

★ A Star Spangled Jubilee ★

Pie Tasting Contest — Official Baker Guidelines

Palestine, Texas ● 4th of July Celebration

■ About the Contest

The Star Spangled Jubilee Pie Tasting Contest is a People's Choice competition open to local and regional pie bakers. This is a celebration of homemade baking tradition, and we invite skilled bakers to share their finest pies with the Palestine community and the thousands of guests attending our 4th of July festivities.

Judging is **blind** — attendees will vote based on taste and texture alone. Each entered pie will be assigned a number at the time of application confirmation, which will be used to identify samples throughout the event. **No baker names or identifying information may appear on samples.**

■ Contest Categories

Entries are accepted in the following three categories. A separate **first place cash prize and blue ribbon** will be awarded in each category.

■ Apple

■ Peach

■ Blueberry

Bakers may enter **one pie per category**, for a maximum of three entries total. Each category entry requires a separate application submission.

■ Day-of Schedule

Time	Activity
10:00 – 10:30 AM	Baker check-in and sample drop-off (no late submissions accepted)
11:00 AM – 12:30 PM	People's Choice tasting open to the public
1:00 PM	Winners announced and prizes awarded

Important: Baker check-in closes at **10:30 AM sharp**. No entries will be accepted after this time, and no exceptions will be made. The specific check-in location and award venue will be provided in your confirmation email.

■ Eligibility

- The contest is open to all bakers — no residency requirement.
- All entrants must hold a **valid Texas Food Handler's Certification** at the time of application. A copy must be submitted with the application.

- Entries must comply with all applicable **Texas Cottage Food Law** requirements. Coordinators will provide required home kitchen disclaimer signage at the tasting table.
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■ Application & Registration

- **Application deadline: June 18 by 5:00 PM.** No applications will be accepted after this date and time.
 - Each category entry requires a separate application.
 - Upon receipt of a completed application, bakers will receive a confirmation email that includes their assigned entry number and check-in location. This number must be used on all samples — do not use your name or any other identifying information.
 - All communications and questions should be directed to April via email at **palestinefarmersmarket@gmail.com**.
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■ Sample Requirements

Each entry must include **a minimum of 150 individual samples** for the People's Choice tasting. Please plan and bake accordingly.

Container specifications:

- Each sample must be placed in a **2 oz lidded, sealable container**.
- Containers must be food-safe and have a secure, sealed lid.
- Suitable containers are available at Amazon, Walmart, and Kroger. Search for "2 oz lidded food sample containers."

Each container must be labeled with:

- Your assigned entry **number written on the lid** of the container — this is the only information required on individual sample containers.
- No baker names, category names, or any other identifying information should appear on the containers.

Samples must arrive **pre-portioned, sealed, and labeled** at check-in. Samples that are not properly packaged or labeled upon arrival will not be accepted.

■ Labeling Requirements

On each individual sample container:

The only labeling required on each sample container is your **assigned entry number, written on the lid**. This keeps judging fully blind. Do not include your name, the category, or any other information on the containers.

At registration (application submission):

A complete ingredient list must be submitted with your application. This information is used solely by contest coordinators to verify that your entry contains no temperature-controlled ingredients and to identify any applicable food allergens. Ingredient lists will not be shared with the public.

If your pie contains any of the following allergens, you **must designate them clearly on your application**:

- Gluten
- Wheat
- Dairy
- Nuts (including tree nuts)
- Shellfish
- Eggs
- Soy
- Fish
- Peanuts
- Sesame

Contest coordinators will create signage for each entry displaying the applicable allergen information and the required Texas Cottage Food Law home kitchen disclaimer. This signage will be posted at the tasting table alongside samples — bakers do not need to include this information on individual containers.

■ Permitted & Prohibited Ingredients

Entries must be shelf-stable and require **no refrigeration**. The following ingredients and additions are **strictly prohibited**:

- Cream or cream-based fillings
- Cream cheese
- Buttermilk or custard
- Whipped topping (Cool Whip-style or similar)
- Ice cream
- Any other ingredient or topping requiring temperature control for safety

Entries containing prohibited ingredients will be disqualified. When in doubt, contact April at palestinefarmersmarket@gmail.com prior to the application deadline.

■ Check-in Procedure

- Bakers must check in at the designated contest check-in area between **10:00 and 10:30 AM** on the day of the event. The check-in location will be provided in your confirmation email.
 - Bring all 150+ pre-sealed, labeled sample containers.
 - Be prepared to present your **valid Food Handler's Certification** at check-in.
 - Coordinators will verify that all samples meet packaging, labeling, and ingredient requirements before accepting the entry.
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■ Prizes & Awards

A **first place cash prize and blue ribbon** will be awarded in each of the three categories (Apple, Peach, and Blueberry). Winners will be announced and awarded at **1:00 PM**. In the event of a tie, the tiebreaker process will be determined by contest coordinators.

■ Leftover Samples

Any samples remaining after the People's Choice tasting concludes will be donated to the Palestine Fire Station. Bakers grant permission for this donation by submitting an entry.

■ Disqualification Policy

Contest coordinators reserve the right to disqualify any submission that:

- Does not include complete and proper paperwork (application, ingredient list, Food Handler's Certification, allergen disclosure)
- Arrives without full compliance with these guidelines
- Contains prohibited ingredients
- Is submitted after the 10:30 AM check-in deadline
- Contains any identifying baker information on sample container lids (only the assigned entry number is permitted)

Disqualification decisions made by contest coordinators are final.

Questions & Contact

All inquiries, applications, and communications should be directed to:

April | palestinefarmersmarket@gmail.com

Application Deadline: June 18 by 5:00 PM

Confirmations (including your entry number and check-in location) will be sent via email upon receipt of a complete application.