**General Rules and Regulations**

* Contestants must pre-register in order to enter the contest. Registration must be complete by November 1, 2021. **Registration the day of the contest is not permitted.**
* **A $125 entry fee is REQUIRED per team. ONE chili recipe per team may be entered for judging.** Registration can be completed at fosterthelovela.org/cookoff or by completing the registration form attached along with your entry fee. Registration form and payment can be mailed to:

Foster the Love Louisiana

PO Box 53593

Lafayette, LA 70505

* **Competition chili must be cooked from scratch on site the day of the cook off.**
* Teams are responsible for supplying all cooking utensils and supplies needed, as well as furnishing their own propane cooker. **No wood or coal burning allowed.** We encourage you to have your own fire extinguisher for safety reason. **There will not be any electrical hook-ups.**
* Teams must also provide their own tables and tents (optional).
* Foster the Love will provide bowls and spoons for attendees.
* Teams must wear plastic gloves when serving food.
* **All coolers and pots will be inspected upon arrival at the event and before you are directed to your table.** This is to ensure no pre-cooked food comes into the event.
* Judge’s Choice - A panel of judges will determine the top 3 entries.
* People’s Choice – This award will be determined by votes cast by event attendees.
* Teams are encouraged to decorate their cooking area.

**Chili Cooking Rules**

* Quantities required for **distribution** to the public:
	+ Chili: Minimum of 5 gallons
* Quantity for judging: Two pints (32oz) made on site is required to submit for judging.
* Competition chili must be cooked from scratch **on site** the day of cook off.
	+ COOKED FROM SCRATCH – “Scratch” is defined as starting with raw meat. Commercial chili powder is permissible, but complete commercial chili mixes (“just add meat” mixes that contain premeasured spices) are not permitted.
	+ Use your own favorite recipe, with or without meat, with or without beans. Meat may be beef, pork, lamb, bison, chicken or turkey (no wild meats). Veggie (meatless) chili is okay. Beans are encouraged, but not mandatory. Ingredients may be cut, shredded or ground to any size. No rice or macaroni. No MSG. **If peanuts, peanut oil or any other allergens are used, a warning sign must be displayed.**
	+ **No ingredient may be pre-cooked in any way prior to the beginning of the official cook off.**
	+ **All competition chili must be prepared on site.**
	+ Cooks are allowed to pre-chop and premeasure all ingredients.
	+ Teams must provide any condiments or “add-ins” for their chili (e.g. cheese, onions, sour cream etc.)
* Sanitation – Everything must be prepared in a sanitary manner.
	+ Hats and gloves must be worn when handling, cooking and serving
* You must be willing to taste your own chili.
* Chili must be covered with a lid when not serving.
* Teams are **allowed** to give samples of their chili **to other teams.** Teams are **NOT**  **allowed** to give samples to the public prior to **11AM.** Public attendees must show event wrist band to receive sample. Teams are **NOT allowed** to give samples to **judges** prior to turn in. Any deviation from this rule will result in disqualification.
* Certificates and awards will be awarded based on Judge’s and People’s Choices.

**Cooks Judging Cups**

* A **Cooks Meeting** will be held at 9:30 AM on the day of the cook off. One member of each team MUST attend. At this meeting, each Team will be given 2 official judging cups. Each Team is responsible for delivering their cups with the chili sample to the judging area at the official turn in time for judging – **12:00PM.**
* **Protect the judging cup** – Once judging cups have been issued, each head cook is responsible for his or her judging cup. Cooks must not remove or tamper with the tickets on the bottom of the cups. Any **marked or altered** cup must be replaced prior to turn-in or it will be disqualified.
* **Filling Cups** – Cups should be filled ¾ full.
* **Chili Turn-In** – Chili will be turned in at the place and time designated at the cooks’ meeting.
* **Penalties** – Failure to comply with the rules set forth herein may result in disqualification of an individual cook or team for the cook-off. Decisions of the official(s) are final.

**Judging**

* Chili judging will be done using preliminary and final judges.
* Judges must abstain from inspecting or tasting chili prior to judging. Judges must not be associated with any cook at the cook-off (e.g. one spouse cooking and the other spouse judging).
* Judging criteria and scoring – A single score takes into consideration the five criteria for scoring chili:
	+ Aroma
	+ Consistency
	+ Color
	+ Taste
	+ Aftertaste
* Scoring – each cup of chili will be scored on its own merits with a whole number from 0 to 5, with 5 being the highest

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Who do I contact for information about the cook off or to enter a team?**

Registration forms and rules can be found at fosterthelovela.org/cookoff. You can also contact our events team at connect@fosterthelovela.org or call 337-205-2155.

**What is the cost and what do we need to bring?**

Entry fee is $125 per team entry. We also have sponsorship opportunities available, which includes team entry. Teams are responsible for their own tables, chairs, tents, cooking and serving utensils, decorations, propane burner and propane. Remember – there is no electricity and no wood or charcoal fires. Competition chili must be cooked on site.

**What is the set up time? Cooking time? When is the judging?**

* You may begin setting up and cooking at 8 AM.
* All coolers and pots will be inspected upon arrival at the event and before you are escorted to your table. This is to ensure no pre-cooked food comes into the event.
* Chili will be turned in for judging at **12:00 PM.**
* Winners will be announced at approximately 1:30PM.

**How much chili is required?**

* We require a minimum of 5 gallons to be served to the public.

**What are the award categories?**

* **Judge’s Choice** - A panel of judges will determine the top 3 entries.
* **People’s Choice** - People’s Choice will be determined by votes cast by event attendees.