

# JUNIOR VAQUERO COOK-OFF

**ENTRY DEADLINE: JANUARY 20, 2025**

*or capacity of 40 teams, whichever comes first.*

**Superintendent: Karen Dudek; 210-823-8173**

## CONTEST SCHEDULE

<b>Team Check-In/ Load-In:</b>	Saturday	February 1	8 AM	Market Square
<b>Western Heritage Parade &amp; Cattle Drive Events :</b>	Saturday	February 1	9 AM – 12 PM	Market Square
<b>Fideo Loco Turn In:</b>	Saturday	February 1	12 PM	Judging Area
<b>Cook's Choice Turn In:</b>	Saturday	February 1	2 PM	Judging Area
<b>Charro Beans Turn In:</b>	Saturday	February 1	4 PM	Judging Area
<b>Awards:</b>	Saturday	February 1	6 PM	Market Square

The San Antonio Livestock Exposition, Inc. and the 2025 Western Heritage Parade (WHP) - Vaquero Cook-Off Committee retain the right to modify these rules and regulations at any time with or without notice to participants. The 2025 WHP - Vaquero Cook-Off Committee encourages a family friendly atmosphere. Please be considerate of the event's family environment when choosing your team's name. The team leader is responsible for the conduct of his/her team members & guests.

The team leader listed at the time of registration is considered the main point of contact for a team. The team leader will be responsible for ensuring the team adheres to these rules. Please note additional regulations may be added as necessary.

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

1. Cook-Off teams: Each team must consist of a minimum of two (2) and a maximum of five (5) members and Team Leader/Adult Supervisor.
2. The team leader listed at the time of registration is considered the main point of contact for a team.
3. All team registrations must be completed online at <https://www.sarodeo.com/vaquero> . Online registration will close when the capacity of 40 teams has been reached.
4. Payment: Entries are not valid until paid in full. The **registration fee is \$150.00 per team**. Payment must be made at the time of registration. Payments can be made online by credit card, by school check, cashier's check or money order. **NO PERSONAL CHECKS ACCEPTED**. One form of payment per team. There will be a \$35.00 service charge on all returned checks.
5. Refunds and Cancellations: No Refunds will be given if a team cancels or is a no show.
6. Teams will be allowed an area of approximate size of 10' x 10'.
7. Any and all hard copy mailings and e-mails will be sent to the team leader.
8. It is the responsibility of the team leader to keep cook area clean, policed and to ensure team members comply with all Vaquero Cook-Off Rules & Regulations.
9. ALL TEAM MEMBERS must have a signed and notarized Indemnification and Release Form. Team members under 18 years of age must have their form signed and notarized by their parents for them to participate. All signed forms must be turned in during Team Check In on Saturday, February 1, 2025, prior to the Vaquero Cook-Off.

## TEAM PLACEMENT

10. Requests must be made in the appropriate section at the time of online registration.
11. All requests will be based on availability and no guarantees will be made that your request will be fulfilled.

## **TEAM SPACE GUIDELINES, REGULATIONS AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS**

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**2025 WHP - Vaquero Cook-Off Committee members and SAN ANTONIO LIVESTOCK EXPOSITION, INC. management and security shall have access to a contestant's space.**

1. Teams must check in and pick up their team packet. Each Team will receive a laminated space number with their packet. Packets may be picked up on Saturday, February 1, 2025 at 8:00 am at the Team Check In table. (Indicated on map in Team Packet)
2. **Each team must prominently display their space numbers and Team Name at all times.**
3. Teams must keep all activities and exhibits within their designated space and must not be in the main walkways for any reason.
4. **Each team is responsible for tables, water, trash containers, fire retardant canopy, fire retardant ground protectant/covering, extension cords, internal lighting and fire extinguisher.**
5. **Each team is responsible for all food and cooking items needed for their entries. In the event that a Sponsor provides a food pantry donation, teams will be notified in advance.**
6. Failure to comply with all safety requirements and regulations may result in disqualification and removal from the Cook-Off.

### **PARKING AND ENTRY**

Information for team entry and loading zone pass will be emailed to the team leader/campus representative prior to the event. Wristbands will be issued at check-in.

### **LOAD-IN AND LOAD-OUT**

1. Team, personal items and equipment load in begins on Saturday, February 1, 2025 at 8:00 am and ends on Saturday, February 1, 2025 at 10:00 am.
2. All permitted loading passes must be visible from the front windshield. There will be a person stationed in the loading areas to direct you to the appropriate load in/out areas.
3. Only vehicles with the permitted loading pass will be allowed to load in/out on Saturday, February 1, 2025.
4. Load out of equipment and personal items is not permitted until after Junior Vaquero Cook-Off awards are completed, Saturday, February 1, 2025 and must be completed by 10:00 pm. All team areas must be cleaned up and moved off the grounds by 10:00 pm on Saturday, February 1, 2025.
5. Team leader accepts all responsibility for the condition the Cook-Off site is left in. Sites will be inspected. Any damages or if the site is left dirty will result in a bill being sent to team leader. In addition, Team Leader is responsible for any and all food and waste disposal and ensuring that all disposal is handled appropriately and placed in the proper location. Sinks in Market Square are NOT a food, grease or waste disposal area.
6. Violators may face disqualification from the Vaquero Cook-Off and participation in any future Vaquero Cook-Off.

