



# Magnolia State Bank Chili Cook Off Second Saturday in February

## Rules and Regulations

### 1. Teams and Times

- a. Teams may have no more than 5 members, including one team captain. The captain will be the liaison between Laurel Main Street and the team.
- b. Set-up may begin no earlier than 7:00 a.m. on the second Saturday in February. All teams must check-in by 9:00 a.m. to participate.
- c. The Chili Cook Off will be open to the public from 10:00 a.m. until the winners are announced at 2:00 p.m.
- d. Judging will begin at 12:00 p.m.

### 2. Location

- a. Cooking will take place on the 500 block of Central Avenue, downtown Laurel.

### 3. Preparation and Cooking

- a. All chili must be cooked **ON SITE** the day of the cook-off, **FROM SCRATCH, NO PRE-CHOPPING, and NO PRE-COOKING**. All chili must be prepared out in the open, no cooking in motor homes, etc.
  - i. From Scratch is defined as starting with raw meat. No marinating is allowed.
  - ii. Commercial chili powder is permissible, but complete chili mixes are **NOT** permitted.
  - iii. Thickeners such as cornmeal, flour, etc. are permissible.
- b. Teams must prepare and cook chili in as sanitary a manner as possible. Cooks must provide all cooking and serving utensils, but electricity will be provided. Any chairs, coolers, tent, tables, paper towels or other cooking accessories must also be provided by the cooks. ***Laurel Main Street will provide serving cups, spoons and paper towels for the public.***
- c. Each head cook is responsible for **preparing one pot of chili** that he/she intends to be judged. Only one judging cup may be turned in from that pot. In addition, each team must prepare at least **3 gallons of chili** to help feed the crowd.
- d. At no time should you leave cooking chili unattended and a **CLASS K FIRE EXTINGUISHER** is required (by the city) for each team to have on site.

4. Rules and regulations: There will be TWO categories, **TRADITIONAL RED CHILI**, defined by the International Chili Society as ANY kind of meat or combination of meats cooked with red chili peppers, various spices and other ingredients, with the exception of BEANS and PASTA which are strictly forbidden. No garnish is allowed. **HOMESTYLE CHILI**, defined by the International Chili Society as the cook's favorite combination of ingredients resulting in a dish seasoned with chili peppers and spices.

### 5. Judging Preparation

- a. By 11:30 a.m. a judging coordinator will deliver an entry cup, a secret number slip, and turn-in time to each team.

- b. Turn-in times for each team are set. No changes to a team's time will be made. A turn-in window of 10 minutes before and after the set time will be recognized. Cups turned in after that time will **NOT** be accepted for judging.
- c. Cups will be completely filled with chili, no garnishments, etc. for the judges tasting.
- d. Chili cooks must sign their secret number slips in ink, with their first and last name, at the time judging cups are issued. Winners will not be eligible if their secret numbers are unsigned when presented. You must present your signed secret number to win.
- e. All chili cooks may be required to eat a spoonful of their own chili from their judging cup before turning it in for judging.

## 6. Judging

- a. Judges will vote for the chili they liked best based on the following major considerations:
  - i. **COLOR:** Chili should look appetizing; reddish brown is generally accepted as good.
  - ii. **AROMA:** Chili should smell good indicating what's in store when you taste it.
  - iii. **CONSISTENCY:** Chili must have a good ratio between sauce and meat. It should not be dry, watery, lumpy, grainy, or greasy.
  - iv. **TASTE:** Taste should consist of the combination of the meat, spices, etc. with no particular ingredient being dominant.
  - v. **AFTERTASTE:** The aftertaste or bite is the heat created by the various types of spices or peppers.
- b. The decision of the judges is final.

## 7. Prizes:

### a. **Judges Choice Awards**

- i. After tasting all eligible chili, the judging panel will award a winner in each category.
  - 1. **Traditional**--\$1000.00, custody of the Chili Cook Off red pepper trophy for one year
  - 2. **Homestyle**--\$1000.00

### b. **People's Choice Award**

- i. When each person buys a bowl of chili they will receive a ticket. Patrons can place their ticket into a scoring bucket placed at each team's booth. The tickets will be counted and winner determined.
- ii. The Captain will receive \$200 and a Carl Buchannan platter.

### c. **Spirit Award**

- i. Teams are encouraged to decorate their booth and put up signs identifying your chili or team name. Even if your chili doesn't win, you can still have the most spirit!
- ii. The Spirit award is decided by a team of secret judges who will judge the booths and determine who has displayed the most spirit.
- iii. The Captain will receive \$200 and a Carl Buchannan platter.

**DEADLINE TO ENTER YOUR TEAM is the MONDAY prior to the SECOND SATURDAY IN FEBRUARY**  
***Mandatory pre-cook off team meeting is Monday PRIOR TO second Saturday in February, 5:30pm, Studio 550 (550 Central Avenue, downtown Laurel.) For more information contact Robby Scruggs, 601.319.0098 or Laurel Main Street, 601.433.3255, [info@laurelmaintstreet.com](mailto:info@laurelmaintstreet.com) and [www.laurelmaintstreet.com/events](http://www.laurelmaintstreet.com/events)***