

Annual Southport Spring Festival



Chili Cook-off

Saturday, April 3, 2010

Official Contest Rules and Guidelines

1. All contestants must complete an official application form and return it to the Spring Festival Committee together with the required, \$25.00 entry fee, no later than March 26, 2010 in order to compete.
2. Contestants may be either individuals or organizations. **Southport-area non-profit organizations are particularly encouraged to enter, both to help build community spirit and to lay claim to the bragging rights accompanying “Southport’s Champion Chili for 2010”.** Contestants competing under an organization’s name or individuals who are sponsored by an organization must provide information on the application form identifying both the organization and each of the individuals authorized to participate on its behalf.
3. Chili, for purposes of this contest, may be either traditional red chili or chili verde. The International Chili Society defines traditional red chili as any kind of meat or combination of meats, cooked with red chili peppers, various spices and other ingredients. The International Chili Society defines chili verde as any kind of meat or combination of meats cooked with green chili peppers, various spices and other ingredients. For purposes of this contest, “other ingredients” may include beans, pasta or rice.
4. Chili must be from an original recipe and made by you, the contestant. No mixes or canned chili will be allowed.
5. Each contestant’s chili will be reviewed by the Festival Committee for freshness and originality. Any chili deemed unacceptable by the Festival Committee will be removed from the contest.
6. This is an outdoor event. The contest will take place rain or shine, unless the Spring Festival Committee determines that existing or imminent weather would pose a hazard to Festival attendees.
7. The Spring Festival Committee will provide each contestant with a covered serving space, an 8’ table, an identifying sign and the necessary paper goods to serve chili samples to Festival

attendees. The Festival Committee will also provide hand washing facilities, hand sanitizer, gloves, napkins, and garbage bags. Electricity is available at the cook-off site, but you must supply your own drop cord extensions to connect to the electrical sockets which may be some distance from your serving space.

8. Contestants may not change the location of their serving space without prior permission of the Festival Committee.
9. The judging for this event is "People's Choice". In order to be competitive in the voting, each contestant should cook 12 gallons of chili. This amount is adequate to provide a 2 oz. sample for up to 744 Festival attendees. In 2009, 640 Festival attendees purchased tickets and voted in the contest. The Spring Festival Committee will hold the tasting period open for the entire 3-hour schedule, whether or not one or more contestants exhausts his or her supply of chili. It is in each contestant's best interest to (a) provide the requisite amount of chili, and (b) to control the size of portions served in order to maximize his or her chance of winning.
10. Given the volume requirements of the contest, contestants may pre-cook any part or all of their chili.
11. Contestants are responsible for providing any supplemental signage or material identifying the contestant, all necessary cooking and serving utensils, an appropriate means for maintaining the serving temperature of their chili throughout the contest, a small fire extinguisher (if propane cookers are being used), additional tables and chairs (if desired) and any decorations or "theme" props they may desire for their serving space. We will be unable to allow any vehicles or trailers either in or adjacent to the serving tent. This specifically precludes using a vehicle or trailer as part of contestants' decorations or cooking apparatus.
12. Contestants may not infringe on the space assigned to adjacent contestants.
13. No open fires will be permitted.
14. The Health Department mandates the following:
 - a. You must have a dated receipt for your meat showing where and when it was purchased. Your receipt must be given to the Health Inspector on request, so bring it with you to the contest.
 - b. You must state where your chili was made
 - c. You must keep your chili hot, but do not burn it.
 - d. You must keep your serving space clean and sanitize your hands often.
 - e. You must keep your serving table neat.
15. Contestants are responsible for providing staffing of their serving space that is adequate to both serve the expected number of Festival attendees and mark tasting tickets throughout the designated tasting time (11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.).
16. Contestants are responsible for the orderly conduct of persons participating in the contest on their behalf and in complying with all applicable laws and regulations governing the event.
17. Contestants are not allowed to sell any items from their serving space, including food and drink. However, organizations are encouraged to have information about their group's mission, goals and objectives available to inform the chili-tasting public.
18. For safety and health reasons, the Festival has a "No Pets" policy that applies to all activities, including the Chili Cook-Off.
19. Contestants are responsible for removing all cooking implements and decorations from their serving space and leaving the space in a clean condition at the conclusion of the contest.

Contestants may not begin the breakdown and removal of equipment and decorations from their serving space until the closing ceremony and presentation of the awards is completed.

20. The following timeline applies to this event:

8:00 – 9:30 a.m. There will be a loading/unloading zone for contestants in the parking lot adjacent to the Franklin Square Gallery. Once vehicles have been unloaded, drivers will be directed to a designated off-site parking area and provided with shuttle transportation to return to the contest area. The unloading area will be blocked off once the Festival begins and access after 9:30 a.m. will be from the street.

8:00 – 11:00 a.m. Serving spaces will be available for set-up, decoration and any needed food preparation.

10:00 – 10:30 a.m. Mandatory meeting for all contestants (minimum of 1 representative per entrant) to discuss final instructions and answer last-minute questions.

11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. **Tasting & Voting.**
Chili samples will be served to Festival attendees who have purchased a Chili Tasting Ticket and Tasters will be able to vote.

2:30 – 3:30 p.m. Ballots will be tallied and winners determined.

3:30 p.m. Winners announced and prizes awarded on the Festival stage.

21. Each Festival attendee who purchases a \$5.00 chili tasting ticket will be entitled to a single 2 oz. taste of each contestant's chili. Each tasting ticket entitles the purchaser to a vote in the contest. Votes will be by written ballot distributed at the time the ticket is sold. Only ballots deposited in the official ballot box during the tasting time (11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.) will be counted.
22. Each Festival attendee completing a ballot will be asked to vote for the chili he or she liked best, given the following major considerations, enumerated by the International Chili Society: good flavor, texture of the meat, consistency, blend of spices, aroma, and color.
23. All contestants are urged to contribute to the spirit of the Cook-off by establishing a theme for their chili and carrying out their theme with costuming, decorations, and information during the tasting time. A panel of Celebrity Judges will evaluate contestants while chili is being served for a special Theme Award. The panel will assess decorations, costumes, chili name and overall presentation of the chili to determine the Festival Theme Winner.
24. The following prizes will be awarded, based on the official ballot count and the ruling of the judges:

1st place chili: A unique chili-theme trophy, gifts and cash totaling \$500 or more, and the title of "Southport's Champion Chili for 2010".

2nd place chili: A unique chili-theme trophy and gifts and cash totaling \$250 or more.

3rd place chili: A unique chili-theme trophy and a gift certificate.

Theme Award: A gift certificate and an appropriate trophy

The award decisions by the Spring Festival Committee will be final. In the event of a tie in the voting for any particular prize, identical prizes at the higher level will be awarded and the next place down will be skipped (e.g.: a tie for 1st place would result in two awards for 1st place and an award for 3rd place).

25. The Spring Festival Committee reserves the right to disqualify and/or remove a contestant from the contest in the event of any conduct that results in a serious breach of these rules or conduct deemed by the Committee to constitute a hazard to Festival attendees.