### **VEHICLES, TRAILERS & RVs**

1. No vehicles are allowed in the Cook-off areas.
2. No vehicles are permitted to stay in the Load In/Out area longer than necessary to load in/out your equipment etc.
3. Vehicles not in compliance in the Load In/Out area will be towed. The cost of towing and/or impoundment fees to retrieve the vehicle will be at the vehicle owner's sole expense.
4. No trailers or RVs are allowed in the Cook-Off area. No overnight camping is allowed in the Cook-Off areas or Market Square.
5. Golf carts, ATVs, scooters and other motorized vehicles are prohibited except for official use by the 2025 WHP - Vaquero Cook-Off Committee and SAN ANTONIO LIVESTOCK EXPOSITION, INC. personnel.
6. Bicycles, motorized scooters, skateboards, hoverboards and Segways are also prohibited.

### **CANOPIES, FLOOR COVERING, SPACE LAYOUT AND DECORATION**

1. Canopies will be anchored and set up as per manufacturer's instructions, whether done by a company or

individual. Certain locations may require alternative methods. No ground stakes are permitted.

2. All canopies must be flame retardant.
3. All teams are required to provide their own canopy, tables AND flame-retardant floor covering for their Cook-Off site.
4. All canopies must be erected with appropriate fittings, fasteners, etc.
5. Combustible materials such as hay, heaters, etc. shall not be located inside canopies.
6. General setup will take place on Saturday, February 1, 2025.
7. Advertisement of Teams and/or Team Sponsors will be limited to your Cook-Off site only.
8. Cook-Off areas will be inspected by the 2025 WHP - Vaquero Cook-Off Committee Fire and Safety Inspectors.

### **ELECTRICAL & GENERATORS**

1. Generators are NOT allowed in the Cook-Off areas.
2. There will be a limited amount of electricity available in Cook-Off areas.
3. All entries must be cooked using propane burners and stoves. No electrical appliances will be allowed.

### **FIRE EXTINGUISHERS**

1. All teams are required to have a portable identified and readily available fire extinguisher.
2. 2025 WHP - Vaquero Cook-Off Committee Fire & Safety Team and City of San Antonio Fire Prevention Division will be inspecting cook-off areas throughout the Cook-Off.
  - a. Minimum fire extinguisher requirements:
    - i. One 2A-10 BC fire extinguisher is required.
    - ii. One "K" type extinguisher will be required for any team that will be deep frying or using oils in their cooking. A 2A-10BC fire extinguisher is required in addition to the "K" type extinguisher.
    - iii. All fire extinguishers shall have current (within a year) inspection sticker from licensed extinguisher company or provide proof that the extinguisher is new (store receipt).

### **OPEN FLAMES, COOKING EQUIPMENT AND HEATERS**

1. NO ground fires, BBQ pits or open flames will be allowed at this Cook-Off.
2. Teams will be required to cook ALL entries with propane burners/cookers/stoves.
3. Gas cylinders/propane containers must be properly secured at all times to prevent tipping or falling.
4. Umbrella and canopy heaters are not allowed inside of canopies.

### **VIDEO RECORDING AND CAMERA CREWS**

1. Film, video, audio or other recording of the event for commercial purposes is not permitted without the prior written consent of San Antonio Livestock Exposition, Inc.
2. All media, video production companies etc. must obtain written permission and media credentials through the San Antonio Livestock Exposition, Inc. Marketing Department at least 30 days prior to the event. Please contact the Marketing Department at (210) 225-0612 or [marketing@sarodeo.com](mailto:marketing@sarodeo.com)

### **CLEAN UP & TRASH DISPOSAL**

1. Each team is responsible for the cleanup of their area(s) by Saturday, February 1, 2025 at 10:00pm. All equipment and personal items must be moved out of the area(s) and off of the grounds by this time.
2. All team spaces must be cleaned and left in the condition in which they were found when teams arrived on the grounds.
3. Grey water, grease, food waste and trash shall be placed in the proper containers for disposal. These containers will be located throughout the Cook-Off areas and designated to you by the Junior Vaquero Cook-Off Team Hospitality Coordinators.

