
STATE FAIR OF TEXAS.®

 2026 

◆ COOKING ◆
◆ ◆ ◆

★ *Contest* ★

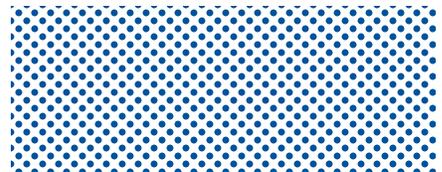
GUIDE

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STATE FAIR OF TEXAS

★ 2026 COOKING CONTEST GUIDE ★

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I WANT TO ENTER

WHERE DO I BEGIN?

ENTERING OUR CONTESTS IS EASY



JUST FOLLOW THESE STEPS



-  **1** CREATE AN ACCOUNT AT BIGTEX.COM/CREATIVES.
-  **2** ADD YOURSELF (OR ANYONE ELSE) AS A CONTESTANT.
-  **3** SELECT YOURSELF AS A CONTESTANT AND PICK WHAT CONTEST(S) YOU'D LIKE TO ENTER. ADD CONTEST(S) TO YOUR SHOPPING CART, CHECK OUT & PAY ONCE YOU'RE DONE.
-  **4** BRING YOUR ENTRIES TO THE STATE FAIR. PLEASE SEE SPECIFIC DATES ON THE "THINGS TO KNOW" PAGE FOR EACH CONTEST. ALL ENTRIES WILL BE DROPPED OFF AT THE CREATIVE ARTS BUILDING AT FAIR PARK.

NEED HELP WITH YOUR REGISTRATION?

If you would like to register in person or over the phone with a Creative Arts team member, please call us at 214-421-8744, and we will be more than happy to help you get set up.



WWW.BIGTEX.COM/CREATIVE

EMAIL CREATIVEARTS@BIGTEX.COM WITH ANY QUESTIONS





THINGS TO KNOW

COOKING CONTESTS



All Cooking Contests are open to amateurs only. No professional cooks or culinary teachers may enter.

* The State Fair of Texas defines culinary professional as an individual who is a chef or cooks professional as a source of income, an individual who has edited, produced, printed, and/or published a cookbook for professional gain, or an individual who owns a food company that distributed pre-packaged food items on a personal website, global marketing platform, social media site, or in a physical store.

Please remove all covers from containers when presenting dishes (e.g., lids, plastic wrap, etc.) The Fair is not responsible for contestants' containers.

Mixes or prepared foods cannot be used in recipes unless otherwise specified.

Contestants cannot enter the same recipe twice in any 2026 contest.

The best competitor from the previous year is not eligible to win Best Competitor for the current year.

BEST COMPETITOR AWARD

As competitors earn ribbons throughout the cooking contests, they will accumulate points. Points are awarded as follows:

- Best of Show Ribbon: 4 points each
- 1st Place Ribbon: 3 points each
- 2nd Place Ribbon: 2 points each
- 3rd Place Ribbon: 1 point each

At the conclusion of the final, during-Fair cooking contest, all points will be tallied, and prizes will be awarded.

BEST COMPETITOR AWARDS

Presented to the top three contestants with the highest total points:

- **1st Place:** \$1,000
- **2nd Place:** \$750
- **3rd Place:** \$500



THINGS TO KNOW

COOKING CONTESTS



THREE CONTEST PROGRAM

Entering Cooking Contests at the State Fair of Texas could earn you a Season Pass next year for the Fair! It is simple: register and bring your entries to **THREE (3) different** Cooking Contests during this year's State Fair. Prior to next year's Fair, you will be notified that you have qualified to receive a Season Pass by mail. Contestants must enter **three (3) individual contests** (e.g., Bread, Pies, Tex-Mex, etc.) to qualify for this program.

NOTE: Entering three (3) categories in any one contest does NOT qualify toward the three (3) contests. All three (3) contests must take place within the same calendar/Fair year. Entries in the Battle for the Blue Ribbons count toward the Three Contest Program.

COOKING CONTESTS DURING THE FAIR

Once you enter a Cooking Contest during the Fair, you will need to purchase tickets and parking separately to enter the State Fair in order to participate. The Fair offers a variety of ticket packages including season passes, as well as the option to purchase parking online when you purchase a ticket.

Please bring your items when the gates open at 10 a.m. and head directly to the Creative Arts Building. **Drop off** your items between **10:00 -11:15 a.m.** in the contest kitchen on the east side of the Creative Arts building by the theater. Judging will begin at 11:30 a.m.

