

2025 Galveston County Fair & Rodeo, Inc.
19th Annual Seafood Cook-off
Superintendent: Brad Dillon (409) 770-7493
Co-Chairs: Dan Moore (281) 723-2819 & Mimzi Foreman (713) 576-6970

LOCATION: Galveston County Fairgrounds, Jack Brooks Road, Hwy 6

ENTRY FEE: ALL EVENTS - \$175.00 per team, per spot NON-REFUNDABLE
Entry in Gumbo Category is Mandatory. One entry in each division per spot.
ENTRIES MUST BE PAID BY MARCH 6, 2025

CHECK-IN: Thursday, April 3, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.
Friday, April 4, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

JUDGING: GRILLED SHRIMP DIVISION-- Friday, April 4, 2025
FISH DIVISION --- Saturday, April 5, 2025
SEAFOOD RICE DIVISION --- Saturday, April 5, 2025
GUMBO DIVISION --- Saturday, April 5, 2025

AWARDS: AWARDS & PRIZE MONEY WILL BE PRESENTED AS FOLLOWS:

1st through 5th Place in all divisions will receive Awards & Prize Money

1 st Place	\$ 600.00
2 nd Place	\$ 475.00
3 rd Place	\$ 350.00
4 th Place	\$ 275.00
5 th Place	\$ 175.00

The Grand Champion Cooking Team will receive \$500.00 and an Award

The Reserve Grand Champion Cooking Team will receive an Award

CHIEF COOK'S MEETING: SUNDAY, March 30, 2025, 1:00 P.M. ATTENDANCE MANDATORY
ALL SEAFOOD ENTRIES MUST BE PAID BY MARCH 6, 2025 – NO ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED AT THE
CHIEF COOKS MEETING.

PRIORITY RULES

1. **ANY UNAUTHORIZED REPRODUCTION OF ANY OFFICIAL FORMS, PARKING PASSES, ENTRY FORMS, ATTACHMENTS, ETC. WILL BE GROUNDS FOR IMMEDIATE DISQUALIFICATION AND PERMANENT DISBARMENT FROM ALL COOK-OFFS RUN BY THE TRIPLE CROWN COOK-OFF COMMITTEE.**
2. **DO NOT DUMP GRAY WATER ON THE GROUND.** All Gray water must be collected in a holding tank, dumped into a storm drain or dumped outside the fence. Do not dump gray water into an open ditch. Crawfish water must be dumped in the provided totes.
3. **Port-o-cans must be placed so that they are easily VISIBLE AND ACCESIBLE from a road / alley way for servicing. If your port-o-can has not been serviced, you must notify the cook-off committee by 8:00 am each day. Failure to do so may result in no service.**
4. **A Cook-off team MUST cook in the paid Cook-off spot(s) for 2 consecutive years, otherwise the team forfeits the spot(s) back to GCF&R. You may only request a lease agreement every 3rd year. Any and all lease agreements must be authorized in writing signed by a Committee Chairperson. If you no longer wish to cook, you cannot give your spots to another team. They become property of GCF&R. No exceptions.**
5. **No containers can be given to another team. Giving or receiving additional containers between teams is grounds for immediate disqualification of BOTH TEAMS for all events run by the GCF&R Triple Crown Cookoff Committee.**
6. **Teams who win prize money MUST collect their prize money FROM THE FAIR OFFICE beginning the Tuesday after close of the Fair and must be collected no later than June 1st. Any uncollected prize money will be forfeited back to the Galveston County Fair & Rodeo after that time. ALL PRIZE MONEY WILL BE DISTRIBUTED BY THE FAIR OFFICE.**

GENERAL RULES

7. There will be a Chief Cooks meeting on Sunday, March 30, 2025, 1:00 p.m. at the Galveston County Fairgrounds. Armbands and vehicle passes will be distributed at this time. Attendance by at least 1 team member is MANDATORY. **Failure to attend this meeting will result in a \$25 handling fee per SPOT.**
8. A team will consist of a Chief Cook and up to four (4) assistants. All Team Members must be 21 or older.
9. Seafood only Cook-off Spot(s) may no longer be the previously assigned Seafood Cook-off Spot(s) based on availability. If you cook in just the Seafood Cook-off, this does not mean you automatically get a BBQ Cook-off spot. If a Seafood Cook-off Team normally purchases multiple spots and the same number of spots is no longer available, accommodations will be made.
10. Cook-off teams participating in both the Seafood and BBQ Cook-offs can remain set up in their BBQ spots for the entire span from check in through check-out if at least 50% of the BBQ spots are used during Seafood. If you are going to leave items set-up in your spot all week, you are responsible to check (i.e. tie down, take down, secure) your items in the event of inclement weather so that it does not tear up your own or your neighbors property.
11. Arm Bands will be given to the Chief Cook and assistants (maximum of 5 arm bands) at the Chief Cooks meeting. These will be good for Seafood Weekend Only (Fri, Sat, Sun). Do not pass the arm bands, as this will be grounds for immediate disqualification.
12. Extra Seafood cook-off arm-bands will be available for purchase. This will allow the wearer entry to the fair on Seafood Cookoff Weekend
13. **All persons without COOKER armbands will be required to leave the fairgrounds at 1:00 a.m. each day. All persons with COOKER armbands MUST be in their own spots.**

