

Dripping Springs Cook-Off Club

Founders Day BBQ Cook-Off | April 28-30, 2023

Official Event Rules

READ AND UNDERSTAND THESE RULES. ANY TEAM THAT VIOLATES THESE RULES WILL BE SUBJECT TO DISQUALIFICATION AND WILL RISK LOSING THEIR COOK SPACE(S) IN FUTURE YEARS.

1. Space Assignments

- (a) All cook spaces are under the exclusive control of the Dripping Springs Cook-Off Club (DSCOC). No team has the authority to sublet their assigned space.
- (b) The entry fee per cook space is \$150 and includes one (1) entry into each of the following categories: Brisket, Pork Spareribs, Chicken, Chili, and Salsa.
- (c) Refer to the list of teams and event map of the Cook-Off area showing the spaces occupied by teams in the prior year's Cook-Off. Teams assigned to a permanent space will continue to be given that same space each year unless advised differently by the DSCOC President.
- (d) Entry forms AND payments must be received by April 7th to guarantee you the same cooking space as last year. Any spaces not paid for by April 7th will be made available to teams on the waiting list.
- (e) Entries will be limited to one (1) per cook space (approx. 12'x16'). Teams that have more than one cook space may turn in unique entries for each space provided that the entry form and payment are received prior to April 7th AND that a unique head cook is listed for each cook space on the entry form and be present at the event.

2. Schedule

- (a) Entry & Set-Up: Friday, at assigned time and via assigned gate.
- (b) Check In: Friday, after 3 pm, at Cook-Off HQ. Check in and verify you are listed in the correct categories for the competition. Only head cook listed on registration form can pick up packet. Drivers license/photo ID must be presented.
- (c) Head Cook's Meeting: Friday, 5 pm, at Cook-Off HQ. Someone from each cook space must attend the meeting. No more than 2 members per cook space are permitted since space is limited. Your Cook-Off Street Captain will be introduced at this meeting. *See 3(k).*
- (d) Ingredient Inspection: Friday, after the Head Cooks' Meeting, through Sunday, 10 am. If you do not check in until Saturday or Sunday, your food items must be inspected prior to preparation of the entry. You will not receive your turn-in containers until a judge has signed the ingredient inspection form.
- (e) Margarita competition entries may be purchased at Cook-Off HQ until 6 pm Friday.
- (f) Turn-In Times: All entries will be accepted for a period of 15 minutes. No entries will be accepted prior to the turn-in period, and there is no grace period after the posted turn-in periods.

Friday Turn-Ins	Saturday Turn-Ins	Sunday Turn-Ins
Margaritas: 7:45-8:00 PM	Chicken: 10:45-11:00 AM	Salsa: 10:15-10:30 AM
	Pork Spareribs: 1:45-2:00 PM	Chili: 12:15-12:30 PM
	Brisket: 4:45-5:00 PM	

Turn-in times are subject to change. Official times will be provided at the Head Cooks' Meeting.

- (g) Showmanship, Best Pit, and Best Camp Judging: Saturday, starting at 12 pm.
- (h) Awards Ceremony: Sunday, 2:30 pm, at the Main Stage.
- (i) Chicken Clucking: Sunday, during Awards Ceremony.
- (j) Exit: Sunday, 6-8pm.