Once judging ends, winners will be announced, and ribbons will be awarded. Contestants will receive their items back, or they are welcome to donate them.



**STATE FAIR
OF
TEXAS**



COOKING CONTESTS

EMAIL CREATIVEARTS@BIGTEX.COM WITH ANY QUESTIONS. | VISIT BIGTEX.COM/CREATIVE FOR MORE

COOKING CONTEST SCHEDULE 2026

SAT.	APR. 25	CAKE CONTEST
SUN.	APR. 26	YOUTH COOKING CONTEST
SAT.	MAY 2	PIES/TARTS CONTEST
SUN.	MAY 3	COOKIE/BAR CONTEST
SAT.	SEPT. 26	BREAD CONTEST
SUN.	SEPT. 27	TEXAS CHUCK WAGON CONTEST
SUN.	SEPT. 27	BEST OF SHOWDOWN
WED.	SEPT. 30	HONEY, THE MAGIC INGREDIENT CONTEST BEEKEEPERS HONEY CONTEST
FRI.	OCT. 2	SPEEDY DISHES CONTEST RETRO REVIVAL CONTEST
SAT.	OCT. 3	TEX-MEX CONTEST
SUN.	OCT. 4	CHICKEN OR THE EGG CONTEST
WED.	OCT. 7	CHARCUTERIE BOARD CONTEST FAIR CONCOCTIONS CONTEST
FRI.	OCT. 9	SOUP OR SALAD CONTEST FARM TO FORK CONTEST
SUN.	OCT. 11	INTERNATIONAL CONTEST
WED.	OCT. 14	ICE CREAM COOK OFF CONTEST
FRI.	OCT. 16	COOKING WITH CHEESE CONTEST
SAT.	OCT. 17	CANDY CONTEST

KEY DATES

MARCH 25TH ➔ ALL HANDBOOKS RELEASED - COOKING & ARTS AND CRAFTS
➔ ONLINE REGISTRATION OPEN FOR BATTLE FOR THE BLUE RIBBONS COOKING CONTESTS
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ **MAY 6TH** ➔ ONLINE REGISTRATION OPEN FOR ALL COOKING AND ART & CRAFTS CONTESTS

★ A NEW BATTLE, ★ TWO WEEKENDS



Four of the Fair's most popular Creative Arts Cooking Contests will take place over two weekends in April and May. Blue-ribbon winners from the Cake, Cookies, and Pies contests will compete in the "Best of Show-Down" in the Competition Kitchen during the Fair on Sunday, 9/27/2026.

SAT., APR. 25 — CAKE CONTEST
SUN., APR. 26 — YOUTH CONTEST
SAT., MAY 2 — PIE CONTEST
SUN., MAY 3 — COOKIE CONTEST

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL STATE FAIR OF TEXAS COOKING CONTESTS. VISIT BIGTEX.COM/CREATIVE

BATTLE FOR THE BLUE RIBBONS

New! YOUTH COOKING CONTEST ADDED FOR 2026

The State Fair of Texas is proud to welcome back the Battle for the Blue Ribbons!

This spring, we're expanding the fun with a newly added **Youth Cooking** contest—moved from our Fair-time contests—and the return of our beloved **Cakes, Cookies, and Pies** categories. Contests will be held in late April and early May.

Competing during the Fair is fun but can be challenging for some, so offering select Cooking Contests in the spring helps make participation easier. We hope you'll join us for one, or all, of these spring competitions and take your shot at a coveted blue ribbon.

Contests are open to amateur home cooks of all ages who register online at BigTex.com/creatives.

Please bring your items to the Embarcadero building, connected to the Creative Arts building, at Fair Park, between **9:00 and 11:00 a.m.** for check-in. Judging will begin between 11:15 and 11:30 a.m. each day.

Once judging ends, winners will be announced, and ribbons will be awarded. Contestants will receive their items back, or they are welcome to donate them.

CONTESTS ★★★★★	CAKE APR. 25	YOUTH APR. 26	PIE MAY 2	COOKIES MAY 3
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BEST OF SHOW-DOWN DURING THE FAIR

Blue-ribbon winners from Cookies, Cake, and Pie during Battle for the Blue Ribbons will be invited to the Best of Show Down on September 27, 2026, during the State Fair of Texas. They will compete again on this day for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place in their contest. The three 1st place winners from each contest will compete for Grand Champion. The Grand Champion will receive \$500 as the winning prize.