## **ALCOHOL MANAGEMENT & REGULATIONS**

Each team must comply with all current laws and ordinances, including, but not limited to, Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code and any additional rules of the San Antonio Livestock Exposition, Inc.

### **INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY**

1. The team leader will be held responsible for the conduct of team members, guests and any persons who are or have been in his/her team space. Any behavior deemed inappropriate by the 2025 WHP - Vaquero Cook-Off Committee may result in immediate expulsion from the event and forfeiture of future participation.

### **PROHIBITED BEHAVIORS AND ACTIVITIES**

1. Certain activities related to alcoholic beverages are strictly prohibited.
2. At no time may a person under the age of 21 be served alcohol of any nature.
3. NO outside alcohol is allowed. There will be beer and wine sales available during the event.
4. No glass bottles allowed.

## **CONTEST RULES AND INFORMATION**

### **GENERAL PUBLIC – HEALTH DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS**

1. The Health Department (San Antonio Metropolitan Health District) will issue temporary permits for teams to be able to serve samples to the general public. Fees for these permits are included in your entry fee. You will receive these permits at Team Check In on Saturday, February 1, 2025.
2. Health inspections for the following items will be performed by San Antonio Metropolitan Health District:
  - a. The Health Department suggests a beverage cooler with a spout to wash your hands under and a bucket to catch the water.
  - b. 3 buckets, bleach and liquid soap – one for soap and water to wash utensils, one for bleach to rinse utensils and as a wash basin to wash your hands.
  - c. Covering your food – Health Department Rules state that your food must be under cover when you are cutting meat or doing any other preparation.
3. **Sanitary Conditions:** Teams are to prepare and cook in as sanitary a manner as is possible including, but not limited to using gloves, washing hands and avoiding cross-contamination. Cooking conditions are subject to inspection by the 2025 WHP- Vaquero Cook-Off Committee. Infractions identified or witnessed will be immediately addressed and the team will be subject to disqualification.

### **VAQUERO COOK-OFF RULES**

1. **Eligibility:** To be eligible, contestants must be enrolled in, and attending, public, private or homeschool secondary (high school) schools in Texas at time of contest; and be bona fide residents of the State of Texas. Contestants are responsible for knowing and complying with all rules of this contest. Contestants suspended under Texas Education Code 33.081 "No Pass, No Play" are ineligible to participate in any San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo activity, event or competition.
2. **Social Security Number Requirement:** Exhibitors/Contestants offered a scholarship must provide their Social Security Number to contest management upon request in order to fully qualify for funding.
3. **Scholarships:** Refer to the Junior Competitive Events Scholarship section of the 2025 Competitive Events Premium List.
4. ALL cook-off entries must be prepared and cooked on-site (Market Square). NO pre-cooked entries will be allowed. Cook-Off sites can be inspected at any time.
5. In the event that a Sponsored food pantry bag will be given, each team will be notified in advance and a list of items will be given. Teams should be prepared to provide all food items, spices, cooking items, and setup materials.
6. All cook-off entries must be cooked using a propane burner, cooker or stove.
7. All cook-off entries will be turned in the container(s) that will be provided by the WHP- Vaquero Cook-Off Committee. Teams will receive these containers at check-in/registration.
8. All entries must be turned in with the ticket attached. Non-compliance or any tickets that have been tampered

with will result in disqualification of the entry.

9. Turn-in times for judging will be posted at cook-off for all designated entries. Cook-Off entries may be turned in up to 10 minutes prior to the designated time or up to 10 minutes after the designated time.
10. The designated place for turn-ins will be noted on the site map.
11. Once door to entry turn-in is closed, NO entries will be admitted for judging in that category.
12. First, Second, and Third place will be awarded in each category:
  - a. Cook's Choice – Any traditional Mexican Food Dish or Postre Mexicano (Mexican Dessert)
  - b. Charro Beans
  - c. Fideo Loco
  - d. Showmanship/Public Speaking (additional information regarding this category will be provided at a later date)
13. All food entries will be judged on flavor, texture and appearance.
14. To be eligible for Overall Champion and Overall Reserve Champion - Team MUST enter all three (3) food categories. Showmanship/Public Speaking will be judged as an individual category and will not count towards the Overall Grand & Reserve Champion.
15. The awards ceremony will be held on Saturday, February 1, 2025.



## **AWARDS**

### Overall Grand Champion

- a. \$20,000 San Antonio Livestock Exposition, Inc. Scholarship (Reference Above information)
- b. Team Plaque
- c. Invitation to ride in the 2026 Western Heritage Parade & Cattle Drive

### Overall Reserve Champion

- a. Team Plaque

### 1st, 2nd & 3rd place in each category

- a. Team Plaque

### People's Choice Award

- a. Team Plaque

\*Additional awards and prizes may be added through Sponsor donations.