Rd, Brownsville, TX 78520

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

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

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM: Big Tent opens for set-up & decoration of cooking space.

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM: Inspections of Ingredients & Fire Extinguisher.

4:30 PM: GRITO! Cookers may begin cutting Ingredients & start their burners.

5:00 PM: Head Cook meeting at Judging Area to pick-up their official Judging Cup with Tickets.

6:40 PM - 7:00 PM: Judging Cups containing Chili submitted for Judging. The earliest time the Chili can be submitted is 6:40 PM & the latest time the cup can be submitted is 7:00 PM. No late submissions will be accepted.

8:30 PM: Announcement of Winners.

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

Sign-Up & Contacts

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

Jacob Tamayo, VP of Cook-Off Events

Email: SFCookoffs@gmail.com

Phone: (956) 371 - 5290 (Call / Text)

AVP of Cook-Off Events

Mario Vera / Phone: (956) 543-9976

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

Blanca Gomez / Phone: (956) 545-4824

Johnathan Gonzalez / Phone: (956) 207-7766

Email: SFCookoffs@gmail.com



Cook-Off Registration Irrevocable Agreement & Waiver Form

I waive any & all claims for myself, my partner & heirs against all officials, sponsors & 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, \$100 for One Event, \$200 for Both Events (Due Upon Submission)

Cash _____ Chk No. _____

Date: _____

CashApp _____

Received by: _____

Contact: SFcookoffs@gmail.com



Cook-Off Registration Drives

Cook-Off registration packets will be distributed to RETURNING teams on September 30, 2024. Returning teams will have until December 9, 2024 to reclaim their cooking area from Sombbrero Festival 2024. Packets can be turned in to Sombbrero Festival Cook-Off Organizers at the following Registration Drives:

Date	Location	Time	Notes
Friday October 11, 2024	The Lucky Barrel	6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Same time/location as Membership Drive
Saturday October 26, 2024	Sombbrero Festival HQ	5:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Sombbrero Festival Membership Mixer
Tuesday November 12, 2024	Cobbleheads	6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	
Saturday December 07, 2024	Luke Fruia Motors	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Final Drive for Returning Cookers

On December 12, 2024 Cook-Off registration will open to the public, & spots will be assigned on a first-come first-served basis. Additional sign-up dates are To-Be-Determined based on the availability of Cooking Areas.

Date	Location	Time	Notes
Saturday January 04, 2025	Falcon International Bank	11:00 am - 1:00 pm	Registration Open to Public
Tuesday January 14, 2025	The Lucky Barrel	6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	
Saturday January 25, 2025	Sombbrero Festival HQ	5:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Sombbrero Festival Membership Mixer