All 1st–3rd place winners from the Youth competition, which concludes at Battle, will receive tickets to return and enjoy the Fair with their families.



CAKE CONTEST

➔ **SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026**

CHECK-IN 9:00 - 11:00 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

BEST OF SHOW
AWARDED BY:

COLLIN STREET BAKERY
Baked in Corsicana, Texas since 1896

CONTEST DESCRIPTION



Show off your baking talent with a beautifully crafted cake in a variety of styles and flavors. From classic layered to German chocolate, this contest celebrates the art of cake baking. Contestants will bring their best homemade cake to be presented to a panel of judges for evaluation.

JUDGING

Entries will be judged on taste, appearance, moistness, and texture.

ENTRY FEES (PER ITEM)

- \$6 per entry
- All ages welcome
- Amateurs only; no professional cooks or culinary teachers may enter.

MAXIMUM ENTRIES

Contestants may submit a maximum of six (6) entries, with only one (1) entry per category.

RIBBONS AND PRIZES

Each category will be awarded a first, second, and third place ribbon and may also include honorable mention. Best of Show awarded once at Best of Showdown on 9/27/2026. First place winners will come back and compete for Best of Show-Down during the Fair.

PURPLE	BEST OF SHOW	\$200
BLUE	1ST PLACE	\$25
RED	2ND PLACE	\$15
WHITE	3RD PLACE	\$10
YELLOW	HONORABLE MENTION	RIBBON



CAKE CONTEST

➔ **SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026**

CHECK-IN 9:00 - 11:00 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

BEST OF SHOW
AWARDED BY:

COLLIN STREET BAKERY
Baked in Corsicana, Texas since 1896

CONTEST RULES



- No mixes allowed in recipe (including pudding mix, etc.)
- No sauces (etc.) in a container on the side that judges have to add
- Cakes cannot be cut before serving
- Limited refrigeration is available; must request upon submission
- Entries under “Layer Cake” must be 2-3 layers
- Items such as crushed pineapple, coconut flakes, chocolate chips, peanut butter etc. are allowed. You are not allowed to purchase an entire layer of your cake. Example: a jelly layer of your cake should be made, not bought.
- A **typed recipe** for the entry item must be included on a separate sheet of 8.5"x11" white paper with the contestant's name, address, & phone number on the back. All ingredients with preparation instructions in order of ingredient usage must be included. Must include **U.S. standard measurement** in the recipe only or alongside metric system measurement. Any recipe photocopied out of a publication or printed from an online publication will not be accepted.

CATEGORIES



LAYERED CAKE

- **BA10.** Carrot
- **BA12.** Gluten free
- **BA15.** Yellow
- **BA28.** Chocolate
- **BA13.** Spice
- **BA11.** German chocolate
- **BA14.** White (no yolks)



CAKE CONTEST

➔ **SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026**

CHECK-IN 9:00 - 11:00 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

BEST OF SHOW
AWARDED BY:

COLLIN STREET BAKERY
Baked in Corsicana, Texas since 1896

CATEGORIES



LOAF, BUNDT, OR SHEET CAKE

- **BA16.** Angel food
- **BA23.** Cake roll
- **BA25.** Chocolate
- **BA27.** Coffee cake
- **BA17.** Cupcakes
(12 minimum)
- **BA26.** Flourless chocolate
cake
- **BA19.** Gluten free
- **BA20.** Nut
- **BA21.** Pound
- **BA22.** Spice
- **BA18.** Traditional fruitcake
- **BA24.** Upside down cake



YOUTH COOKING CONTEST

SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2026

CHECK-IN 9:00 - 11:00 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

BEST OF SHOW
AWARDED BY:



CONTEST DESCRIPTION



Young chefs put their skills to the test with dishes of their choice. Contestants will present their best homemade dishes to a panel of judges for evaluation.

JUDGING

Entries will be judged on creativity, flavor, and age-appropriate skills.

ENTRY FEES (PER ITEM)

- \$4 per entry
- Ages 5-17 years are welcome
- Amateurs only

MAXIMUM ENTRIES

Contestants may submit a maximum of six (6) entries, with only one (1) entry per category.

RIBBONS AND PRIZES

Each category will be awarded a first, second, and third place ribbon and may also include honorable mention. A Best of Show ribbon is awarded once.

