

CHARCOAL CHALLENGE

GENERAL INFORMATION

*all new items denoted in red

1. CHECK-IN TIMES

Check-in to the BBQ Cook-off Grounds is as follows:

Wednesday, May 17th: 5:00 p.m. until dark (pickup registration info on Thursday)

Thursday, May 18th: 12:00 noon until 8:00 p.m.

Friday, May 19th: 7:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

*****ALL CONTESTANTS ARE REQUIRED TO BE CHECKED IN BY 2:00 P.M. ON**

FRIDAY, May 19th TO COMPETE IN THE COOK-OFF. Please contact us if you are delayed!

Upon registration you will receive one packet containing the following information:

- One (1) Chief Cook ID Badge & Two (2) parking passes,
- a Cook-off Map, a Cook-off Brochure, a Fair Brochure, RV Services & Security Contact Info
- Five (5) Wristbands (FOR YOUR TEAM) for the two (2) day admission to the Fair Grounds.

Teams are responsible for packets in their possession. No replacements will be issued, no exceptions!

IMPORTANT: Entry fees include the use of utilities beginning on Thursday, May 18th.

2. YOUTH FAIR BOARD MEMBER SCHOLARSHIPS

In conjunction with the Lee County Fair, ALL PROCEEDS from the Charcoal Challenge helps fund scholarships for qualifying high school seniors in the county who are members of the Youth Fair Board and participate in various responsibilities throughout the event. As of 2016, the Lee County Fair and Charcoal Challenge have awarded over \$225,000 to qualifying seniors through this worthwhile program.

3. RULES

The *Charcoal Challenge* on May 20th is an IBCA sanctioned event. Any discrepancies between the IBCA rules and the *Charcoal Challenge* rules will be addressed at the Chief Cook's Meeting scheduled for 8:30 a.m. that morning. Any concerns or questions by contestants will be addressed also at that time. Turn-in amounts will be confirmed accordingly. Visit the IBCA website @ www.ibcabbq.org.

4. JUDGING TIMES AND PRIZES

FRIDAY, May 19th: See EXHIBIT A attached for JackPot events

SATURDAY, May 20th: See EXHIBIT B & C attached for Bloody Mary, Junior Division and IBCA events

A turn-in window of ten (10) minutes before and after the set turn-in time will be recognized. Judging trays received after that time will not be accepted. In the event of a tie for Grand Champion BBQ Team, the **BRISKET** will be the first tiebreaker, followed by ribs, then chicken.

5. TEMPORARY TEAMS:

NEW: Temporary Teams: Teams can only provide a substitute team for one year and that temporary team must be approved by the Charcoal Challenge Committee. If a team cannot cook two years in a row, that space will be forfeited and the Charcoal Challenge Committee will assign a new team to that space. There are no exceptions!! TEAMS must state that a temporary team is substituting on the entry form. The fill in team has the option of going on the waiting list but is not considered an alumni team and **WILL NOT** receive automatic for the following year event!

6. WRISTBANDS

Teams are provided FIVE (5) WRISTBANDS for the Chief Cook & Assistant Cooks. Wristbands serve as admission to the Fair & Cook-off Events. TEAM BADGES are for identification purposes only and are **NOT** your pass to get into any of the Ticket Gates. Team members are required to wear their wristbands at all times during the Cook-off on Friday & Saturday. If you do not wear your wristband, you will be required to purchase a ticket at the Charcoal Challenge Ticket gate or at any of the Fair Ticket Gates. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

7. JACKPOT BEAN CONTEST

The JackPot Bean Contest is open to all Cook-off teams and will be held on Friday, May 19th at **4:00 p.m.** at the Judge's Tent. Entry fee is \$10.00. **Reminder: a portion of the Jackpot events entry fee of \$1.00 per entry will be dedicated specifically to the Youth Fair Board Scholarship Fund.** **CONTESTANTS must come to the Judge's Tent between 1:00 and 3:30 p.m. to pay entry fees and pickup containers.** Only one cup of beans can be turned in from any one pot of beans. Beans must be cooked on site from dry pinto beans. No pre-cooked beans will be allowed. Cook at least one pound. Use regular spices only. Ham-hocks, bacon, condiments & veggies etc. may be added while beans are cooking, however, **NOTHING BIGGER THAN THE BEAN WILL BE PERMITTED IN THE CUP AT TURN IN.** (See Exhibit A for a list of prizes and announcement of winners.) Cash prizes are based on the number of entries which determines the total amount of the JackPot. Prizes awarded to **TOP TEN WINNERS.** Entry should be brought to the Judge's Tent at 4:00 p.m. for check-in and judging. All decisions of the Judges are final.

