

Guidelines for Chili Cookoffs

The following guidelines are for Chili Cookoffs put on by non-profit organizations, chambers of commerce or other charitable organizations for the purpose to raise funds for a non-profit entity or charitable cause.

Food Preparation

1. No ingredient may be pre-cooked or treated in any way at a home.
2. All chili shall be cooked on site.
3. Cooking may occur outside of the booth.
4. Any food handling such slicing, dicing of meat or vegetables, mixing ingredients, and portioning chili for service shall be conducted within the enclosed booth.
5. Ice chests may not be used for holding cooked food.

Booth Construction

1. Each booth or shared booth shall be enclosed on 4 sides.
2. Each booth or shared booth shall have an overhead covering.
3. Each booth set up on grass or dirt shall have a tarp covering the ground.
4. Hand washing facilities should be within each booth or not more than 10 feet from the booth.
5. Hand washing facilities may be shared. Handwashing facilities shall include soap, paper towels and a collection basin for wastewater.
6. Utensil washing facilities may be shared. Utensil washing shall include 3 separate tubs, 1 each for washing, rinsing and sanitizing.
7. Chlorine sanitizer concentration shall be at 100 ppm (parts per million) measured with the correct sanitizer test kit.

Food Handling Practices

1. Hand shall be washed prior to touching food and in between tasks.
2. Utensils shall be washed as needed to prevent cross contamination.
3. Utensils used to taste chili shall be either single use or washed, rinsed and sanitized between tastings.
4. Cold items that may spoil such as meat, condiments, or salsas shall be kept at a temperature of 45° F or below.
5. Cooked foods shall be kept at a temperature of 135° F or above.
6. Food temperatures should be maintained by using ice baths, ice chests, warming units (crock pots) or chafing dishes.
7. Food left over at the end of the event shall be properly thrown away.
8. Only single use utensils, such as disposable spoons and bowls, shall be used to serve food to guests and judges.