PURPLE	BEST OF SHOW	\$200
BLUE	1ST PLACE	\$25
RED	2ND PLACE	\$15
WHITE	3RD PLACE	\$10
YELLOW	HONORABLE MENTION	RIBBON



YOUTH COOKING CONTEST

SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2026

CHECK-IN 9:00 - 11:00 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

BEST OF SHOW
AWARDED BY:



CONTEST RULES



- No mixes or alcohol are allowed
- One convenience item is allowed per entry. (e.g., jello, canned jelly, etc.)
- Limited refrigeration is available; must request upon submission
- Each entry must include at least one and a half (1½) dozen cookies, candies or cupcakes.
- A **typed recipe** for the entry item must be included on a separate sheet of 8.5"x11" white paper with the contestant's name, address, & phone number on the back. All ingredients with preparation instructions in order of ingredient usage must be included. Must include **U.S. standard measurement** in the recipe only or alongside metric system measurement. Any recipe photocopied out of a publication or printed from an online publication will not be accepted.

CATEGORIES



JUNIOR DIVISION (13-17 YRS.)

SAVORY

- **CH31.** Finger foods
- **CH32.** Bakes (casseroles, pasta bakes, etc.)
- **CH33.** Mash-up magic (two foods combined like mac & cheese and pizza, or spaghetti and a taco.)

CAKE BAKING *LAYER, LOAF, BUNDT, OR SHEET

- **CH15.** Chocolate
- **CH16.** White/Yellow
- **CH17.** Pound
- **CH18.** Spice
- **CH19.** Cupcakes (any)

COOKIES

- **CH20.** Drop
- **CH21.** Bars
- **CH22.** Holiday/Party



YOUTH COOKING CONTEST

SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2026

CHECK-IN 9:00 - 11:00 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

BEST OF SHOW
AWARDED BY:



CATEGORIES



CHILD DIVISION (5-12 YRS.)

SAVORY

- **CH34.** Finger foods
- **CH35.** Bakes (casseroles, pasta bakes, etc.)
- **CH36.** Mash-up magic (two foods combined like mac & cheese and pizza, or spaghetti and a taco)

CAKE BAKING *LAYER, LOAF, BUNDT, OR SHEET

- **CH37.** Cupcakes (any)

COOKIES

- **CH23.** Drop
- **CH24.** Bars
- **CH25.** Brownies
- **CH26.** Holiday/Party
- **CH27.** Cookie on a stick (any)



PIE/TARTS CONTEST

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2026

CHECK-IN 9:00 - 11:00 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

BEST OF SHOW
AWARDED BY:



CONTEST DESCRIPTION



Contestants will present their best homemade pies and tarts to a panel of judges for evaluation.

JUDGING

Entries will be judged on taste, consistency, crust, and appearance.

ENTRY FEES (PER ITEM)

- \$6 per entry
- All ages are welcome
- Amateurs only; no professional cooks or culinary teachers may enter

MAXIMUM ENTRIES

Contestants may submit a maximum of six (6) entries, with only one (1) entry per category.

RIBBONS AND PRIZES

Each category will be awarded a first, second, and third place ribbon and may also include honorable mention. Best of Show awarded once at Best of Showdown on 9/27/2026. The first place winners will come back and compete for Best of Show-Down during the State Fair.

PURPLE	BEST OF SHOW	\$200
BLUE	1ST PLACE	\$25
RED	2ND PLACE	\$15
WHITE	3RD PLACE	\$10
YELLOW	HONORABLE MENTION	RIBBON



PIE/TARTS CONTEST

➔ **SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2026**

CHECK-IN 9:00 - 11:00 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

BEST OF SHOW
AWARDED BY:



CONTEST RULES



- No mixes or store-bought sauces are allowed
- No sauces in a container that judges must add are allowed
- Pies cannot be cut before serving
- Limited refrigeration is available; must request upon submission
- No store-bought pie crusts are allowed; the recipe for the pie crust must be included in the typed recipe.
- **Pies must be in a traditional pie plate only**, not in tart or springform pans.
- Additions allowed (e.g., caramel, butterscotch chips, candy, cranberries, etc.)
- A **typed recipe** for the entry item must be included on a separate sheet of 8.5"x11" white paper with the contestant's name, address, & phone number on the back. All ingredients with preparation instructions in order of ingredient usage must be included. Must include **U.S. standard measurement** in the recipe only or alongside metric system measurement. Any recipe photocopied out of a publication or printed from an online publication will not be accepted.

