

2023 Wharton County Youth Fair & Exposition
BAR-B-QUE COOK-OFF
Rules & Regulations

NOTE: The Wharton County Youth Fair & Exposition will not be held responsible for theft or damages to equipment or personal items.

All teams must submit original signed entry form with the \$200 entry fee. Entry fee is non-refundable. Entries will be limited to the first 90 teams. NO MORE THAN two (2) spots per team name. No individual will be able to cook on 2 separate teams. To ensure your spot from last year, your entry must be at the Fair Office no later than March 1st. The BBQ Committee will try to accommodate your request, however there are no guarantees.

A team consists of a CHIEF COOK and FOUR (4) ASSISTANTS. **Persons under twenty-one (21) years of age will not be eligible to enter the cook-off contest.** Chief Cook and Team Members may not cook on more than ONE team name; automatic disqualification.

Check-In Time will begin Thursday, March 16th from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm and Friday, March 17th from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm. **REMINDER...** spaces are 35' across and 30' deep and you must be within your assigned location. **If you have more than one space, you must have a separate pit to cook brisket.**

Each paid spot is provided a 35' x 30' space. Team is allowed space for a pit, plus sleeping quarters, consisting of a motor home, pull trailer, or tent in the assigned space. EVERYTHING you bring must fit within your space including washer/corn hole games, etc. No electricity or water is provided.

The carnival parking lot is completely paved and you may not dig holes in the pavement. ALL TENTS REQUIRING STAKES MUST BE IN CEMENTED BUCKETS, OR OTHER MEANS OF STABILIZATION.

Each team will receive containers for food entries. Each container will have a double matched ticket, which is affixed with tape. The chief cook is responsible for removing their portion on the ticket for safe keeping. The taped portion on the ticket must remain on the container with food entry. You must present this ticket to claim any prize when winning tickets are announced at the awards ceremony.

Fires for BBQ must be wood, wood substance or charcoal. **NO THERMOSTATICALLY CONTROLLED PITS ALLOWED! NO BATTERIES, NO WIRES, NO ELECTRIC OR PROPANE COOKERS ARE ALLOWED – example being Traeger – NOT ALLOWED! ALL PITS ARE SUBJECT TO INSPECTION.** Fires must be contained in a fire barrel twelve (12) inches below top of barrel that will be up off the ground at least twelve (12) inches. **EACH TEAM MUST PROVIDE A FIRE EXTINGUISHER**

NO VEHICLES WILL BE ALLOWED IN COOK-OFF AREA AFTER 6:00 P.M. FRIDAY, MARCH 17TH UNTIL THE COOK-OFF IS OVER ON SATURDAY, MARCH 18TH. PLEASE CONTACT COMMITTEE MEMBER FOR OTHER ARRANGEMENTS. VIOLATORS WILL BE DISQUALIFIED---NO QUESTIONS ASKED. In case of Emergency, contact a committee person. Family and friends must park in the designated fair grounds parking area and enter through the main entrance only.

There will be a Chief Cook Meeting held at 6:30 pm on Friday March 17th inside Crescent Hall. Each Team must be represented! At that time, we will go over all rules, pass out food containers, answer questions and allow comments, complaints and concerns.

The chief cook is responsible for the conduct of his team. Each team is responsible before, during and after the cook-off in cleaning up assigned area. Please do not leave any loose or bagged trash at or around your assigned space. **PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN TRASH BAGS AND TRASH CANS.**

Any special entertainment (DJ or band) must be written on entry form. The band must be in the cook-off site by 6:00 p.m. **Friday, March 17th**, and will not be allowed to leave until 1:00 a.m. Saturday morning. Security will escort the band out of the cook-off area. The band must follow these rules. No Exceptions. EACH BAND MEMBER MUST PAY TO ENTER THE COOK-OFF SITE.

Quiet Time is from 12:00 am and will be strictly enforced.

Excessive use of alcoholic beverages will be grounds for disqualification. Open bars will not be permitted. All beer must be brought in during check in **Friday, March 17th BY 6 PM**. Alcoholic beverages are not to be distributed to the public.

NO GLASS CONTAINERS ARE ALLOWED - ALL TABC laws will be enforced at all times.
NO PETS ALLOWED, except for Seeing Eye dogs. NO EXCEPTIONS!

Under no circumstances will any contestant or member of the public be allowed to bring into the cook-off contest area golf carts, motorcycles, carts, bicycles, roller skates or any other type of transportation with the exception of wheel chairs for handicapped individuals.

Contestants are not allowed to sell any food or alcoholic beverages to the public.