3. General Rules & Information

- (a) Vehicles are not allowed in the Cook-Off area, or any other area closed for the Founders Day Festival, after 4 pm Friday, at any time Saturday, and between 10 am and 6 pm Sunday.
 - (i) Vehicles include cars, trucks, motorcycles, ATVs, tractors, motorbikes, golf carts, utility vehicles, etc.
 - (ii) All team members, guests, or visitors to your campsite should be aware of this rule in advance. You are responsible for anyone at your campsite violating this rule.
 - (iii) Certain Founders Day and Cook-Off Officials, as well as other groups, may have permission to operate a limited number of vehicles within the Cook-Off area. This does not permit others to bring vehicles into the area.
 - (iv) The Founders Day Commission and the Dripping Springs Cook-Off Club will strictly enforce this rule.
 - (v) **Anyone violating this rule WILL be disqualified from competing and WILL NOT be allowed to return in following years.**
- (b) Head Cooks are responsible for maintaining a trash-free campsite at all times. All cook spaces must provide their own trash containers and trash bags. Trash must be in bags prior to placing it in the provided dumpsters.
- (c) Glass containers are not permitted in the Cook-Off area. (This means no glass beer bottles.)
- (d) You may not sell or advertise for sale any items, including alcohol, food items, craft items, or commercial products, from your camp site.
- (e) Teams are responsible for providing their own shade canopies. Please note new Dripping Springs City Ordinance regarding Canopy Safety.
- (f) Each team/campsite will be provided one 20-amp electrical hook-up within 100' of the cook space. Bring your own extension cord to connect to the panel. Additional hook-ups can be purchased from the City of Dripping Springs for \$20/each.
- (g) Violent, vulgar, or obscene behavior will not be tolerated. If there is a disturbance in your camp site, your team may be subject to disqualification and/or loss of camp site in future years.
- (h) Public intoxication is a Class C misdemeanor. Police will be present at Founders Day and may issue citations within cook sites.
- (i) Destruction of public or private property will not be tolerated and may result in criminal or civil action.
- (j) Any activity occurring in your cook space(s) is your responsibility. If someone who is not part of your team is creating a problem in your designated area, you must ask them to leave or have them removed. You are also responsible for anyone on your team violating the entry or exit rules.
- (k) Cook-Off Street Captains are designated Cook-Off Officials stationed throughout the Cook-Off area. Any questions or concerns that arise during the weekend should first be taken to your designated Street Captain. If your Street Captain is not available, visit Cook-Off HQ to speak with an Official.
- (l) Failure to comply with requests or instructions from a Cook-Off Official may result in immediate disqualification and/or loss of camp site in future years.
- (m) No use of bullhorns or microphones to talk to the public is allowed.
- (n) No professional/commercial cooks/caterers are allowed to compete.

4. Food & Drink Competition Rules

- (a) The Head Judge and judging committee will be responsible for inspecting all meats and other ingredients.
- (b) The only advance preparation permitted is trimming meat and creating dry spice mixes.
- (c) Once competition meat and ingredients have been inspected, they shall not leave the cook site.
- (d) All seasoning, cooking, mixing, preparation, etc. of products shall be done within the confines of the team's assigned cooking space(s).
- (e) Each competition entry must be delivered to the designated location. Information will be provided in mailed packet or at Cook's meeting.
- (f) Cooks must sample their own entries, if requested.
- (g) Duplicate competition entries are not permitted. Teams must submit unique competition entries for each cook space/entry.
- (h) Chicken, Pork Spareribs, and Brisket
 - (i) Sauces, garnishes, and other identifying items may NOT be added to competition entries after cooking.
 - (ii) All meat must be in 30 bite-sized boneless pieces for judging. No slices, bone-in chicken, rib racks/slabs, etc. are permitted, with the following exceptions:
 - (A) Brisket entries may have one ¼ inch slice of brisket placed in the container in addition to the 30 bite-sized pieces.
 - (B) Pork sparerib entries may have one pork sparerib with meat placed in the container in addition to the 30 bite-sized pieces.
- (i) Chili and Salsa
 - (i) Chili entries must be con carne only. No beans or large pieces of food items may be in the chili, such as chunks of tomato, large pieces of peppers, etc.
 - (ii) Salsa must be red, tomato-based, and not chunky. Pico de Gallo and/or green salsa are not acceptable and will not be judged.
- (j) Jackpot Margaritas
 - (i) Entrants must be at least 21 years of age and must have proper identification available at turn-in.
 - (ii) Margarita entries may not be pre-mixed and must be made in your camp. As with all other competition categories, ingredients must be approved prior to receiving entry containers.
Commercial margarita mixes will not be approved.
 - (iii) Margaritas must contain tequila.
 - (iv) Margaritas may be any flavor.
- (k) If an entry does not conform to these rules, your container may be returned to you to correct and turn in before the allotted entry period has ended, or it may be disqualified at the discretion of the Head Judge.

5. Other Competition Rules

- (a) Showmanship: Judges will announce their presence to each team entering the contest and will expect entertainment to begin promptly. Judging will be based on the following:
 - (i) team costumes
 - (ii) originality
 - (iii) entertainment: must perform a skit (limited to 10 minutes)
 - (iv) friendliest Cook-Off spirit
- (b) Best Pit: Judges will announce their presence to each team entering the contest and will expect a guided tour around the pit. Judging will be based on the following criteria:
 - (i) quality of materials,
 - (ii) craftsmanship,