CATEGORIES



PIES

- **BC30.** Berry Pie
- **BC31.** Buttermilk Pie
- **BC32.** Candy Bar Pie
- **BC33.** Chess Pie
- **BC34.** Chocolate Pie
- **BC35.** Citrus Pie
(No Key Lime)
- **BC36.** Cream Pie
(Chocolate or Fruit)
- **BC37.** Fruit Pie
(No Citrus or Cream)
- **BC38.** Key Lime Pie
- **BC39.** Nut Pie
- **BC40.** Peanut Butter Pie
- **BC41.** Pumpkin Pie
- **BC43.** Savory Pie
(No Quiche)
- **BC44.** Sugar Free Pie



PIE/TARTS CONTEST

➔ **SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2026**

CHECK-IN 9:00 - 11:00 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

BEST OF SHOW
AWARDED BY:



CATEGORIES



TARTS

- **BC45.** Chocolate Tart
- **BC46.** Fruit Tart
- **BC47.** Savory Tart
(No Quiche)



COOKIE/BAR CONTEST

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2026

CHECK-IN 10:00 - 11:15 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

BEST OF SHOW
AWARDED BY:



CONTEST DESCRIPTION



Bake your best batch and let your cookies shine. Any variety is welcome—drop cookies, bar cookies, macaroons, or creative twists. Any cookie category can also be a cookie bar. Contestants will present their best homemade cookies to a panel of judges for evaluation.

JUDGING

Entries will be judged on taste, appearance, and texture.

ENTRY FEES (PER ITEM)

- \$6 per entry
- All ages are welcome
- Amateurs only; no professional cooks or culinary teachers may enter

MAXIMUM ENTRIES

Contestants may submit a maximum of six (6) entries, with only one (1) entry per category.

RIBBONS AND PRIZES

Each category will be awarded a first, second, and third place ribbon and may also include honorable mention. Best of Show awarded once at Best of Showdown on 9/27/2026. The first-place winners will come back and compete for Best of Show-Down during the State Fair.

PURPLE	BEST OF SHOW	\$200
BLUE	1ST PLACE	\$25
RED	2ND PLACE	\$15
WHITE	3RD PLACE	\$10
YELLOW	HONORABLE MENTION	RIBBON



COOKIE/BAR CONTEST

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2026

CHECK-IN 10:00 - 11:15 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

BEST OF SHOW
AWARDED BY:



CONTEST RULES



- No mixes are allowed
- Entries must have at least one and a half (1½) dozen cookies
- Any container/plate is welcome
- No refrigeration is available
- The category listed refers to the main ingredient; additions are allowed (e.g., single ingredient items such as caramel, butterscotch chips, crushed candy, cranberries, etc.)
- No premade cookies are allowed as additions (e.g., Oreo®, Sandies®, etc.)
- A **typed recipe** for the entry item must be included on a separate sheet of 8.5"x11" white paper with the contestant's name, address, & phone number on the back. All ingredients with preparation instructions in order of ingredient usage must be included. Must include **U.S. standard measurement** in the recipe only or alongside metric system measurement. Any recipe photocopied out of a publication or printed from an online publication will not be accepted.

CATEGORIES



COOKIES

- **BB20.** Chocolate
- **BB21.** Chocolate chip
- **BB22.** Decorated
- **BB23.** Fruit
- **BB24.** Gluten free
- **BB25.** Holiday (any)
- **BB26.** Lemon
- **BB27.** Macaron
- **BB28.** Macaroon
- **BB29.** Oatmeal
- **BB30.** Peanut butter
- **BB31.** Shortbread
- **BB32.** Snickerdoodle
- **BB33.** Spice
- **BB34.** Sugar

LAYERED COOKIE BARS

- **BB35.** Blondie
- **BB36.** Brownie
- **BB37.** Fruit
- **BB38.** Chocolate



BREAD CONTEST

→ SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

CHECK-IN 10:00 - 11:15 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

BEST OF SHOW
AWARDED BY:



CONTEST DESCRIPTION



Celebrate the art of baking with entries highlighting breads, rolls, pastries, and sweet or savory baked goods. Contestants will present their best homemade items to a panel of judges for evaluation.

JUDGING

Entries will be judged on taste, symmetry of shape, uniform browning, appearance, and texture.

