



FIRE AND ICE Festival, February 17, 2024

Festival Rules and Regulations

1. Pre-registration is required for participation in this event. Chili registration form must be submitted with the \$35.00 entry fee. Deadline for registrations is Friday, February 9, 2024.
2. Chili contestants may enter in one of three categories: team, civic organizations, or Restaurant & Professionals. Contestants are required to be present during the competition.
3. Check in for registration is at 8:00 a.m. at the Headquarters Tent. Contestants may pull a vehicle into the festival grounds just long enough to unload. All vehicles must be removed from festival boundaries by 10am.
4. Any contestant that requires electricity **MUST** request that in advance. This will affect our booth layout and our electrician needs to have this information in advance.
5. A 15-gallon minimum is required for each contestant; 5-gallons of chili must be cooked separately on site for judging, 10 gallons can be made in advance. If you will be using smoked meat that may maybe pre-smoked by you but not purchased pre-smoked. Contestants are allowed to sell cups/bowls of chili to the public only after 3 pm. Participants selling additional food products other than chili must note those products on their application and be approved by the Blue Ridge Business Association. No beverage service is allowed without prior committee approval.
6. Your chili must be prepared from scratch at your assigned location and out in the open – not inside motorhomes or enclosed tents. Your supplies will be inventoried and approved by Event Organizers before cooking can commence. **NO SPICE PACKETS OR CHILI KITS ARE ALLOWED** and the use of such will cause the team to be disqualified.

Cooking must begin no later than 8:30 A.M. on the day the event. Tables must be staffed and attended at all times. No booths can be dismantled before 5 pm.

Contestants are responsible for have 5 (five) official judging cups, including lids with contestant number on the lid ready to be picked up at noon. Not all judging cups can be picked up at the same time. Be patient, someone will be at your booth “as close to noon as possible”. No marks or alterations, other than booth number, can be made to the judging cups.

7. You are encouraged to sell your chili in bowls or as part of another food product (chili fries, chili burritos, chili nachos, etc. **Sales of chili can take place between 3:00 and 5:00p.m. All vendors are responsible for returning their booth space to pristine condition. If this is not done you will be invoiced 50.00 for cleanup.**
8. Public Tasting will take place from Noon to 3:00pm. Tasting cards will be sold to individuals wanting to participate in the People’s Choice voting. All contestants are to punch the card when a tasting is given out. Only one tasting per contestant, per card is allowed. This will eliminate multiple tastings and ensure that there is enough chili for everyone.
9. Blue Ridge Business Association will supply cups and napkins for visitors and judges. Contestants must provide their own cups, bowls, plates, napkins and utensils for product sales as well as tents, tables and décor for their cooking/sales areas. No cooking utensils, equipment or heating containers (i.e. gas fired cooking pot, grill, roaster etc.) will be provided.
10. Please bring a poster with your name, your group’s name or the name of your restaurant to display at your table. We also encourage you to display any previous Chili Cook Off awards, especially from previous years of our event. Decorations supporting your team’s name or theme are encouraged.
11. Chili will be judged by two groups:
 - a. The BRBA judges will award “Best of Blue Ridge” in each category
 - b. Voting by the public will determine the “People’s Choice Award”
12. Winners will be announced at 4 p.m. The decision of the judges is final!! Neither the Blue Ridge Business Association nor the City of Blue Ridge will be responsible for any damages etc. to entrant’s equipment or personnel while the event is being set-up, during event or take-down. A liability release wavier must be signed on the day of the competition.