Backyard BBQ Competition License

September 6, 2025
Serving times: 11:00am – 5:00pm
Free admission and parking

Name of Owner/Team: _____
Signature of Owner/Team: _____
Contact Person (on-site): _____
Mailing Address: _____, City: _____, Zip: _____
Email: _____, Phone: _____

- **Entry Fee:** $100.00/application
  - Make checks out to NWSF and mail to NWSF -BBQ Fest, 225 Edward Street, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729.
    - Entry Fee is non-refundable

☐ **CREDIT CARD (Complete Info below)**

Cardholder Name: _____

Card #: _____

Exp Date: _____ Card Type: ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD

Cardholder Signature: _____

CC Security Code: _____

Schedule:
6:30 AM-7:30 AM: Check-in, meat inspection, and setup
7:00 AM: Backyard cooks meeting. (Mandatory—at least one team representative must attend.)
11:00 AM: Backyard is open to the public—sampling begins
1:00 PM: Backyard chicken turn-in
1:30 PM: Backyard ribs turn-in
4:00 PM: People's Choice ticket submission deadline.
5:00 PM: Backyard contest Winner's announcement, and People's Choice Awards.

Eligibility: Contestants/teams may enter only one item per category.

- Meat Categories
  - Chicken
  - Ribs
  - Pork Loin

Vehicle Policy: All non-supply vehicles must be removed from the competition area by 9:30am and may not re-enter until the event is closed. Parking will be available in the general parking lot.

Grill Types: Any grill or smoker is allowed. (**NO Food Trucks**)

- Space Limit: 20 backyard contestants/teams
- Space Allocation: First-come, first-served basis at the venue, no assigned spots. Teams should arrive together for placement. Event staff will assign contestants/teams on Saturday, September 6, starting at 7 am. Each space is 20' x 20'.

Power Supply: Electrical power is available if included with the application. Contestants/Teams must bring their own extension cords.

Amenities:

- Water source near contestant spaces.
- Ice is available for purchase.
- The event organizer will provide a (15lb) Pork Loin for the People's Choice category.
- Bring your own tables and tent. 6' tables are available to rent at $8 each.
- Designated area for trash and ash disposal.
- Camping available via NWSF Website: https://www.nwsfa.com/p/arrange-your-visit/fair-hill-campground-alternate
- Contestants/Teams should be packed up and unhooked from power no later than 6 pm.

Rules and Procedures

NWSF will assign all Teams their spot – this is done to ensure maximum allowable team participation within the available area. Approximately 15 lbs of pork in the form of whole pork loins will be provided for each team at the cook's meeting to prepare for public sampling (AKA the People's Choice Award). Teams are required to set up on-site with facilities for preparing and serving samples. Teams will make samples available to the public to promote their team's chances at winning the People's Choice Award**. Participation in the People's Choice is part of the contest!** We suggest that you provide a 2 oz. samples or less for each visitor. Handouts for the People's choice should be sample-size portions only. Serving supplies for sampling will be provided. You also may choose to provide samples of any or all of your entries including ribs, chicken, or your signature BBQ sauces in any form. Teams may have as many members as required. Setup must be completed by 7:30am on the day of the contest, and all vehicles and equipment that do not fit within your booth must be removed ASAP. You must have a team representative at the Backyard Cook's meeting on Saturday at 7:00 am. All meat must be cooked on site on the day of the contest. Please remember it needs to be kept at safe food temperatures at all times during this process. All meat will be checked during the chef's meeting for appropriate temperature (must be < 42 degrees maximum).

Competition Prizes:

- Chicken:
  - 1st Place: $300 + ribbon
  - 2nd Place: $200 + ribbon
  - 3rd Place: $100 + ribbon
- Pork Ribs:
  - 1st Place: $300 + ribbon
  - 2nd Place: $200 + ribbon
  - 3rd Place: $100 + ribbon

Competition Grand Champ (total points from chicken & ribs): $400
Competition Reserve Champ (total points from chicken & ribs): $200

People's Choice Pork:

- People's Choice: $400
- People's Choice runner-up: $200

Best of Show: Trophy **Total Payout: $2,400.00**

Judging Criteria for Backyard Competition

All entries will be judged based on the following criteria, and scores will be tallied to determine the winner. The winners will be announced at 5:00 p.m. (Custer Coliseum)

- **Appearance: (1 – 10 points)**
  - Does the BBQ look appetizing?
  - Is the presentation inviting?
- **Texture: (1 – 10 points)**
  - Tenderness: Is the meat tender and easy to chew?
  - Juiciness: Does the meat retain moisture, or is it dry?
  - Consistency: Is the texture consistent throughout the piece?
- **Flavor: (1 – 10 points)**
  - Balance: Are the flavors well-balanced, with no single element overpowering the others?
  - Seasoning: Is the seasoning appropriate and well-distributed?
  - Smoke: Is there a good balance of smoky flavor without it being too intense?

Judging for People's Choice

Attendees purchase a judging sheet ($20.00) and can sample each People's Choice contestant's sample. Attendees must return the judging sheet with at least 50% of the contestants signed; they receive a token to be placed in their chosen People's Choice contestant bucket. The contestant with the most tokens will win the Grand Champion title, and the contestant with the second-highest number of tokens will win the Reserve Grand Champion title, respectively.

Indemnification:

Griller acknowledges that participating in and/or performing at NWSF facilities and grounds, known and unanticipated risks can result in physical or emotional injury, paralysis, death, or damage to me, to property, or to third parties. I hereby voluntarily release, forever discharge, and agree to indemnify and hold harmless Northern Wisconsin State Fair Association, Inc, and associated organizations from all claims, demands, or causes of action which are in any way connected with my participation and/or use of facilities, including any such claims which allege negligent acts of omissions of Purchaser. Should Purchaser, or anyone acting on their behalf be required to incur attorney's fees and cost to enforce this agreement, I agree to indemnify and hold them harmless for all such fees and costs. By signing this document, I acknowledge that I have waived my right to maintain a lawsuit against Purchaser based on any claim from which I have released them herein.

NWSF BBQ Contact Information:

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