- (iii) attention to detail,
 - (iv) firebox construction,
 - (v) tightness of compartment, and
 - (vi) general layout of pit in campsite.
- (c) Best Camp: Judges may announce their presence to each team entering the contest. Judging will be based on the following criteria:
- (i) overall appearance and layout of the camp,
 - (ii) cleanliness of the site, and
 - (iii) theme of the camp, accessories, and novelty items.
- (d) Chicken Clucking
- (i) Separate categories will be offered for children under 16 years old and "adults" aged 16+.
 - (ii) Entries may be limited to the first 10 contestants in each category.
 - (iii) Chicken Clucking will be judged on the original presentation of clucking like a chicken or crowing like a rooster.
 - (iv) There is no fee to enter, and entry is open to the public.
- (e) Tip Jars
- (i) Teams are allowed to have Tip Jars for guests who wish to sample food. Teams are not required to provide food or drink samples to the public.
 - (ii) Having a suggested tip amount is considered selling. Tip Jars may be eliminated if they are abused.

6. Judging

- (a) Entries will be judged on Appearance, Aroma, Taste, Texture, and Aftertaste.
- (b) All decisions of the Head Judge are final and cannot be appealed.
- (c) Containers
 - (i) Each Head Cook will receive a ticketed container for each category entered.
 - (ii) The containers are take-out boxes with a foil sheet for meat entries and cups for chili, salsa, and margaritas. No other containers will be accepted for turn-in. Ensure that your containers are secured in a safe spot until needed.
 - (iii) Duplicate tickets will be taped to the outside of the containers. You must tear off the ticket that is not taped down to the container and keep that ticket for claiming awards. Do not lose your number as this is the only means of identifying your entry.
 - (iv) Two cups will be provided for margarita entries to prevent sweating. When turning in your entry, ensure that the cup with the taped ticket is the outer layer.
 - (v) Do not remove, tamper with, or damage the ticket that is taped to the container, or your entry may be disqualified.
- (d) Judges
 - (i) All teams will be required to supply a judge for at least one category round. **You will receive an assignment in your check-in packet specifying when your team is required to judge.**
 - (ii) Team representatives may sign up in advance to judge various categories; however, each team must present a judge at the assigned category and round. Failure to do so may result in disqualification from that and/or other competition categories.

7. Awards & Prizes

- (a) Results will be announced on the Main Stage on Sunday beginning at approximately 2:30 pm for all food categories, along with Best Camp, Best Pit, Showmanship, Chicken Clucking and the President’s Award. The location of the awards ceremony is subject to change.
- (b) The places that will qualify for cash prizes and awards are as follows:

All BBQ Meats & Chili Entries	Salsa	Margaritas	Best Camp, Best Pit, & Showmanship	Chicken Clucking
1 st : \$400 & Trophy	1 st : \$200 & Trophy	1 st : 50%	1 st : \$200 & Trophy	1 st : \$30
2 nd : \$250 & Trophy	2 nd : \$100 & Trophy	2 nd : 30%	2 nd : \$100 & Trophy	2 nd : \$20
3 rd : \$100 & Trophy	3 rd : \$50 & Trophy	3 rd : 20%	3 rd : \$50 & Trophy	3 rd : \$10
4 th -10 th : Trophy	4 th -10 th : Trophy	<i>See (c)</i>		(Per group)

- (c) Margarita cash prizes are based on the total margarita competition entry fees received at \$25 each. The prize money pool is 60% of the total entry fees collected and will be awarded based on the above allocation. Example prizes based on number of entries received are as follows:

Entries	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
20	\$150	\$90	\$60
40	\$300	\$180	\$120
80	\$600	\$360	\$240

- (d) President’s Award
 - (i) The President’s Award is given to the team that donates the most money to DSCOC.
 - (ii) Money may be collected via tip jars (*see 5(e)*) or otherwise donated.)
 - (iii) Donations must be received at Cook-Off HQ by 12 pm Sunday to be considered for the President’s Award.
 - (iv) The winner will be presented with a trophy during the awards ceremony.
- (e) The DS Cook-Off Club will hold winning entries not claimed at the awards ceremony for a period of 30 days following the event.

8. Entry Process

- (a) Confirmation letters will be sent to all registered teams the first week in April. Your assigned entry gate, entry time, and space numbers will be given to you when you receive your confirmation letter. You will be sent a color-coded card that you must present to enter the Cook-Off area.
- (b) At your team’s designated time for set up, you must enter via the assigned gate, unload all vehicles/trailers, etc. promptly, and immediately remove the vehicles from the area. Vehicles should be unloaded and removed prior to setting up the cook space.
- (c) Teams setting up prior to their designated time on Friday may be subject to disqualification.
- (d) All vehicles must be out of the Cook-Off area by 4 pm Friday.