8. JACKPOT OPEN CONTEST

The JackPot Open Contest is open to all Cook-off teams and will be held on Friday, May 19th at 5:30 p.m. at the Judge's Tent. Entry fee is \$10.00. **Reminder: a portion of the Jackpot events entry fee of \$1.00 per entry will be dedicated specifically to the Youth Fair Board Scholarship Fund.** **CONTESTANTS must come to the Judge's Tent between 1:00 and 3:30 p.m. to pay entry fees and pickup containers.** The "contest dish" may be any meat and/or vegetable dish cooked on a pit or grill – from rattlesnake to prime rib to cabbage, lobster, shrimp, or any other meat or vegetable dishes! **No desserts or breads permitted.** More than one "contest dish" may be entered with an additional fee of \$10.00 per entry. Cooking may begin after arriving on the Cook-off Grounds. (See Exhibit A for a list of prizes and announcement of winners.) Prizes awarded to **TOP TEN WINNERS.** Cash prizes are based on the number of entries that determines the total amount of the JackPot. Entry should be brought to Judge's tent at 5:30 p.m. for check-in and judging. All decisions of the Judges are final.

9. JACKPOT DESSERT COMPETITION

The JackPot Dessert Competition is open to all Cook-off teams and will be held on Friday, May 19th at **7:00 p.m.** at the Judge's Tent. Entry fee is \$10.00. **Reminder: a portion of the Jackpot events entry fee of \$1.00 per entry will be dedicated specifically to the Youth Fair Board Scholarship Fund.** **CONTESTANTS must come to the Judge's Tent between 1:00 and 3:30 p.m. to pay entry fees and pickup containers.** The JackPot Dessert "contest dish" includes desserts and/or breads and can consist of such entries as cobblers, cakes, breads and anything in between. Questions regarding entries are welcomed. **The dish must be prepared on-site and cooked on the pit or grill with the appropriate container.** Same cooking rules apply as those for the JackPot Bean and JackPot Open. More than one "contest dish" may be entered with an additional fee of \$10.00 per entry. Cooking may begin after arriving on the Cook-off Grounds. (See Exhibit A for a list of prizes and announcement of winners.) Prizes awarded to **TOP TEN WINNERS.** Cash prizes are based on the number of entries which determines the total amount of the JackPot. Entry should be brought to Judge's tent at 7:00 p.m. for check-in and judging. All decisions of the Judges are final.

10. JACKPOT BLOODY MARY CONTEST

The JackPot Bloody Mary Contest will be held on Saturday, May 20th at **10:00 a.m.** in the Judge's Tent. **Entry fee is \$10.00. REMINDER: CONTESTANTS must come to the Judge's Tent @ 9:30 a.m. to pay entry fee and pickup container. Showmanship has been discontinued for this contest.** Entries will be judged on taste only. Only **VODKA** will be permitted as the alcohol ingredient. May use pre-mixed juices. Regular spices only. Bring entry to Judge's tent for check-in and judging. Prizes and Trophies awarded to the **TOP THREE WINNERS. Winners will be announced at 12:00 NOON** (See Exhibit B). Cash prizes are based on the number of entries which determines the total amount of the JackPot. (See Exhibit B for prizes.) All decisions of the Judges are final.

11. JUNIOR DIVISION COOK-OFF

The Junior Division Cook-off will be held on Saturday, May 20th at **11:30 a.m. in the Judge's Tent**. Contestants are required to have a parent or guardian who is a participant in the sanctioned cook-off. Contestants can register and pickup their containers at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday at the Judge's Tent. **Winners will be announced at 1:30 p.m.** The division will consist of two categories including the **Pork Chop Flop & Mop** and the **Small Fry Burger Burn**. **NO ENTRY FEE TO PARTICIPATE**. (See Exhibit B for prizes.) The two categories are as follows:

- **The Pork Chop Flop & Mop** is open to youth ages 7 thru 12 years. A team consists of ONE (1) or TWO (2) COOKS. Contestants grill a pork chop of their choice (*not provided by Charcoal Challenge Committee*) that is no more than 1" thick. The pork chop must be cooked on the pit or grill on site. AWARDS will be given to the **TOP THREE WINNERS**. All entries will receive participation ribbons.
- **The Small Fry Burger Burn** includes ages 6 years and under. Contestants grill a hamburger patty (provided by the Charcoal Challenge Committee) with a container and picked up at the main tent at 9:30 a.m. The patty must be cooked on a pit or grill on site. AWARDS will be given to **ALL** contestants.