Pinto Beans: Contestants must cook at least two (2) pounds of pinto beans. No meat allowed in judging cup and nothing larger than a bean may be turned in. **Beans must be cooked within your Cook-Off Space.**

Chili: Contestants must cook at least two (2) pounds of beef chili meat, or cubed chuck. **NO VENISON MEAT AND/OR BEANS IN CHILI. Chili must be cooked within your Cook-Off Space.**

Pork Rib: Contestants must cook at least one (2) slabs of pork ribs per paid space. No Baby Back Ribs allowed. Ribs must be raw; but can be pre-seasoned. No foil, sauces or garnish on entry at turn-in. **Pork Ribs must be cooked within your BBQ Space with wood, wood substance or charcoal. NO THERMOSTATICALLY CONTROLLED PITS ALLOWED! NO BATTERIES, NO WIRES, NO ELECTRIC OR PROPANE COOKERS ARE ALLOWED – example being Traeger – NOT ALLOWED! ALL PITS ARE SUBJECT TO INSPECTION!**

Chicken Category: Contestants must cook at least one (1) chicken per paid space. Chicken must be raw; but can be pre-seasoned. No foil, sauces or garnish on entry at turn-in. **Chicken must be cooked within your BBQ Space with wood, wood substance or charcoal. NO THERMOSTATICALLY CONTROLLED PITS ALLOWED! NO BATTERIES, NO WIRES, NO ELECTRIC OR PROPANE COOKERS ARE ALLOWED – example being Traeger – NOT ALLOWED! ALL PITS ARE SUBJECT TO INSPECTION!**

Brisket Category: You may tag up to Two (2) Briskets weighing a minimum of 10 lb. each per paid space; no brisket smaller than 10 lb. will be accepted. Brisket(s) will be inspected and tagged at a designated time and location. **Brisket(s) must be raw, unseasoned and in original package at time of inspection and tag-in.** No foil, sauces or garnish on entry at turn-in. **Brisket must be cooked within your BBQ Space with wood, wood substance or charcoal. NO THERMOSTATICALLY CONTROLLED PITS ALLOWED! NO BATTERIES, NO WIRES, NO ELECTRIC OR PROPANE COOKERS ARE ALLOWED – example being Traeger – NOT ALLOWED! ALL PITS ARE SUBJECT TO INSPECTION!**

If a Wharton County team is not among those placed, the committee will continue to call the next placing team until a Wharton County team is chosen in the Brisket Contest. This team will be the official representatives of the Wharton County Youth Fair in the **2024** Houston Livestock Show Bar-B-Que Cook-Off. A Wharton County trophy will be awarded to this team.

JUDGING:

Chili: You will be given a 16 oz cup with lid for turn in. Judging will be Saturday at 11:00 am

Pinto Beans: You will be given a 16 oz cup with lid for turn in. No meat and nothing larger than a bean in cup at turn-in. Judging will be Saturday at 12:00 pm.

Pork Ribs: You will turn in 6 individual cut ribs. A hinged plate will be provided for turn in. No foil, sauces or garnish allowed in turn-in plate. Judging will be Saturday at 1:00 pm.

Chicken: You will turn in 1 Whole Half of Chicken. A hinged plate will be provided for turn in. No foil, sauces or garnish allowed in turn-in plate. Judging will be Saturday at 2:00 pm.

Brisket: Meat shall be cut from a tagged brisket. A Cook-Off Committee Representative will come to your site to watch you cut from a tagged Brisket along with your container for turn-in. A representative from your team will take the container to be turned in for judging. You will turn in 6 full slices cut ¼ inch thick. A hinged plate will be provided for turn in. No foil, sauces or garnish allowed in turn-in plate. Judging will be Saturday at 3:00 pm.

ADMISSION GATE will open at 12:00 noon on Friday. Anyone not wearing a Cook-Off armband **MUST** pay admission into the cook-off area.

Armbands will not be mailed – THEY WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO A TEAM MEMBER LISTED ON THE ENTRY FORM AT TEAM CHECK-IN

AWARDS:

1st – 5th in each category will receive an award in addition to the following:

1st place Beans, Chili, Ribs & Chicken will receive a certificate for (1) entry into the 2024 Cook Off.

The 1st place Brisket team will be awarded \$1000; Top Wharton County Brisket Team will represent Wharton County at the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo 2024 Cook-Off with entry fee paid by the WCYF.

The 2nd place Brisket Team will receive a certificate for (1) entry into the 2024 Cook-Off.

The Bar-B-Que Committee Chairperson reserves the right to make additional rules and regulations as situations may warrant.

Infractions of any of the above rules will be grounds for immediate disqualification.