

PASADENA LIVESTOCK SHOW & RODEO ANNUAL CHAMPIONSHIP BBQ COOKOFF



September 12 & 13, 2025

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. The BBQ Contest will be held at the Pasadena Rodeo Grounds, located at 7601 Red Bluff, Pasadena, Texas.
2. Applications will be available online at <http://www.pasadenarodeo.com> or in the office of the Pasadena Livestock Show & Rodeo (PLS&R) during regular business hours.
3. The contestants from the 2024 cook off will have first right of refusal until 5:00 p.m. June 13, 2025.
4. Payment in full is due by August 8, 2025.
5. **ALL COOK TEAMS MUST REGISTER A CREDIT CARD WITH OFFICE PRIOR TO START OF COOK-OFF TO PURCHASE FUEL, SODAS, BEER OR ICE (NO CASH WILL BE ACCEPTED).**
6. PLS&R reserves the right at the discretion of the BBQ Cookoff Committee to relocate any team for the betterment of the event.
7. Contestants must supply their own personal equipment and supplies.
8. Metal pans must be provided under the opening of the firebox to prevent damaging the concrete.
9. PLS&R will not be responsible for theft or damage.
10. PLS&R reserves the right to make changes to the rules and regulations.
11. Decisions of the PLS&R judges are FINAL.
12. Those attending or participating in the Annual Championship BBQ Contest are required to always wear appropriate clothing. (No one will be allowed without shoes or shirt.)
13. PLS&R reserves the right to refuse to rent cookoff space to any team or head cook.
14. No team is allowed to give their cook space(s) to another person or cook team without consent from the BBQ Cookoff Committee.
15. The violation of any Rules and Regulations in this document are grounds for expulsion.
16. **APPLICANT AGREES TO ABIDE BY ALL RULES AND REGULATIONS SET FORTH BY THE PLS&R BBQ COMMITTEE AND HOLDS PLS&R HARMLESS IN THE EVENT OF INJURIES OR LOSS.**

Entry Fees

1. The entry fee is \$400.00 for regular spaces (40x45), Midway Spaces (50x80) \$900 - **(No Refunds)**.
2. Each numbered space will receive five (5) cooker wristbands, each team will be given 2 band parking passes per registered band/DJ for the band parking area for Friday and Saturday, (Passes will only be included for bands that are pre-registered before/by August 29, 2025)
3. Additional tickets up to 25 per space, per day, may be purchased for \$10.00 each at the rodeo office up to the end of the cooks meeting on Wednesday, September 10, 2025. After September 10, 2025, cooker passes and all general admission tickets will be \$15.00 at the gate. All passes may be purchased from the PLS&R office.
4. No admission will be charged to:
 - Contestants with cooker wristbands
 - All PLS&R Committeemen wearing badges.

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Check In

1. Move in will begin on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, starting at 8:00 am.
2. All teams must be moved in by Thursday, September 11, 2025, by 4 pm. **All vehicles must be moved out of the cookoff area by 4 pm.**
3. Contestants must have all alcohol/beer and ice moved in by 4 pm on Thursday, September 11, 2025.
 - a. Ice will be available for purchase by the PLS&R Association starting Thursday AM.
 - b. Beer/Coca Cola products will be available for purchase by the PLS&R Association starting Thursday PM.

Vehicles

1. Gates to **ALL** traffic will be locked at 4:00 p.m., Thursday, September 11, 2025.
2. No vehicle will be allowed to enter or leave the contest area after 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 11, 2025 (The BBQ Cookoff committee, at their discretion, can make exceptions). Vehicles not removed by 4:00 p.m. Thursday, September 11, 2025, and/or left unattended, will be subject to removal by a wrecker, at the contestant's expense.
3. Under no circumstance will any contestant, member of the public, or member of PLS&R be allowed to bring onto the grounds: golf carts, motor vehicles, carts, bicycles, roller skates, skateboards, scooters, motorized coolers or any type of transportation, with the exception of wheelchairs for handicapped individuals. **Any exceptions will be approved by the BBQ Cookoff Committee**

Cook-off Spaces

1. **Each team will be allocated 40' x 45' space(s). NO EXCEPTIONS WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION / DISCRETION FROM PLS&R BBQ COOKOFF COMMITTEE. Additional space may be available at a cost of \$100 per 10 x 40 sq ft.**
2. Props, trailers, motor homes, tents (including water barrels), etc... must not exceed the boundaries of the assigned space.
3. Tent companies may start setting up Monday September 8, 2025, 7:00am.
4. Tent companies can tear down beginning Sunday, September 14 after 7:00 a.m.
5. Due to unpredictable weather, it is suggested that contestants bring suitable shelter for their space/team.
6. All tents must be tied down and secured by concrete blocks (preferred) or water barrels **only**.
7. Cook teams may not exceed a maximum of three (3) cookoff spaces for competition turn in.