14. The Cook-off Committee will provide one (1) approximate 30 x 30 foot space for each cook-off spot, area permitting, for the cook-off. Props, trailers, motor homes, tents (including stakes), coverings, or any other equipment must not exceed the boundaries of the space provided. Spaces are not always back to back or perfectly square. Map is not drawn to scale.
15. If food distribution companies need to deliver to your spot, they must deliver between the hours of 8 AM and 9 AM on Friday April 12 ONLY. Chief Cook must be present for their deliveries. All trucks must be out of the cook-off area before 9:30 AM.
16. Beer and ice may be brought in until check-in closes on Friday. After that time, these items must be purchased from the Galveston County Fair & Rodeo, Inc.
17. All Teams having Private Security must read and complete Attachment "A" of the rules.
18. All teams renting a tent must read and complete Attachment "B" of the rules. No tents will be set in any cook-off spot without the Chief Cook or representative being physically onsite during the tent placement to assure proper location.
19. Teams with 4 or more spots will be allowed to move onto the fairgrounds on Wednesday of Seafood weekend. All vehicles must be removed by gate closing time as the gates will be locked. No further vehicle traffic will be allowed after gates are closed.
20. Cook-off teams will be given 2 vehicle passes per spot. This pass must be displayed (hanging) from the rear view mirror of the vehicle. **Any vehicle without a pass is subject to being towed from the cook-off area. If you lose your pass, you can obtain a replacement for \$50.00 and a signed affidavit for a replacement pass.**
21. All teams on the West side (spots 1-110) of the cook-off area will be required to enter the cook-off through the commercial exhibit gate (West gate). If you are in these spots please line up on the Concrete Road on the West side of the fairgrounds, follow the designated map.
22. **No vehicles will be allowed to park in the designated Vendor/Sponsor and Committee Reserved parking areas at any time.** This area is located directly outside the West Cook-off Gate. All vehicles parked in these areas are subject to tow without notice.
23. Any Cook-off Team requiring assistance with unloading, moving, or placing equipment (i.e., air conditioners, generators, refrigeration units, trailers, etc.) must request assistance by signing up on the Equipment Movement list located at the Cook-off Committee Building. Equipment will be moved on a first come, first served basis only per the placement on the list.
24. All teams parking campers (travel trailers) outside of YOUR cook-off spot must park them in the designated camper parking area only. Contact the fair office to reserve your spot.
25. All vehicles on the cook-off grounds, after the gates close on any day, must remain within their own cook-off spot and cannot be moved until gates reopen.
26. Only the EAST Gate will be opened for entry on Sunday morning. The Cook-Off Committee reserves the right to alter this at its own discretion. Check out for Seafood weekend is Sunday morning.
27. The Cook-Off Committee reserves the right to alter the move-in and drive-in rules at its own discretion.
28. Each team will be provided a sign that must be posted in the cook spot which will list the spot number(s), team name, and chief cook. The sign must be posted on the outside space perimeter where the sign can be clearly seen from the walkway in front of the team's space.

COMPETITION

29. An official cook-off clock will be at the Cook-Off Committee Office.

30. Judging

- a) All categories will be in a single (1) phase.
- b) Entries will be judged on 3 criteria (Appearance (15%), Taste (50%), and Tenderness (35%))
- c) A table with a minimum of 5 judges will score the equally allocated samples.
- d) For each entry, the lowest judge's score will be dropped with the remaining judge's scores being used for category placement.

31. Deep frying is not allowed in any Division.

32. GRILLED SHRIMP DIVISION –

- a) Must be Headless. Bacon wrapped or stuffing is allowed.
- b) The shrimp is not the stuffing (i.e. no stuffed jalapenos with shrimp inside)

33. FISH DIVISION –

- a) Must be 75% or more fish. Lightly sauced is ok.
- b) NO SHELLS (CRAB, CLAM, MOLLUSK, ETC). Shrimp can be no bigger than 30ct. No bacon allowed.

2. SEAFOOD RICE DIVISION

- a) Must be at least 50% rice and contain seafood.

3. GUMBO DIVISION –

- a) MUST BE 75% SEAFOOD, (NO RICE OR PASTA ALLOWED)
- b) NO SHELLS (CLAM, MOLLUSK, OYSTER, ETC) Shrimp can be no bigger than 30ct.