12. CHICKEN

The Chicken Cook-off Contest is sanctioned by the IBCA and will be held on Saturday, May 20th at **11:00 a.m.** at the Judge's tent (See Exhibit B for announcement of winners). **MEAT INSPECTION WILL TAKE PLACE ON THURSDAY FROM NOON THROUGH 8 P.M. & FRIDAY FROM 7 A.M. UNTIL 2 P.M.** Each team will be given a container with a secret number in which to put the contest chicken. The chicken may be cooked however you want as long as it is cooked on the pit or grill. **Place Two (2) 1/2 fully jointed chicken in the container meat side up to include breast, wing, wing tip (visible not tucked under), thigh & drumstick. SKIN ON. NO CORNISH HENS.** Entry should be brought to the Judge's Tent at 11:00 a.m. (See Exhibit C for prizes.) All decisions of the Judges are final.

13. PORK SPARE RIBS

The Pork Spare Ribs Cook-off is sanctioned by the IBCA and will be held on Saturday, May 20th at **1:00 p.m.** at the Judge's tent (See Exhibit B for announcement of winners). **MEAT INSPECTION WILL TAKE PLACE ON THURSDAY FROM NOON THROUGH 8 P.M. & FRIDAY FROM 7 A.M. UNTIL 2 P.M. Only Pork Spare Ribs (bone-in) (St. Louise Cut acceptable)** will be accepted for judging. **NO BABY BACK RIBS.** Each team will be given a container with a secret number in which to put the contest ribs. The ribs may be cooked however you want as long as they are cooked on the pit or grill. **Nine (9) individual cut ribs should be placed in the tray Top side up lying parallel to the hinge for judging.** Entry should be brought to the Judge's tent at 1:00 p.m. (See Exhibit C for prizes.) All decisions of the Judges are final.

14. BRISKET

The Brisket Cook-off is sanctioned by the IBCA and will be held on Saturday, May 20th at **3:00 p.m.** at the Judge's tent (See Exhibit B for announcement of winners). **MEAT INSPECTION WILL TAKE PLACE ON THURSDAY FROM NOON THROUGH 8 P.M. & FRIDAY FROM 7 A.M. UNTIL 2 P.M. PRE-TRIMMING IS PERMITTED.** Pre-cooked, pre-salted, pre-marinated, or pre-anything meat is **not** allowed. **NO GARNISHES, SAUCE ON OR WITH THE MEAT AND NO PUDDLING AT TURN-IN.** Each team will be given a container with a secret number in which to put the contest brisket. **Nine (9) slices of brisket cut no wider than a pencil should be placed in the container meat side up for judging.** Entry should be brought to the Judge's tent at 3:00 p.m. (See Exhibit C for prizes.) All decisions of the Judges are final.

15. COOLEST PIT AWARDS

The awards given to the Cook-off teams displaying the **MOST UNIQUE BBQ PIT** (See Exhibit C). The **TOP THREE WINNERS** will be named when the Cook-off winners are announced on Saturday (See Exhibit B). All decisions of the Judges are final.

16. HOSPITALITY AWARDS

The awards given to the Cook-off teams selected as the friendliest that is cordial, welcoming and entertaining (See Exhibit C). The TOP THREE **WINNERS** will be named when the Cook-off winners are announced on Saturday (See Exhibit B). All decisions of the Judges are final.

17. UTILITIES

Utility hookups are as follows: Spaces 1 thru 24 and 75 thru 83 have ONE 30 AMP circuit each with individual water hookup; spaces 25 thru 74 will share ONE 30 AMP circuit with another team with individual water. **If you require more amps, please bring a generator to support your electrical needs.** In order to keep in compliance with the electrical output of your space, please make sure that all your electrical appliances do not exceed the amps provided. If you keep blowing the breakers, we will have an electrician available to determine if you are in compliance. If not, you will be asked to disconnect. Spaces A-H, J-O & X-Z will **NOT** have utilities. RVs may be moved in beginning on Wednesday, May 17th.

