

Lassen Land and Trails Trust Chili Cook-off Rules



When: Saturday Feb 5th 2022

Where: Lassen County Fair Grounds

Open for setup at 11:00 am

Turn-in for judging at 2:45 pm

Open to the public for tasting at 3:00 pm

Winners announced at 6:00 pm

General Rules and Regulations

- Contestants must pre-register in order to enter the contest. **Registration the day of the contest is not permitted.**
- A \$20.00 entry fee is required per team. One chili recipe per team may be entered for judging. Registration can be completed by completing the registration form attached along with your entry fee check. Please mail to:

Lassen Land and Trails Trust
PO Box 1461
Susanville, CA 96130

- Competition chili must be cooked from scratch on site the day of the cook-off.
- Teams are responsible for supplying all cooking utensils and supplies needed, as well as furnishing their own propane cooker. No wood or coal burning allowed. **There will be no electrical hook-ups.**
- A panel of judges will determine the top entries in both the Red and Green/White chili categories. The decision of the judges will be final. People's Choice will be determined by the total amount of dollars raised from the public by each team entries in both the Red and Green/White chili categories. Money raised will go to the Lassen Land and Trails Trust.
- Lassen Land and Trails Trust will sell chili tasting kits to the public that include a spoon and sample cup to taste the chili. The public may vote for the People's Choice winner by making a donation in that team's donation jar. The Red and Green/White Chili teams who collect the most in donations will be named The People's Choice winner in their category.
- Teams are encouraged, not required, to name their chili and decorate their cooking area to reflect that name.
- This chili cook-off is for cooks who just want to have fun and be recognized for their superb culinary skills. Dress up, wear a costume, just have fun!

Chili Cooking Rules

- Quantities required for distribution to the public: **minimum of 5 gallons**
- Quantity for judging: One pint made on site is required to submit for judging.
- Competition Chili must be cooked from scratch on site the day of the cook-off.
 - COOKED FROM SCRATCH - "Scratch" is defined as starting with raw meat. Commercial chili powder is permissible, but complete commercial chili mixes ("just add meat" mixes that contain premeasured spices) are not permitted.
 - Use your own favorite recipe, with or without meat, with or without beans. Meat may be beef, pork, lamb, bison, chicken, turkey, or wild meats. Veggie (meatless) chili is okay. Beans are encouraged, but not mandatory. Ingredients may be cut, shredded or ground to any size. No rice or macaroni. *If peanuts or peanut oil is used, a warning sign must be displayed.*
 - **All competition chili must be prepared onsite.**
 - Cooks ARE allowed to pre-chop and premeasure all ingredients.
- CATEGORIES – definitions:
 - RED chili is defined as **any type of meat** and may be beef, pork, lamb, bison, chicken, turkey, or wild meats, cooked **with red chili peppers** and other spices and ingredients. Beans ARE permitted, including canned beans.
 - GREEN/WHITE chili is defined as **any type of white meat** or combination of white meats, e.g. pork, chicken, turkey, etc., cooked **with green chili peppers** and other spices and ingredients. Beans ARE permitted, including canned beans.
- Everything must be prepared in a sanitary manner.
- Teams are **allowed** to give samples of their chili to other teams. Teams are **NOT allowed** to give samples to the **public prior to 3 pm**. Teams are **NOT allowed** to give samples to **judges** prior to turn in. Any deviation from this rule will result in disqualification.
- Prizes will be awarded by judges' results and People's Choice.

Cooks Judging Cups

- A **COOKS MEETING** will be held at 1:45 pm on the day of the cook-off. One member of each team **MUST** attend. At this meeting, each team will be given 1 official judging cup. Each team is responsible for delivering their cups with the chili sample to the judging area at the official turn in time for judging – 2:45 pm.
- **PROTECT THE JUDGING CUP** - Once judging cups have been issued, each head cook is responsible for his or her judging cup. Cooks must not remove or tamper with the envelope attached to the cup. Any marked or altered cup must be replaced prior to turn-in or it will be disqualified.
- **FILLING CUPS** - Cups should be filled $\frac{3}{4}$ full.
- **CHILI TURN-IN** - Chili will be turned in at the place and time designated at the cooks' meeting.

Judging

- Judges must abstain from inspecting or tasting chili prior to judging. Judges must not be associated with any cooks at the cook-off (e.g., one spouse cooking and the other spouse judging).
- Judging criteria and scoring - A single score takes into consideration the five criteria for scoring chili/beans:
 - Aroma
 - Consistency
 - Color
 - Taste
 - Aftertaste
- Scoring - Each cup of chili will be scored on its own merits with a whole number from 0 to 5, 5 being the highest.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who do I contact for information about the cook-off or to enter a team?

Registration forms and rules can be found on the Lassen Land and Trails Trust website at lassenlandandtrailstrust.org. You can also contact Janyne at janyne.little@gmail.com.

What is the cost and what do we need to bring?

Entry fee is \$20.00 per team entry. Teams are responsible for their own tables, chairs, cooking and serving utensils, decorations, cook stove/propane cooker and propane. See the checklist found on the LLTT website for a more comprehensive list. Remember – There is no electricity and no wood or charcoal fires, and competition chili must be cooked on site.

What is the set up time, cooking time, when is the judging?

- You may begin setting up and cooking 11 am.
- Chili will be turned in for judging at 2:45 pm.
- Winners will be announced at approximately 6:00 pm.

What is People's Choice Chili Award?

People's Choice Chili is judged only by the people. There are no other judges. The chili team that raises the most money in donations becomes the winner. Each chili team is encouraged to decorate their booth to reflect their team's name in their booth decor. The People's Choice Chili will be chosen in both the Red and Green/White Chili categories.

Attendees will cast their votes for People's Choice Chili by depositing donations into a "Voting Container" that must be brought by each team. All donations will go to the Lassen Land and Trails Trust.

How much chili is required?

We require a minimum of 5 gallons to be served to the public.

What are the award categories?

A panel of judges will determine 1st place in both the Red and Green/White Chili categories. The decision of the judges will be final.

People's Choice will be awarded to the team that raises the most in donations for their chili. The public will cast their vote by donating to the team they deem to have the best chili. The People's Choice Chili will be chosen in both the Red and Green/White Chili categories.