

## 2008 Madison Chili Cook-off Information

1. "Traditional (CASI) Red Chili" - which is defined as any kind of meat or combination of meat, cooked with red chili peppers, various spices and other ingredients. Absolutely NO fillers are allowed in the CASI chili, i.e., beans, macaroni, rice, hominy, etc. A correct entry will be meat and gravy only. "Open" category does allow fillers in the chili. Since the competition involves sampling by judges and attendees, please be aware that each team's liability is based on ingredients cooked in the chili. **ANY TEAMS PREPARING AND SERVING HARMFUL INGREDIENTS WILL BE HELD LIABLE.**
2. No ingredient can be pre-cooked in any way prior to the commencement of the official cook-off. The only exceptions are canned or bottled tomatoes, tomato sauce, peppers, pepper sauce, beverages, broth and grinding or mixing of spices. Meat may be pre-cut or ground. **MEAT CANNOT BE PRE-COOKED OR MARINATED.** Other ingredients, i.e. onions, peppers, etc. can be pre-chopped and brought to the cook site or chopped on site. Remember no ingredients can be pre-cooked.
3. Each team will be given a 12x12 space. The booth or table set up can be any combination of tables, bar counters, stools or chairs. You must bring something to cook on (camp stoves or propane heated pots are best). **NO CAMPFIRES ARE ALLOWED.** You must provide a garbage can or box for your booth. A tent or other type of covering for your booth is also required. Bring your decorations (Make it fun! Themed booths always draw more votes!)
4. All contestants must check in prior to booth set up. The registration table will be open at 7:00 am. At the time of check in, each team will be given their judges' container along with their contestant number. All vehicles must be removed from the park by 8:00 am. \*REMINDER: Individual booths will have no running water or electricity. Water will be available near event site. Please read attached Health Dept. Requirements.
5. Booth set-up can begin after you have registered and been given your team number. There will be a cooks' meeting at 8:00 a.m. to go over the rules and other house keeping information. Stoves can be turned on *before* 9:00 a.m. to boil water *only*. Cooking of chili ingredients begins at 9:00 a.m. **Anyone cooking chili prior to the 9:00 a.m. start time will be disqualified.** All teams must provide their own cooking utensils.
6. You may place a ballot box somewhere on your booth for people to cast their votes for the People's Choice Award for best chili. Have fun with it! Decorate your ballot box, or use something unique as the box! Ballot boxes will be collected at 2:00 p.m. Sampling cups with a People's Choice Award ballot will be sold at the Information Tent. Please do not use your own cups for sampling to the general public.
7. You may cook as much chili as you'd like. **There is no limit on how much chili can be cooked, but we expect you to have a minimum of 3 gallons of chili per team for sampling. Each team must cook a minimum of 1 quart of chili for judging.** Remember to use the assigned container that you received at check-in to submit to the judges.
8. Teams are responsible for getting their chili to the judges' table on time. Judges are voting on the chili based on the following: good flavor, texture, consistency, blend of spices, and color. **Check your Cook's Packet for details about turn-in times for each category.** Winners will be announced around 2:30 p.m. Other awards to be handed out are the People's Choice Award (for best chili) and the Showmanship Award (for best booth decoration).
9. Entry Fees: For \$25.00 per team for Open. \$15.00 per team for CASI. (A maximum of 4 people per team). Team Captain must be 18 years or older to enter.
10. Tasting Kits. Tasting kits will be sold for \$2.00 each to the public. The kits include a cup, spoon, wet wipe, and voting ballot. Remember, the more people you bring to the competition, the more votes you will get, bettering your chance to win the People's Choice award! Sampling can begin after you turn in your chili for judging.
11. All teams are responsible for breaking down and cleaning up their booth and surrounding area at the end of the event. No vehicles are allowed into the event area until after the concert (approx. 3:30 p.m.).