Electrical, Water, Fuel

1. The PLS&R Championship BBQ committee **WILL NOT** provide spaces with electrical power (Excluding Midway).
2. The PLS&R Championship BBQ committee **WILL NOT** provide any spaces with water.
3. Generators can be either diesel (**preferred**) or gasoline. All generators must be in good working condition and must not be placed in an area that will impede another cook teams space. PLSR Diesel Committee will refuel generators at designated times, to be discussed at the Cook's meeting. Generators must be in reach to refuel. Current prices will apply.
4. Gasoline pickup times will be determined at a later date

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Cook Team Responsibilities

1. Each cook team with air conditioning must furnish their own drain line, and water over flow must be drained into the city-drain systems or a concealed container.
 - a. Disbursement of drain water is the cooker's responsibility. Under no circumstance may drain water be drained into adjoining cooking spaces or easements.
 - b. Cook teams should plan to move in, and out, without the assistance from the Rodeo Association. In the event, that lifting equipment is available, PLS&R may assist. It is the cook team's responsibility to coordinate all move in, and move out themselves.
2. The Responsible Party/Chief Cook is responsible for the conduct of his/her team and guests.
3. **NO ONE UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE SHALL BE SERVED OR ALLOWED TO CONSUME ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ON THE GROUNDS.**
4. Liquor bottles will be store behind the bar or in a secured location.
5. Each cook team must comply with all laws pertaining to the serving and consumption of alcoholic beverages.
6. Any cook team having inappropriate music, entertainment, contests, etc... can be asked to leave the contest area.
7. Contestants with an enclosed area to which the public is not allowed, shall furnish their own security.
8. It is the responsibility of each cook team to see that their Contest area remains clean at all times.
 - a. PLS&R is not responsible for the cleanup of spaces.
 - b. If a cook teams space(s) is not clean at the end of the BBQ cookoff, the team will be billed for the cost of cleanup (minimum \$300), and that team may be subject to exclusion from the 2026 BBQ cookoff.
9. Tear down may begin on Sunday, September 14, 2025 at 7:00 a.m.
10. **ALL TENTS, GENERATORS AND AC UNITS ETC. MUST BE PICKED UP / REMOVED FROM GROUNDS NO LATER THAN NOON ON MONDAY SEPTEMBER 15, 2025.**

Trash

1. Trash receptacles will be placed throughout the contest area for each contestant's use.
2. Spaces must have rear access for trash pickup.
3. It is the contestant's responsibility to have their trash readily available to be emptied into the garbage trailer when it arrives at the space. (Plastic trash liners will be furnished after check in.)
4. **No free liquid to be put/poured into trash bags.**
5. Grease collection containers are on site; please use them.

Pits

1. Contestants are not allowed to share cooking equipment.
2. If contestants have more than one cook space, and plan to cook at each cooking space, they must have a different name, must have one pit for each cook space per turn in (Max three turn in) Ex: Two spaces, Two Pits, Two turn-ins
3. Any commercial or homemade, trailered, or un-trailered, pit or smoker normally used for competitive barbeque. A BBQ Pit may include gas or electricity for starting the combustion of wood or wood products but NOT to complete cooking. Pit should be of a permanent design that contains separate individual cooking chambers and heat sources (no sharing of heat sources). Pellet cookers are allowed. Electrical accessories such as spits, augers or force drafts are permitted. The use of heat lamps, proofing cabinets or any other electrical heating or holding device is prohibited.

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Port a Cans

1. PLS&R requires each cook team to utilize the contracted port-a-can company, for said services.
2. **It is the responsibility of the cook team to contact the port-a-can company to reserve and pay for this service, prior to the cook off. (See Form on web site)**
3. For cleaning access, the port-a-can will be placed within the team's allocated 40 x 40 space and should be easily accessible. For any unit not accessible, locked or blocked, WILL NOT be cleaned. It is the cook teams responsibility to ensure ease of access for service.

Safety

1. Portable fire extinguishers 10 lb. Type "K" or (1) 10 lb. ABC per 40X40 per space, in full view.

Health

1. The City of Pasadena Health Department recommends the following guidelines. All teams are required to follow these guidelines.
2. A cover is required over all open food preparation areas.
3. Three containers of water must be utilized at all times, one-gallon minimum each:
 - a. First Bucket – Soap and water for washing, unless sink and running water are available and useable.
 - b. Second Bucket – Clean water for rinsing, unless a sink and water are available and useable.
 - c. Third Bucket – One cap of bleach per gallon of water for sanitizing
4. Keep all food covered.
5. Keep cold food stored on ice or refrigerated at all times. The food must be maintained at 45 degrees Fahrenheit.
6. Heated food should be maintained at 140 degrees Fahrenheit.
7. Smoking tobacco should not be permitted in food serving area.

