

**San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo  
Western Heritage Parade & Cattle Drive Committee (WHP)**

**Vaquero Cook-Off**

**Saturday, February 3, 2024  
Downtown San Antonio –Market Square  
514 W. Commerce St.  
San Antonio, TX 78207**

**TEAM INFORMATION and RULES**

**Team Information Hotline  
210-823-8173**

**San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo's Mission Statement:**  
“A volunteer organization that emphasizes agriculture and education to  
develop the youth of Texas.”

**Mailing Address:**  
San Antonio Livestock Exposition, Inc.  
PO Box 200230  
San Antonio, TX 78220  
**Phone:** 210-225-5851

**Website:** <https://www.sarodeo.com/vaquero>

**LET'S RODEO SAN ANTONIO!**

# INFORMATION, RULES & REGULATIONS

The San Antonio Livestock Exposition, Inc. and the 2024 WHP - Vaquero Cook-Off Committee retain the right to modify these rules and regulations at any time with or without notice to participants. The 2024 WHP - Vaquero Cook-Off Committee encourages a family friendly atmosphere. Please be considerate of the event's family environment when choosing your team name. The team leader/head cook is responsible for the conduct of their 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, REQUIREMENTS AND TEAM PLACEMENT

### Registration Information and Requirements

- ALL registrations must be completed online at <https://www.sarodeo.com/vaquerocookoff> or mailed to SALE.
- The entry fee for each space is **\$275.00 until December 31, 2023**. Fee will increase to **\$300.00 on January 1, 2024**. This fee includes the registration fee and health & fire permits. Payment must be made at the time of registration. There will be **NO** refunds issued once a team has registered and paid.
- Online registration will close when capacity is reached or **January 22, 2024**, whichever comes first. Late entries will be allowed until **January 22, 2024**, if space is available. Placement requests will not be honored for late entries. A late fee of \$25.00 will be added to any late entries.
- Cook-Off teams may have up to **FOUR (4)** members, consisting of a team leader and head cook.
- The team leader listed at the time of registration is considered the main point of contact for a team. The team leader and the head cook may be the same person.
- The team leader may be the same person for multiple teams.
- Any and all hard copy mailings and e-mails will be sent to the team leader.
- The head cook must be different for each team and teams may not share propane and/or cookers.
- The location of the Cook-Off will be at Market Square in San Antonio, Texas. (Map of area will be included in the team packet).
- Teams will be allowed an area of approximate size of 10'x10'.
- Each registration may only consist of **ONE TEAM**, regardless of the number of spaces you purchase.
- Refunds and Cancellations: No Refunds will be given if a team cancels or is a no show.
- If you plan to enter multiple teams, you must complete an individual registration for each team, not space. For example, if you plan to purchase two (2) spaces and enter as two (2) teams, Team A in space 1 must register separately from Team B in space 2.
- Additional team sites may be granted if additional entries are submitted together and full entry fee is paid for each site.
- All hard copy mailings, emails, and packet will be sent to the team leader.
- To be eligible for Grand or Reserve Grand Champion, a team **MUST ENTER** all **FOUR (4)** official judging categories (Cook's Choice, Arroz con Pollo, Chili and Menudo).

- It is the responsibility of the team leader/head cook to keep cook area clean, policed, and to ensure team members comply with all Cook-Off Rules & Regulations.
- ALL TEAM MEMBERS must sign a digital Indemnification and Release Form.
- All winners must fill out a W-9 in order to be eligible for prize money. All checks for prize money will be mailed out after the Vaquero Cook-Off event and after the W-9 is received. If SALE Vaquero Cook-Off does not receive the W-9 by March 15, 2024, prize money will be forfeited.

### Team Placement

- Requests must be made in the appropriate section at the time of online registration.
- **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

#### 2024 WHP - Vaquero Cook-Off Committee members and SAN ANTONIO LIVESTOCK EXPOSITION, INC. management and security shall have access to a contestant's space.