ENTRY FEES (PER ITEM)

- \$4 per entry
- All ages are welcome
- Amateurs only; no professional cooks or culinary teachers may enter

MAXIMUM ENTRIES

Contestants may submit a maximum of six (6) entries, with only one (1) entry per category.

RIBBONS AND PRIZES

Each category will be awarded a first, second, and third place ribbon and may also include honorable mention. A Best of Show ribbon is awarded once.

PURPLE	BEST OF SHOW	\$200
BLUE	1ST PLACE	\$15
RED	2ND PLACE	\$10
WHITE	3RD PLACE	\$5
YELLOW	HONORABLE MENTION	RIBBON



BREAD CONTEST

➔ **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026**

CHECK-IN 10:00 - 11:15 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

BEST OF SHOW
AWARDED BY:



CONTEST RULES



- No mixes or sauces
- Please make sure your entry can be portioned into bite-sized servings for up to 20 judges. **DO NOT pre-slice** any breads or pastries; servers will do that during judging
- Bread will not be toasted during judging; pastry entries can be heated before serving
- Dough may be prepared traditionally or in a bread machine
- Jams, jellies, and preserves are allowed in fruit bread
- One convenience item is allowed per pastry entry
- No refrigeration is available
- A **typed recipe** for the entry item must be included on a separate sheet of 8.5"x11" white paper with the contestant's name, address, & phone number on the back. All ingredients with preparation instructions in order of ingredient usage must be included. Must include **U.S. standard measurement** in the recipe only or alongside metric system measurement. Any recipe photocopied out of a publication or printed from an online publication will not be accepted.

CATEGORIES



YEAST BREAD

- **CA10.** Bread (Cheese, Herbs, Onion, etc.)
- **CA14.** Dinner Rolls (12)
- **CA11.** Gluten Free
- **CA17.** Sourdough
- **CA15.** Sweet Loafs and Coffee Cakes (Fruit, Chocolate, etc.)
- **CA16.** Sweet Rolls (Cinnamon, Fruit, etc.)
- **CA12.** White Loaf Bread
- **CA13.** Other Loaf Bread



BREAD CONTEST

➔ **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026**

CHECK-IN 10:00 - 11:15 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

BEST OF SHOW
AWARDED BY:



CATEGORIES



QUICK BREAD

- **CA18.** Beer Bread
- **CA19.** Biscuits (traditional)
- **CA25.** Combo Bread (fruit/vegetable)
- **CA21.** Cornbread
- **CA23.** Fruit Bread (Apple, Banana, etc.)
- **CA22.** Muffins (12)
- **CA20.** Scones
- **CA24.** Vegetable Bread (Pumpkin, Zucchini, etc.)

PASTRY

- **CA26.** Cream Puffs
- **CA27.** Danish
- **CA28.** Donuts
- **CA29.** Eclairs
- **CA30.** Empanadas
- **CA31.** Kolaches (Not Sausage)
- **CA32.** Sausage/Meat Rolls
- **CA33.** Strudel



TEXAS CHUCK WAGON CONTEST

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

CHECK-IN 10:00 - 11:15 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

BEST OF SHOW
AWARDED BY:



CONTEST DESCRIPTION



A tribute to classic cowboy cooking, this contest features hearty, Texas-style dishes such as BBQ, beans, chili, and more. Contestants will present their best homemade dish to a panel of judges for evaluation.

JUDGING

Entries will be judged on taste and texture, except for the Cobbler category. The Cobbler category will be judged on taste, texture, and appearance.

ENTRY FEES (PER ITEM)

- \$4 per entry
- All ages are welcome
- Amateurs only; no professional cooks or culinary teachers may enter

MAXIMUM ENTRIES

Contestants may submit a maximum of six (6) entries, with only one (1) entry per category.

RIBBONS AND PRIZES

Each category will be awarded a first, second, and third place ribbon and may also include honorable mention. A Best of Show ribbon is awarded once.