9. Exit Process

- (a) Every team is encouraged to participate in all events and stay until Judging/Announcements are concluded on Sunday.
- (b) Cook spaces must be thoroughly cleaned and free of any grease spots before departure.
 - (i) Bring a broom to sweep your area for small trash and cigarette butts.
 - (ii) Bring kitty litter or grease-sorb to clean up any grease.
 - (iii) Your cook space must be inspected by a Cook-Off Official and approved prior to your departure.
- (c) Teams may bring vehicles into the Cook-Off area for standard exit starting at **6 pm Sunday** or as advised by a Founders Commission or Cook-Off Official.
- (d) Any team that wants to depart before 6 pm Sunday may tear down their site and leave PRIOR to 10 am Sunday. **No team may depart between 10 am and 6 pm Sunday.** Notify your Street Captain by 6 pm Saturday if you plan to leave prior to 10 am Sunday so they are prepared to inspect your campsite Sunday morning.
- (e) All sites must be completely cleared no later than 8 pm Sunday.
- (f) Each team will be assigned an exit gate, included in the entry packet.
- (g) Cook Teams MAY NOT exit via College Street on Sunday.

10. City Rules & Regulations

- (a) Fire Rules
 - (i) Fire Extinguishers
 - (A) The City of Dripping Springs and North Hays County Fire Rescue require each campsite be equipped with a minimum 5 lbs. 2A:10B:C fire extinguisher.
 - (B) Fire extinguishers must be inspected and tagged within the past year or, if new, accompanied by a purchase receipt dated within the past year.
 - (ii) Grease
 - (A) Cookers are responsible for preventing and eliminating drips, spills, and trash around their campsites.
 - (B) Each campsite must have a closed grease container.
 - (C) Each team must dispose of their grease properly and clean up any spills before leaving.
 - (D) Grease may not be disposed of in dumpsters. If available, grease may be disposed of in a designated bin at Cook-Off HQ. Otherwise, grease must be taken offsite and disposed of.
 - (E) Failure to clean grease from your campsite will result in a fine of up to \$200.
 - (iii) No tents for assembly use are permitted in campsites. (This means no party tents.)
- (b) Noise Standards: No live music, radios, karaoke, air horns, noise makers, or other sound systems may be played or operated between the hours of 10 pm and 8 am. Furthermore, these devices are not allowed if they are audible 10 feet or more away from a campsite at any time.
- (c) Cooperation with Business Owners: We depend on the generosity of the businesses downtown to put on this event. Please respect any fenced off areas and look out for our hosting businesses. You may not drill holes or drive objects into the paved surfaces of any city street. Please use buckets of sand/cement to secure your posts.
- (d) Parking/Vehicles: Do not park your vehicles on or along the rights-of-way on Ranch Road 12, Hwy 290, Mercer Street, or Loop 64. The City prohibits any unauthorized vehicles within the festival area, including cars, trucks, motorcycles and any utility vehicles or golf carts.
- (e) Note: Failure to comply with any City or Founders Day Commission Rule or Regulation may result in disqualification and/or loss of camp site in future years. Check foundersdayfestival.com for information on specific rules for Founders Day.
- (f) See separate city ordinance regarding Canopy Safety
https://library.municode.com/tx/dripping_springs/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=COOR_CH16PUWA_PL_ART16.02PARE_DIV2PARU_S16.02.066CASA

11. Some Reasons for Disqualification

- (a) Sub-letting a cook space to another team without authorization. *See 1(a).*
- (b) Entering, exiting, or driving into the Cook-Off area or any other streets closed during Founders Day outside specifically permitted times. *See Sections 8 and 9.*
- (c) Failure to maintain a trash-free cook site and/or clean a cook site prior to departure. *See 3(b) and 9(b).*
- (d) Violent behavior of any kind, vulgar or obscene gestures, activities or language. *See 3(g).*
- (e) Excessive abuse of alcohol which causes a major disturbance to Founders Day, the Cook-Off, and/or its patrons. *See 3(h).*
- (f) Destruction of public or private property. *See 3(i).*
- (g) Failure to comply with requests from City, Founders Commission, or Cook-Off Officials. *See 3(l) and 10(e).*
- (h) Cheating, including discovery of entries prepped or cooked prior to ingredient inspection. *See 4(d).*

- (i) Selling items from your cook space or suggesting a tip amount for food samples. *See 3(d) and 5(e)(ii).*
- (j) Not adhering to the rules and regulations as set forth herein. Note: this list is not exclusive; other egregious actions may result in disqualification and/or loss of cook space(s) in future years.