- 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 3, 2024 at 7:00 am at the Team check-in table. (Indicated on map in Team Packet)
- **Each team must prominently display their space numbers and Team Name at all times.**
- Teams must keep all activities and exhibits within their designated space and must not be in the main walkways for any reason.
- **Each team is responsible for tables, water, trash containers, fire retardant canopy, fire retardant ground protectant/covering, extension cords, internal lighting in their canopy area and fire extinguisher.**
- Failure to comply with all safety requirements and regulations may result in disqualification and removal from the Cook-Off.

### Parking and Entry

Each team that has submitted all necessary paperwork will receive a team packet approximately two (2) weeks prior to the cook-off and will include:

- 4 wristbands per team (to designate team members)
- 1 loading zone pass

\*Currently, there is **NOT** a designated parking area for teams. In the event this changes, team leader will be notified and parking passes will be issued.

### Load In and Load Out

- Team, personal items and equipment load in begins on Friday, February 3, 2024 at 6:00 pm until 9:00 pm and on Saturday, February 3, 2024 at 7:00 am and ends on Saturday, February 3, 2024 at 10:00 am.
- 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.
- **Only vehicles with the permitted loading pass will be allowed to load in/out on Saturday, February 3, 2024.**

- Load out of equipment and personal items is not permitted until 8:00pm Saturday, February 3, 2024 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 3, 2024.
- Team leader/head cook 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/head cook.
- Violators may face disqualification from the Vaquero Cook-Off and participation in any future Vaquero Cook-Off.

### **Vehicles, Trailers & RVs**

- No vehicles are allowed in the Cook-off areas.
- No vehicles are permitted to stay in the Load In/Out area longer than necessary to load in/out your equipment etc.
- **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.**
- No trailers or RVs are allowed in the Cook-Off area. No overnight camping is allowed in the Cook-Off areas or Market Square.
- Golf carts, ATVs, scooters and other motorized vehicles are prohibited except for official use by the 2024 WHP - Vaquero Cook-Off Committee and SAN ANTONIO LIVESTOCK EXPOSITION, INC. personnel.
- Bicycles, motorized scooters, skateboards, hoverboards and Segways are also prohibited.

### **Canopies, Floor Covering, Space Layout and Decorations**

- 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.
- **All canopies must be flame retardant.**
- **All teams are required to provide their own canopy, tables, extension cords, internal lighting in their canopy area, AND flame retardant floor covering for their Cook-Off site.**
- All canopies must be erected with appropriate fittings, fasteners, etc.
- Combustible materials such as hay, heaters, etc. shall not be located inside canopies.
- General setup will take place on Friday, February 2, 2024 and Saturday, February 3, 2024.
- Advertisement of Teams and/or Team Sponsors will be limited to your Cook-Off site only.
- Cook-Off areas will be inspected by the 2024 WHP - Vaquero Cook-Off Committee Fire and Safety Inspectors

### **Electrical & Generators**

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

### **Fire Extinguishers**

- All teams are required to have a portable identified and readily available fire extinguisher.

- 2024 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.  
Minimum fire extinguisher requirements:
  - One 2A-10 BC fire extinguisher is required
  - 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.
  - 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**

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

### **Video Recording and Camera Crews**

- 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.
- **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**

- Each team is responsible for the cleanup of their area(s) by Saturday, February 3, 2024 at 10:00pm. All equipment and personal items must be moved out of the area(s) and off of the grounds by this time.
- All team spaces must be cleaned and left in the condition in which they were found when teams arrived on the grounds.
- 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. Sinks in Market Square are NOT a food, grease or waste disposal area.

## **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

- The team leader will be held responsible for the conduct of team members, guests and any persons who are or have been in their team space. Any behavior deemed inappropriate by the 2024 WHP - Vaquero Cook-Off Committee may result in immediate expulsion from the event and forfeiture of future participation.