NOTE: AN ADDITIONAL FEE OF \$25 PER NIGHT PER SPACE WITH UTILITIES IS PAYABLE FOR HOOKUP AND USE PRIOR TO MAY 18TH. Teams wanting to have their RV waste reservoir emptied should register by Friday. Payment due to Service Provider when services are performed. Details for times will be provided in your registration packet at check in time!

18. SPACES

Spaces 1 thru 24 are 35'x40'. Spaces 25 thru 74 are 30'x30'. Spaces 75 thru 83 are 32'x50'. Spaces A thru H are 30'x30'. Spaces J thru L are ±30'x30'. Spaces M thru O are ±40'x34'. Vehicle equipment and props for each team must be within your allocated space. RVs may be moved in beginning on Wednesday, May 17th.

19. PIT BOSS & ICE

Teams will be provided a Pit Boss to serve as your host or hostess. Ice will be sold in the cook-off area. The Pit Boss crew will assist you with obtaining ice.

20. GARBAGE

Each team will have **ONE 55 GALLON LINED DRUM**. Please help us keep your area clean. If your trash is full, pull it out and we will pick it up and replace the liner. We supply the garbage bags. The Pit boss crew will assist you.

21. RESTROOMS

Permanent Men's & Women's restroom facilities with showers are located at the East side of the Judge's tent. **BECAUSE VANDALISM AFFECTS EVERYONE: THE PERMANENT RESTROOMS ARE LOCKED AT 11 P.M. EACH NIGHT AND OPENED AT 6:00 A.M.** Additional portable toilets will be located near the registration building and **to the north of the permanent restrooms** and will be serviced daily.

22. SOUND EQUIPMENT – LIVE MUSIC

With respect to all cookers, **QUIET TIME WILL BE OBSERVED EACH NIGHT FROM MIDNIGHT TO 6:30 A.M.** Sound equipment, stereos, speakers, live bands, etc. which are set up within your area is permissible. **HOWEVER, ANYTIME THE EVENT STAGE IS OCCUPIED FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS, SCHEDULED ENTERTAINMENT, CONTEST, ETC. ALL SOUND EQUIPMENT MUST BE TURNED OFF OR DOWN TO A LOWER VOLUME SO AS TO NOT INTERFERE WITH THE EVENT STAGE.** Any team whose music or noise volume disturbs neighboring teams will be asked to cooperate by lowering the volume. We are all here to have a good time, but please be considerate of others. The last thing the Cook-off Committee would want to do is to disqualify someone for being uncooperative. This, of course, is a last resort.

23. PETS

AS STATED IN THE CHARCOAL CHALLENGE RULES: NO PETS OR LIVE ANIMALS ARE PERMITTED IN THE COOK-OFF AREA WITH EXCEPTION TO THOSE ASSISTING THE DISABLED.

24. SECURITY

Security is located on the Fair Grounds and can be contacted by calling 979-542-2800. A security officer will be dispatched as needed. Contact information will be included in your Registration Packet.

25. BEER & ALCOHOL

Contestants may not sell beer or alcohol to the general public. **NO GLASS CONTAINERS ALLOWED --- CANNED OR PLASTIC CONTAINERS ONLY!** NO OPEN CONTAINERS WILL BE PERMITTED TO BE BROUGHT IN OR TAKEN OUTSIDE OF THE TICKET GATES. **REMINDER:** Due to restrictions being implemented by the Board, **ALL ALCOHOL MUST BE BROUGHT IN TO THE COOK-OFF WHEN YOU CHECK IN. NO OUTSIDE COOLERS OR CONTAINERS OF ALCOHOL WILL BE PERMITTED THROUGH THE GATE PAST 2 PM ON FRIDAY. THIS INCLUDES ANY VISITORS TO YOUR SITE. WE WILL ENFORCE THIS POLICY STRICTLY.** Contestants may not charge admission to a party where alcohol is served nor require donations for alcohol. **Each team must monitor its own area when it pertains to minors. MINORS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO CONSUME OR BE IN POSSESSION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AT ANY TIME.** ALL COOLERS MUST REMAIN WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THE COOK-OFF AREA OR CHARCOAL CHALLENGE REPRESENTATIVES OR FAIR OFFICIALS WILL CONFISCATE THEM.