Beer and Ice

1. No glass bottles are allowed (THIS MEANS NO GLASS BEER BOTTLES). (City of Pasadena Ordinance).
2. Under no circumstance will outside beer, ice or cold drink vendors be allowed into the BBQ cookoff area.
3. The sale of any drinks or food is strictly prohibited by cook teams.
4. Spaces must have a rear access for beer/beverage/ice deliveries where available

Bands

1. Bands must be pre-registered. In order to plan for entry, any cook team having a band (or musical equipment) that has to be brought in to the cookoff area after 4:00 p.m. Friday or Saturday, **must** register their band via <http://www.pasadenarodeo.com> on or before August 29, 2025
2. **Thursday, Friday and Saturday night, all music MUST end at 11:00 pm.**
3. Friday & Saturday, upon check in at band entry gate, please schedule your band pick up time.
4. The whole band must be ready for pickup at your designated pick up time. No partial band pickups.

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General Rules

1. Each cook team will be assigned a member of Team Rep as a Contestant Supervisor; the assigned Team Rep will, at all times, have free access to the contestant's area.
2. Should any cook team have any complaints toward their Contestant Supervisor, or any committee person, they should report their complaints immediately to the BBQ Cookoff Committee.
3. The Responsible Party/Chief Cook meeting will be held in the Campbell Hall Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. **ALL COOK TEAMS SHALL PICK UP THEIR CONTAINERS AT THIS TIME!**
4. Cook teams are not permitted to charge for entry into their assigned space(s) during the cook off.
5. Cook teams are not permitted to sell **ANY** items within the confines of their assigned areas during the cook off.
6. Excessively loud music, horns, air horns, etc. are strictly prohibited (PLS&R discretion).
7. No outside speakers are allowed. All speakers must be set to entertain guests inside the contestant space only.
8. Animals of any kind will not be permitted in designated food preparation areas.
9. Animals of any kind must be contained by being crated, caged, or on a leash at all times

Meat Inspection:

1. All competition meat is subject to verification/inspection at any time by the BBQ cookoff Committee.

Judging

1. Judging will be held in the Campbell Hall.
2. The above entry fee entitles teams to enter the Brisket, Chicken, Pork Ribs, and Beef Fajitas contests.
3. Cooks Choice, Margaritas, and Bloody Mary are a separate twenty five dollar (\$25) entry. (See Entry Form)
4. Turn in time will be within 30 minutes BEFORE judging (except for brisket). **All entries are due by the allocated turn in time.** It is the contestant's responsibility to have the entries delivered to the respective judging area on time.
5. Competition brisket will be inspected prior to cutting for turn in to judging area and will be retrieved by a PLS&R committee member.
6. PLS&R utilizes a blind judging system that is based on a duplicate numbered ticket which will be utilized in all judging categories, except Cook's Choice, Bloody Mary and Margaritas.
 - a. Blind judging consists of one-half of the double ticket being enclosed in a small envelope and being secured by duct tape to the **bottom** of the turn-in container.
 - b. The second half of the ticket is placed inside the judging container. **The contestant must retain this ticket.**
 - c. Overall Cooking awards will be awarded by space.
7. Any container that appears to have been deliberately marked or altered will be referred to the Director / General Chairman of the BBQ committee, who will rule on disqualification.
8. All entries will be scored on a scale of 1 to 10 in each of the judging criteria, with 10 being the best.
9. In case of a tie in the meat categories, the computer will be used to determine the final places.
10. Only one entry, per team, per space. Maximum of three turn ins per team.

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Categories:

- a. **Cooks Choice:** One (1) entry per space. Maximum of two (2) entries for shared spaces.
 - a. **Judging BEGINS Thursday, September 11 at 6:30 p.m.**
 - b. Entry Fee is \$25 per space (Non-Refundable)
 - c. Entries will be limited to the first Seventy-five (75) teams (See Form on web site)
 - d. Judging will be at the cook space(s).
 - e. In the event of inclement weather, the contest will be moved to an appropriate location.
 - f. Participants should prepare food for four (4) judges.
 - g. Trophies will be awarded for 1st thru 5th places, Cash Prize for 1st and 2nd place.
 - h. See Application for Specifics

- b. **Bloody Mary Contest:** One (1) entry per space. Maximum of two (2) entries for shared spaces.
 - a. **Judging BEGINS, Friday, September 12 at 9:00 a.m.**
 - b. **Bloody Mary (Vodka based)**
 - c. Entry Fee is \$25 per space (Non-Refundable)
 - d. Entries will be limited to the first seventy-five (75) teams. (See Form on web site)
 - e. Judging will be at the cook space(s).
 - f. In the event of inclement weather, the contest will be moved to an appropriate location.
 - g. **Participants should prepare ONE (1) same type of Bloody Mary for four (4) judges**
 - h. Trophies will be awarded for 1st thru 5th places, Cash Prize for 1st and 2nd place.
 - i. See Application for Specifics

- c. **Fajitas Contest: BEEF ONLY**
 - a. **Judging BEGINS, Friday, September 12 - at 11:00 am.**
 - b. Fill container, approximately 16 oz. of cooked meat.
 - c. Sauces, garnishes or foil will not be allowed in the judging container, and will be grounds for disqualification.
 - d. Trophies will be awarded for 1st thru 5th places.

