SWFHR 7TH ANNUAL CHILI FEST

CONTESTANT DETAILS & REGISTRATION

For questions or information, call, text, or email info@swfhr.org, 239-567-4111, or 239-440-9891

EVENT DATE: MARCH 21, 2026 10 AM - 3 PM | REGISTRATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 27, 2026 5 PM

COOK-OFF IS FROM 11 AM TO 1 PM

CONTESTANT RULES & CONDITIONS: (Revised 2026-1-29)

1. To officially secure a spot, contestants must submit an Entry Form, either electronically or on paper, along with the required registration fee.
2. The event site will open for registration check-in and set-up at 7 a.m. All contestants and team members must sign a release and waiver of liability.
3. No parking will be allowed inside the cook-off area unless approved.
4. Ingredients must be pre-cooked before the official cook-off commences. Meat may be treated, pre-cut, or ground, but it must be cooked.
5. Each contestant is solely responsible for ensuring that no ingredient is undercooked and there is no risk of foodborne illness. You must also be willing to eat your chili!
6. The registrant must be 18 years or older.
7. The 2026 SWFHR Chile Fest is limited to 15 contestants.
8. While chili ingredients are not restricted, you must be prepared to provide the chili bosses with a list of them.
9. Contestants are encouraged to bring garnishes and creative additions to enhance their chili and attract patrons, boosting their chances of earning votes. Consider offering treats like crackers, cornbread, or other unique touches to elevate the tasting experience. The more chili you have, the more votes you can serve!
10. Contestants are highly recommended to cook at least 3 gallons (approximately six crockpots) of chili or have enough for a 2-hour taste-testing time frame.
11. Contestants must set up their “stations” and provide their equipment, including but not limited to tables, chairs, tents, pots, aprons, propane tanks (if owned), extension cords (no less than 14 gauge and no more than 25 ft long), or other items you might need.
12. Contestants are encouraged, urged, and otherwise motivated to decorate their area, tent, table, and even themselves.
13. Contestants must have a representative ready to serve at the start of the event and continually available until the end of the event.
14. All contestants must be ready to turn in ungarnished samples for **judging**, just chili, no toppings, 15 minutes (**approx. 11:15 AM**) after the tasting phase starts. Cook-Off organizers will settle ties or disputes.
15. SWFHR will provide a 12x12 area to set up tasting cups, spoons, ticket/vote jars, and access to limited power. We suggest you bring a source to keep your chili warm.
16. NO power strips are to be used unless approved.
17. Each contestant is responsible for policing and cleaning up the area at the end of the day, including removing all items from their location. Pre-approval will be required if any item needs to remain after the contest ends.
18. Winners are to be announced approximately 15 minutes after the end of the tasting phase.
19. Contestants are NOT allowed to sell anything during the contest. However, at the end of the contest, you may sell your pre-packaged chili or other food products.

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REGISTRATION FEES and REQUIREMENTS:

1. The Registration Deadline is Friday, February 27, 2026 by 5 pm.
2. The registration fee of $25 applies to only one initial recipe and tent space up to 12'x12'. Additional recipes may be entered for $5 per recipe; if an additional tent is needed, the fee is $5 more.
3. Entry Fee of $25 can be waived/free if you:
    a. Donate a raffle basket valued at $25 or more to our "Monster Raffle Row".
        i. This must be received before the day of the event to secure your official position in the Cook-Off.
    b. Represent a 1st Responder Unit as a team (e.g., Fire, EMS, Police/Sherriff).
        i. Be able to provide the unit designation, verification, and local area covered.
        ii. The unit name must be somewhere in the Team Name.
    c. Represent a Military Unit as a team (e.g., Reserve Units, local Recruiting Units, or other affiliates).
        i. Be able to provide the unit designation, verification, and local area covered.
        ii. The unit name must be somewhere in the Team Name.
    d. Are a Vendor at this event.
        i. Completed & Signed contestant form still needed to secure a spot
    e. Are a Sponsor of this event.
        i. Completed & Signed contestant form still needed to secure a spot
4. Registration fees may be paid via cash, card, or check payable to 'SWFHR' and have a memo of "Chili Cook-off." If paid in advance, they can be mailed or delivered to: **14811 State Road 31, Punta Gorda, FL. 33982-7738**
5. Fees paid before the registration deadline are eligible for return should a need for cancellation arise.
6. Cancellation requests must be directed to the CONTESTANT MGR, Sara, at 305-434-5389 or s.hallett@swfhr.org, or the EVENT MGR, Matt, at (239) 822-5366, on or before the deadline.

PRIZES:

1. Chili is blind-judged on Aroma, Eye Appeal, Taste, and Overall Satisfaction. The judges' decisions are final.
2. Prize breakdowns:
    1. 1st Place – $500 & a Chili Grand Champion trophy
    2. 2nd Place – $325 & a Chili Champ Runner-Up trophy
    3. 3rd Place – $175 & a Chili Champ 3rd Place trophy
    4. People's Choice Award – $100 & an award prize
    5. Host Choice Award - $50 Gift Card & an award prize
    6. Best Booth - $50 Gift Card & an award prize

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APPLICATION: Please complete the attached form and submit it to info@swfhr.org

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CONTESTANT REGISTRATION

*Please Use A Separate Sheet Per Chili Recipe Entry Contestant ID:

Chili Applying As A:	
TRADITIONAL CHILI	
MIXED MEAT CHILI	
WHITE CHICKEN CHILI	
VEGETARIAN CHILI	
MEAT ALTERNATIVE CHILI	
CINCINNATI STYLE CHILI	
TEXAS RED CHILI	
GREEN CHILI	

Contestant / Point Of Contact	
Contact Name:	
Contact Phone:	
Contact Email:	

Include us in future Contestant opportunities [ ]

I Agree to the Rules & Conditions [ ]

TEAM INFORMATION

Team / Booth Name:

How many in your team?

I understand all members of my team must sign a Liability Release form. [ ] Yes

Will your team need electricity? [ ] Yes [ ] No

Size of Space needed? [ ] 10x10 [ ] 12x12 [ ] more than 12x12

Will your team be bringing alcohol? [ ] Yes [ ] No
Beer is allowed, but no hard liquor. If yes, [ ] you agree to bring only Beer

MY TEAM:			YOUR PAYMENT IS:
[ ]	is a 1st Responder Unit ...if so, what is your unit's designation?		$0
[ ]	is a Military Unit ...if so, what is your unit's designation?		$0
[ ]	is a Vendor for this event ...if so, what is your Vendor Name/ID?		$0
[ ]	is a Sponsor of this event ...if so, what is your Sponsor Name/ID?		$0
[ ]	will offer a raffle basket ...if so, what is the theme / Name of your basket & what is its value?		$0
[ ]	none of the above		$25

NOTES: Special needs or considerations:

PAYMENTS:

1. **Debit, Credit, or PayPal:** Electronic payments are processed @ swfhr.org/event/chili-fest/
2. **Cash/Checks:** made payable to '**SWFHR**' with a '**2026 Chili Cook-Off**' memo.
   Deliver or Mail to **SWFHR, 14811 SR 31, Punta Gorda, FL 33982**. Must be received by the Registration Deadline.
3. **Pay in person:** Call the Contestant Manager in the header of this form to arrange or schedule a visit online at www.swfhr.org. Our address is SWFHR, 14811 SR 31, Punta Gorda, FL 33982. Publicly open days are any day between 9 am-3 pm.
4. **Cancellation or Delays:** If, for whatever reason, you know there will be a delay with your entry payment, please make sure that you contact us at info@swfhr.org or (239) 567-4111

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. - (REG#CH40783)