34. Non-food items will not be allowed in any division. Lettuce can be used to line the bottom of the container with the exception of Gumbo.

35. Entries in ALL Divisions must be cooked on the grounds. Pre-cooked, salted, or pre-marinated entries for all divisions is not allowed.

36. Each team will be required to have on site at each cooking area, for inspection at any time during the contest, a fire extinguisher for types A, B & C fires, minimum five (5) pounds that is in current date. One fire extinguisher shall be provided for each pit within your designated areas. If your team does not have the required fire extinguisher(s) by 8:00 p.m. Friday, you will be subject to disqualification.

37. Electric, Gas, or Wood Burning grills may be used. **A GREASE PAN IS REQUIRED BENEATH ALL PITS**

CONDUCT

38. The Chief Cook will be responsible for the conduct of the team and guests.
39. All personal alcoholic beverages must remain in the cook-off area. **NO SINGLE SERVE GLASS CONTAINERS ARE ALLOWED IN THE PARK. ANYONE GIVING ALCOHOL TO MINORS (UNDER 21) WILL BE PROSECUTED. YOU MAY BE HELD CRIMINALLY OR CIVILLY LIABLE FOR OVERSERVING ALCOHOL TO YOUR TEAM MEMBERS AND/OR GUESTS.** Failure to comply with these regulations will result in disqualification from all future GCF&R Triple Crown Cookoff Committee Events.
40. No food or beverages may be sold to the general public.
41. It is the responsibility of each team to see that the contest area is kept clean and the area is cleaned and policed after the contest. **Any space left in disarray or with loose or bundled trash (this includes hay) will disqualify the team from future participation.** If any oil product is used, do not dispose of the substance within the cook-off area. Cook-off Teams are responsible for providing their own trash cans and bags. There will be a \$100 fee PER SPOT assessed to you entry fee for next year for any NON-BIO DEGRADABLE MATERIAL LEFT BEHIND.
42. Protests of any team, equipment, or sample (any division) must be turned into the Cook-off Committee no later than one (1) hour after judging of that division with the \$100.00 non-refundable fee.
43. ONLY Properly Identified Service dogs are allowed on the fairgrounds.
44. Firearms are prohibited on the Galveston County Fairgrounds by cook-off team members during the Cook-off Event. Anyone found possessing Firearms will be DISQUALIFIED from this year's event and banned from all future GCF&R Triple Crown Cookoff Committee Events.
45. Participants will not be permitted to bring any wheeled transportation except those aiding the handicapped.
46. All sound system speakers must be turned into your cook-off spot and not turned outward. All loud music must be turned down at 1:00 a.m. each night.
47. Drones are not allowed anywhere on the fairgrounds.
48. Galveston County Fair & Rodeo, Inc. will not be responsible for theft, damage, or accidents.
49. The Cook-off Committee Members can inspect any cook-off area at any time, with or without cause, to determine rule compliance. Violation(s) of the rules will result in disqualification from all future GCF&R Triple Crown Cookoff Committee Events.
50. **ALL DECISIONS OF THE COOK-OFF COMMITTEE AND THE JUDGES ARE FINAL.**

**2025 GCF&R SEAFOOD COOK-OFF
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

Sunday, March 30, 2025

1:00 p.m. Chief Cooks Meeting to review rules

Wednesday, April 2, 2025

10:00 a.m. Gates OPEN (Teams with 4 or more spots only)
3:00 p.m. ALL Gates CLOSED (no further traffic)

Thursday, April 3, 2025

10:00 a.m. EAST and WEST Gates OPEN for cooker check-in and set-up
2:00 p.m. WEST IN Gate CLOSED
5:00 p.m. EAST IN Gate CLOSED
6:00 p.m. EXIT Gate CLOSED, no further traffic in Cook-Off area

Friday, April 4, 2025

10:00 a.m. EAST Gate OPEN for cooker check-in and set-up
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. FIRE EXTINGUISHER INSPECTION
4:00 p.m. Chief Cooks meeting and Container Pick-up
4:00 p.m. EAST Gate CLOSED, Check-in CLOSED
5:00 p.m. EXIT Gate CLOSED, no further traffic in Cook-Off area
6:15 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Grilled Shrimp Division Turn-in

Saturday, April 5, 2025

1:00 a.m. until 8:00 a.m. All Persons without armbands must leave the park.
11:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. FISH Division Turn-in
1:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. SEAFOOD RICE Division Turn-in
3:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. GUMBO Division Turn-in
5:30 p.m. **AWARDS PRESENTATION**

Sunday, April 6, 2025

1:00 a.m. until 8:00 a.m. All Persons without armbands must leave the park
8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. EAST Gate Open for check-out & clean-up
12:00 p.m. EAST Gate CLOSED, Exit Gates CLOSED