- d. **Chicken Contest:**
 - a. **Judging BEGINS, Friday, September 12 - at 1:00 p.m.**
 - b. 1/2 chicken, fully jointed, domestic chicken that includes breast, wing, thigh, and drumstick.
 - c. NO CORNISH GAME HENS
 - d. Required: additional cut up pieces of both white & dark meats **must** be included in the turn in container.
 - e. Sauces, garnishes or foil will not be allowed in the judging container, and will be grounds for disqualification
 - f. Trophies will be awarded for 1st thru 5th places.

- e. **Rib Contest - PORK SPARE RIBS ONLY:**
 - a. **Judging BEGINS, Friday, September 12 - Pork Ribs at 3:00 p.m.**
 - b. Fill container with ribs (minimum 8, **bone in, knuckle off**)
 - c. Sauces, garnishes or foil will not be allowed in the judging container, and will be grounds for disqualification.
 - d. Trophies will be awarded for 1st thru 5th places.

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f. Brisket Contest:

- a. Brisket pick-up, will BEGIN at 12:00 p.m. (NOON), Saturday, September 13, 2025.
- b. Twelve (12) slices of brisket approximately 1/4" to 3/8" thick, aligned with the hinge of the container. (double elimination judging for top ten).
- c. Judging BEGINS Saturday, September 13, 2025 at 1:00 pm.**
- d. 15 minutes per space will be allowed for inspecting, and brisket cutting.
- e. Cookers must provide the PLS&R representative with their brisket entry before the 15-minute time limit expires or face possible disqualification.
- f. Sauces may be used during the cooking process but **cannot** be applied once placed inside of the turn in container.
- g. Sauces, garnishes or foil will not be allowed in the judging container and will be grounds for disqualification.
- h. Trophies will be awarded for 1st thru 5th places.

g. Margarita Contest: One (1) entry per space. Maximum of two (2) entries for shared spaces.

- a. Judging BEGINS, Saturday, September 13 at 2:00 p.m.**
- b. Margarita (Tequila based)**
- c. Entry Fee is \$25 per space (Non-Refundable)
- d. Entries will be limited to the first seventy-five (75) teams. (See Form on web site)
- e. Judging will be at the cook space(s).
- f. In the event of inclement weather, the contest will be moved to an appropriate location.
- g. Participants should prepare ONE (1) same type of margaritas for four (4) judges per entry**
- h. Trophies will be awarded for 1st thru 5th places, Cash Prize for 1st and 2nd place.
- i. See Application for Specifics

h. Overall Winner:

- a. In the event of a tie for any of the positions, the tie breakers will be the scores received as follows: in 1st Brisket, 2nd Ribs, 3rd Chicken and 4th Fajitas.
- b. Scores for the Overall will be accumulated by space number/chief cook, NOT team name.
- c. Trophies from Thursday and Friday contests must be claimed by Saturday, September 13, at 10 a.m. Category trophies claimed late will not be counted in Overall Contest.
- d. Trophies will be awarded for Grand and Reserve Grand.
Grand Champion will receive one 40x40 Space for 2026 Cook-Off.

- Specialty Items are not Included in Scoring of Overall Contest for Grand and Reserve Grand

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Important Dates and Times

Wednesday August 27, 2025 6:30 pm Cook Team Packet Pickup, under the Area

Wednesday September 10, 6:30 pm Cooks Meeting in Campbell Hall

Friday September 12, 5:00 pm in Campbell Hall

***Bloody Mary, Cooks Choice, Fajitas, Chicken and Ribs Awards**

Saturday September 13, 5:00 pm in Campbell Hall

***Margaritas, Brisket, Specialty Trophies and Overall Awards**

Thank you for participating in the 2025 Pasadena Livestock Show and Rodeo Cook Off. In order to provide scholarships to local students each year, we depend on you, our wonderful contestants, for the success of this event. If we can do anything to make your participation in our cook off more pleasant, please let us know.

Again, THANK YOU for being part of our team, and helping us support youth through education.

Sincerely and Good Luck,

Jim Dutton
President
PLS&R

Kevin Kinzie
Vice President
PLS&R

Shane Tallman
Director
PLS&R

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