PURPLE	BEST OF SHOW	\$200
BLUE	1ST PLACE	\$15
RED	2ND PLACE	\$10
WHITE	3RD PLACE	\$5
YELLOW	HONORABLE MENTION	RIBBON



TEXAS CHUCK WAGON CONTEST

➔ **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026**

CHECK-IN 10:00 - 11:15 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

BEST OF SHOW
AWARDED BY:



CONTEST RULES



- No mixes are allowed
- Chicken must be half (½) of a whole chicken.
- Pork spareribs must have seven ribs
- Entries can be heated before serving the judges
- Sauces and garnishes must be presented on the side
- Pudding can be presented in individual cups or a bowl. If presented in cups, minimum of 6.
- Limited refrigeration is available; must request upon submission
- One convenience item is allowed per entry (e.g., mayonnaise, etc.)
- A **typed recipe** for the entry item must be included on a separate sheet of 8.5"x11" white paper with the contestant's name, address, & phone number on the back. All ingredients with preparation instructions in order of ingredient usage must be included. Must include **U.S. standard measurement** in the recipe only or alongside metric system measurement. Any recipe photocopied out of a publication or printed from an online publication will not be accepted.

CATEGORIES



MEAT

- **C010.** Brisket
- **C011.** Chicken
- **C012.** Pork spareribs
- **C017.** Turkey/Game meat

SIDES

- **C013.** Baked beans
- **C014.** Coleslaw
- **C015.** Potato salad



TEXAS CHUCK WAGON CONTEST

➔ **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026**

CHECK-IN 10:00 - 11:15 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

BEST OF SHOW
AWARDED BY:



CATEGORIES



CHILI

- **C019.** Chili with beans
- **C020.** Chili without beans
- **C021.** Vegetarian chili
- **C022.** White chili (chicken, turkey, white bean, etc.)

DESSERTS

- **C016.** Cobbler
- **C018.** Pudding (chocolate, banana, etc.)



HONEY, THE MAGIC INGREDIENT CONTEST

➔ **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2026**

CHECK-IN 10:00 - 11:15 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

SPECIAL PRIZES
AWARDED BY:



CONTEST DESCRIPTION



This contest celebrates honey as the magic ingredient and the essential role of bees. Dishes should feature honey prominently, with judging based on flavor, originality, and effective use of honey. Contestants will present their best homemade dish with honey to a panel of judges for evaluation.

JUDGING

Entries will be judged on taste, creativity, and presentation.

ENTRY FEES (PER ITEM)

- \$4 per entry
- All ages are welcome
- Amateurs only; no professional cooks or culinary teachers may enter

MAXIMUM ENTRIES

Contestants may submit a maximum of one (1) entry.

RIBBONS AND PRIZES

Each category will be awarded a first, second, and third place ribbon.

BLUE	1ST PLACE	\$200
RED	2ND PLACE	\$100
WHITE	3RD PLACE	\$50
YELLOW	HONORABLE MENTION	RIBBON



HONEY, THE MAGIC INGREDIENT CONTEST

➔ WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

CHECK-IN 10:00 - 11:15 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

SPECIAL PRIZES
AWARDED BY:



CONTEST RULES



- No mixes are allowed
- The recipe must contain honey; you may use half honey and half sugar or other sweeteners
- A **typed recipe** for the entry item must be included on a separate sheet of 8.5"x11" white paper with the contestant's name, address, & phone number on the back. All ingredients with preparation instructions in order of ingredient usage must be included. Must include **U.S. standard measurement** in the recipe only or alongside metric system measurement. Any recipe photocopied out of a publication or printed from an online publication will not be accepted.

CATEGORIES



- **CC10.** Any dish using honey



BEEKEEPERS HONEY CONTEST

➔ WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

CHECK-IN 10:00 - 11:15 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

SPECIAL PRIZES AWARDED BY:



CONTEST DESCRIPTION



Contestants will bring their honey entries to be presented to a panel of judges for evaluation.

JUDGING

Entries will be judged on blind tasting.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Contestants may only submit honey entries produced in their own Texas apiary or by bees that they manage for honey production in Texas

RIBBONS AND PRIZES

Ribbons awarded in each category. No Best of Show will be awarded.

BLUE	1ST PLACE	RIBBON
RED	2ND PLACE	RIBBON
WHITE	3RD PLACE	RIBBON

CONTEST RULES



- The morning of the contest, one entry form must be submitted with each honey container at the registration table. There is no fee for entering and entry forms will be on hand. NOTE: Online entry is not available.
- Each contestant must sign an affidavit stating that each entry he or she submits was produced by him/her in conformity with the rules set forth herein.
- The Honey Contests are open to anyone who wishes to enter one or more category, except as otherwise specifically provided for herein. However, no individual serving as judge, steward or helper may participate in judging or be in the same area during judging of the category in which they, or immediate family members have entered.



