

Chili Cook-Off Rules & Guidelines

Location: Palestine Farmers Market Pavilion, 813 W Spring St

Date: Friday, October 24, 2025

Schedule:

Check-In & Setup: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Cooking Time: 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Judging: 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Public Tasting/People's Choice Judging: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Awards Ceremony: 8:30 PM

Registration-

Entry Deadline: Thursday, October 17 at 6:00 PM-

Entry Fee: \$25 per team (to be invoiced after sign up)-

First come, first served registration.

What's Provided:

- One 8-foot table
- Electricity access
- Table covering
- Gloves & hand sanitizer
- Hand-washing station
- Serving & sanitization supplies

What to Bring

- All cooking ingredients (approved commercial sources or properly labeled under Cottage Food Law)
- Two (2) 6-quart crockpots/Instapots
- Hot plate and/or electric pressure cooker (optional)
- Extension cords, utensils, stirring spoons, chairs
- No tents or canopies (event is under pavilion)

Cooking Rules Chili Cook-Off Rules & Guidelines

- All chili must be prepared on-site between 1:00 PM and 5:00 PM
- Approved cooking tools: electric hot plates, electric pressure cookers, crockpots
- Pressure cookers may also be used to hold chili at serving temp
- No open flames or propane
- Dry beans may be cooked using a pressure cooker
- Home-canned beans are NOT allowed
- Home-canned tomatoes/spices allowed only if compliant with Cottage Food Law
- Alcohol must be fully cooked off if used
- No alcohol consumption during cooking or judging
- A beer garden will be open after 6:00 PM during People's Choice

Health & Safety

- Follow safe food handling practices
- Gloves, sanitizer, and hand-washing station provided
- Maintain safe food temperatures
- Keep receipts and/or preparation records for inspection
- Coordinators, city officials, and health inspectors may oversee food safety at any time

Judging & Tasting

- Reserve at least 1 quart of chili for judges
- Judging: 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM
- People's Choice public tasting: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
- Judging Criteria: Flavor, Aroma, Consistency

Awards

- Best Overall Chili (Judges' Choice)
- People's Choice: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place
- Awards at 8:30 PM

Clean-Up & Conduct

- Clean your area before leaving
- No dumping grease on-site
- Trash bags provided
- No alcohol consumption before 6:00 PM
- Beer garden opens to public after 6:00 PM
- No smoking or open flames under or near the pavilion
- Family-friendly behavior expected

Any questions can be emailed to palestinefarmersmarket@gmail.com OR send a text to April at (903)394-3239 and we will do our best to respond within 1 business day.