

22nd Anniversary Steve Otto's Chili Cook-Off Official Rules and Regulations Saturday, September 26, 2009

1. Chili is defined as any kind of meat, or combination of meats, cooked with chili peppers, various other spices and ingredients.

2. No ingredient may be precooked or treated in any way prior to the preparation period that starts promptly at 11 a.m., September 26, 2009. The only exceptions are beans, and canned or bottled tomatoes, tomato sauce, pepper sauce and beverages.

3. The preparation and cooking period will last a maximum of four hours. Exact start and end of the cooking period will be announced at the event.

4. Contestants will be responsible for supplying their own utensils, including a gas stove, butane/propane containers that fit directly on cookers, a 2A10BC fire extinguisher, culinary supplies, water and food products (packed in coolers with ice). Each team may have no more than two 10-oz. (0.28-kg) LP-gas capacity non-refillable propane/butane containers having a maximum 1.08-lb (0.4-kg) water capacity per container. Containers must be directly connected to the cooking appliance and manifold of containers is not permitted. If more than two 10-oz containers will be needed, please call event management. No open flame devices shall be used. Each team must comply with the rules for indoor cooking as determined by the State Fire Marshal.

5. From 9-11 a.m. contestants will be permitted to set up equipment on one 8-ft. table, which is provided. This table may be decorated and used to serve samples to the public. Please note: **NO TENTS OR OVERHEAD COVER WILL BE PROVIDED CONTESTANTS MAY PROVIDE THEIR OWN IF THEY DESIRE. TENT MAY NOT BE LARGER THAN 10' x 10'.**

6. Each team is allowed a chef and maximum of two assistants in the cooking area.

7. The entry fee per team is \$75 for an amateur team and \$100 for a professional team. Professional team is defined as one representing a restaurant or catering company.

8. On the day of the cook-off, each contestant will be given covered cups with their pre-assigned numbers written on them, in which samples of their chili will be collected at the time of the official judging. It is the responsibility of each contestant to make sure the number on the cup is the team's assigned number.

9. The first-place winner's recipe shall become public domain, outside the realm of copyright, and shall include all ingredients, techniques and methodology used during the competition. The winner's recipe shall appear in The Tampa Tribune.

10. No recipe may be duplicated from any previously published recipe. To do so will result in disqualification.

11. Demonstrations throughout the spectator area are permitted. However, contestants are asked to respect other teams and visitors, and their view.

12. The judges require one cup of each team's chili for judging. Judging will be held in an area inaccessible to either contestants or the public.

13. The decision of the judges shall be final and left to the discretion of the judges.

14. Prizes will not be issued to winners unless a social security number and valid identification are presented. Winners must sign an affidavit of eligibility and release of liability prior to receiving any prize.

15. By entering the contest, or by winning, each chef and their assistants agree to award The Tampa Tribune the right to publicize his or her name, likeness, biographical information, voice and details of winning without any additional compensation.

16. Federal state and local taxes are the sole responsibility of the prize winners. No prize transfer or substitution is allowed.

17. All checks for prize winners will be made payable to only the chef listed on the winner's entry form. Checks will be mailed to the chef's name and address on the entry form. Prizes include \$1000 to winning team; \$500 to second-place team; \$250 to third-place team; \$100 Hothead award; \$100 to winning salsa team; \$50 to second-place salsa team.

18. Employees of Media General and their immediate families are not eligible to participate. The term "immediate families" includes only spouses, parents and children.

19. Chefs and assistants must be at least 21 years of age to participate. All decisions on eligibility of winners are made by Media General, in its sole discretion, and are final.

20. Media General and event sponsors assume no responsibility for lost or stolen property.

Salsa Contest Rules

1. Fee is an additional \$20 to enter the salsa contest.

2. Salsa can be pre-made with "finishing touches" added between 11 a.m. and noon.

3. Teams will be given cups with team number of salsa contest for judging.