26. DISORDERLY CONDUCT AND BEHAVIOR

The Charcoal Challenge Committee and the Lee County Fair is implementing a ZERO TOLERANCE policy for any & all fights that break out in team spaces including team members or visitors. **REMINDER: IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CHIEF COOK TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF INDIVIDUALS IN HIS/HER COOK-OFF SPACE REGARDLESS IF THE CHIEF COOK IS PRESENT OR NOT DURING THE INCIDENT.** Individuals exhibiting obnoxious or unruly conduct including: cursing, screaming profanity, verbal threatening, fighting or other disruptive behaviors directed at Charcoal Challenge Committee members, IBCA judges or Fair Board members will be escorted from the cook-off premises by security and prohibited from participating in future Charcoal Challenge cook-offs. As determined by Fair Board and/or Charcoal Challenge cook-off officials & law enforcement. Offense defined--A person is guilty of disorderly conduct if, with intent to cause public inconvenience, annoyance or alarm, or recklessly creating a risk thereof, he/she:

- engages in fighting or threatening, or in violent or tumultuous behavior;
- makes unreasonable noise;
- uses obscene language, or makes an obscene gesture; or
- creates a hazardous or physically offensive condition by any act which serves no legitimate purpose of the actor.
- does not abide by rules & guidelines of Charcoal Challenge and the Lee County Fair.
- The Charcoal Challenge reserves the right to refuse admittance to alumni or any other persons seeking entry to this event.

Additionally, there will be no lewd or inappropriate acts, behavior or events allowed on the grounds of the BBQ cook-off by cookers, guest, staff, etc. Any cookers found participating in or allowing inappropriate activities in their tent area will be disqualified from the cook-off, the team's event will be shut down and the team involved will be removed from the premises immediately and not allowed to participate in future Charcoal Challenge cook-offs. **Disqualified Teams have no appeals or no refunds.**

27. PARKING

Each team will be provided with two parking passes (*see registration packet*). **Vehicles without a parking pass will not be allowed to park in the contestant parking area.** The Lee County Fair Association requires that RV trailers (pull type or motorized) only be allowed within each team's contest area. **No pickups, trucks, cars, etc. will be allowed in the contest area.** We have extra contestant parking and we will be glad to valet park your vehicle outside the contest area after you have unhitched or unloaded. **No gators, 3 or 4-wheelers or golf carts are allowed within the Fairgrounds.** Exceptions will be made for our cooks with disabilities & special needs. Due to the policy of the Lee County Fair Association, use of mobility aids or other motorized devices (i.e. golf carts, ATV'S, etc) and restricted to cooks with disabilities alone and such use must occur within the confines of the cook-off area only. **NO PASSENGERS.** No unlicensed drivers will be permitted to operate mobility aids including no unlicensed driver under 18 years of age. Strict adherence to this policy will be enforced and voluntary cooperation is encouraged. Non-compliance will be considered an abuse of this policy and will result in the banning of the use of mobility aid. ***Other uses must be approved prior to Cook-off by either Alma Weiser or Betty Petzold.*** **SIX PARKING SPACES ARE DESIGNATED FOR OUR SPECIAL NEEDS TEAMS & GUESTS. TEAMS NEEDING SPECIAL ASSISTANCE MAY NOTIFY A CHARCOAL CHALLENGE COMMITTEE MEMBER TO ARRANGE PICKUP IN CHARCOAL CHALLENGE DESIGNATED PARKING. ADDITIONAL PARKING IS LOCATED IN GENERAL PARKING OF THE FAIR.**

28. END OF COMPETITION

The *Charcoal Challenge* is concluded following the announcement of winners on May 20th. **Teams may "breakdown" and leave the area until 10:00 p.m. following the announcement of the winners and the Grand Champion has been named.** However, you are invited to stay and enjoy other events and the featured entertainment at the fair. You may also return Sunday morning, May 21st between 8:00 and 12:00 NOON to pack up. Please have your area clean and cleared by no later than 12:00 NOON on SUNDAY, May 21st.

**THANKS AGAIN FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN
CHARCOAL CHALLENGE AT THE
LEE COUNTY FAIR.**

PLEASE CONTACT **ALMA WEISER @ 979.716.4569** or **BETTY PETZOLD @ 979.820.1952**
SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY QUESTION OR CONCERNS.

**2018 CHARCOAL CHALLENGE DATES:
MAY 17, 18 & 19, 2018
MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!**