## Prohibited Behaviors and Activities

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

## CONTEST RULES AND INFORMATION

### General Public – Health Department Regulations

- 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 are included in your entry fee.
- Health inspections for the following items will be performed by San Antonio Metropolitan Health District:
  - The Health Department suggests a beverage cooler with a spout to wash your hands under and a bucket to catch the water.
  - 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.
  - Covering your food – Health Department Rules state that your food must be under cover when you are cutting meat or doing any other preparation.

### Vaquero Cook-Off Rules

- **ALL Cook-Off Entries must be prepared and cooked at the Cook-Off site (Market Square). No pre-cooked entries will be allowed. Cook-Off sites can be inspected at any time.**
- All Cook-Off entries must be cooked using a propane burner, cooker or stove.
- All Cook-Off entries will be turned in the container(s) that will be provided by the 2024 WHP - Vaquero Cook-Off Committee. Teams will receive these containers at the Check-In/Registration Table.
- **A mandatory team meeting will be on Saturday, February 3, 2024 at 10:00 am at the Plaza stage.** Trays, numbering and procedures will be discussed at the meeting. All Teams must check-in that they are present at the meeting. No Turn-In trays/containers will be given out during the meeting.
- 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.
- 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 designated time or up to 10 minutes after the designated time.
- The designated place for turn-ins will be noted on the site map.

- Once door to entry turn-in is closed, NO other entries will be admitted for judging in that category.
- Three places will be awarded in each category:
  - Cook's Choice - Any Traditional Mexican Food or Postre Mexicano (Main Dish or Dessert)
  - Chili
  - Menudo
  - Arroz con Pollo **\*\*New for 2024\*\***
- **To be eligible for Grand and Reserve Grand Champion, a Team MUST ENTER all FOUR (4) categories (Cook's Choice, Arroz con Pollo, Chili & Menudo).**
- All entries will be judged on flavor, texture and appearance.
- The Awards Ceremony will be held on Saturday, February 3, 2024 at 8:00 pm.
- Showmanship will be awarded to the top cook-off team that displays authentic and traditional dress and overall decorated look of their cook-off site to best represent the days of the Vaquero. Additional information will be sent out pertaining to Guidelines for Showmanship decorating. Showmanship Judging will be held on Saturday, February 3, 2024 at 3:00 pm.

## **Awards & Prizes\***

### **Overall Grand Champion**

- **\$1500.00 Prize Money**
- Overall Grand Champion Buckle for each Team Member
- Team Championship Plaque
- A free space at the 2025 Vaquero Cook-Off

### **Overall Reserve Grand Champion**

- **\$750.00 Prize Money**
- Reserve Champion Plaque

### **1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in each Category**

- Team Plaque

### **Showmanship**

- Team Plaque

### **People's Choice Award**

- Team Plaque

\*Additional prizes and awards may be added later. \*

## **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**Saturday February 3, 2024 -- 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM**

8:00 AM -- Team Check In/Load In TBA – Market Square  
8:00 AM – 10:00 AM -- Team Check In  
10:00 AM -- Team Meeting  
10:50 AM – 12:00 PM -- Western Heritage Parade & Cattle Drive  
12:45 PM -- Judges Report for Check In (Cook's Choice)  
1:00 PM -- Team Entry Turn-In – Judging Area – Cook's Choice  
1:15 PM – Cook's Choice Judging to Commence  
1:45 PM -- Judges Report for Check In (Arroz con Pollo)  
2:00 PM -- Team Entry Turn-In – Judging Area – Arroz con Pollo  
2:15 PM – Arroz con Pollo Judging to Commence  
3:00 PM -- Showmanship Judging to commence  
3:45 PM -- Judges Report for Check In (Chili)  
4:00 PM -- Team Entry Turn-In – Judging Area – Chili  
4:15 PM -- Chili Judging to Commence  
6:45 PM – Judges Report for Check In (Menudo)  
7:00 PM – Team Entry Turn-In – Judging Area – Menudo  
7:15 PM – Menudo Judging to Commence  
8:00 PM -- Awards Ceremony  
11:00 PM -- Cook-Off Area closed

*\*\*\*All times are subject to change depending on overall number of Teams.\*\*\**