BEEKEEPERS HONEY CONTEST

➔ **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2026**

CHECK-IN 10:00 - 11:15 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

SPECIAL PRIZES
AWARDED BY:



CONTEST RULES



- Contestants may enter all categories, but only one entry per category. More than one individual from a family or household may submit entries across different categories. However, immediate family members and individuals from common households may not submit multiple entries in the same category.
- “Immediate Family Member” is defined as individuals who are spouses, siblings, parents, children, grandparents, grandchildren, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, first cousins, parents of common children, stepparents, stepchildren, or any individuals residing in the same residence.
- Contest administrators will affix coded tabs to entries upon submission.
- Once entries have been accepted into the competition by the administrators, they may not be altered in any way.
- There should be no identifying label or marks whatsoever on the exterior of the honey container(s), nor seals under the lid(s). Note: Though an entry may be registered and received by the contest administrators, once in the judging area it will be severely penalized if it has a label or identifying markings on it.
- If multiple entries score the same, moisture content will be the determining factor for Polished Jar.
- Score sheets for participants in the TBA Honey Contests will be provided after the winning entries have been announced – with the exception of the Black Jar Honey Contest.
- Disposition of entries: Following the Honey Contest, all entries will be donated to Happy Hill Children’s Farm along with the other honeys displayed in the Texas Beekeepers Association Honey Booth in the Food & Fiber Pavilion.



BEEKEEPERS HONEY CONTEST

➔ WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

CHECK-IN 10:00 - 11:15 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

SPECIAL PRIZES
AWARDED BY:



JUDGING CRITERIA PER CATEGORY



BLACK JAR HONEY JUDGING CRITERIA

- Judges will award 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place ribbons to entries based on blind tastings.
- Judges will not see the color, clarity, or any visual appeal of the honey.
- Judges evaluate entries based on flavor profile and taste alone.
- A panel of judges will taste, test and rank all the honey entries until the top three honey entries are determined.
- An “entry” consists of not less than two ounces, nor more than four ounces, of pure, unadulterated honey.
- Submit entry sample in a container without any identifying marks.

POLISHED JAR HONEY JUDGING CRITERIA

- Submit Polished Jar Honey entries in one-pound, glass (no plastic), “Queen-line” or “Classic” style jars (see example below): entries submitted in any other style of jar or container will not be accepted by the contest administrators.
- Closures may be of metal or plastic.
- Tamper-proof seals are strictly prohibited; any entries submitted with a tamper-proof seal will be penalized.
- **Judges evaluate entries on the following criteria: cleanliness of the jar and lid; correct fill level (see example below); cleanliness and clarity of the honey; aroma and flavor (for ‘off’ aromas or flavors), and moisture content (only if needed).**
- Judges will award 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place ribbons to entries based on total points received.
- Judges may award points to entries in the following categories for a possible 100 points.
- Extracted honey is judged in three categories (a) light, (b) medium or amber, and (c) dark.



BEEKEEPERS HONEY CONTEST

➔ **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2026**

CHECK-IN 10:00 - 11:15 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

SPECIAL PRIZES
AWARDED BY:



JUDGING CRITERIA PER CATEGORY



CREAMED JAR HONEY JUDGING CRITERIA

- Judges will award 1st, 2nd and 3rd place ribbons to entries based on total points received.
- Judges may award points to entries in the following categories for a possible 100 points.
- An entry of creamed honey is natural, unflavored, smoothly granulated, and spreadable.
- A creamed honey entry is submitted in a clear, wide-mouth, straight-sided glass jar with appropriate metal or plastic lid containing no less than eight ounces (8 oz.), nor more than sixteen ounces (16 oz) in net weight.
- **Judges evaluate entries on the following confirmation with the criteria set forth herein:**
Cleanliness of jar and lid; correct fill level; cleanliness and purity of honey; uniformity of product within the jar; fineness of crystals; appropriate set or firmness (should be spreadable but not runny); freedom from foam, frosting or visible moisture; freedom from added flavors, striation, or colors; uniformity of jars that comprise the entry; aroma and flavor (for 'off' aromas or flavors)' and moisture content (only if in question).



BEEKEEPERS HONEY CONTEST

➔ WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

CHECK-IN 10:00 - 11:15 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

SPECIAL PRIZES
AWARDED BY:



JUDGING CRITERIA PER CATEGORY



CHUNK COMB JUDGING CRITERIA

- An entry of chunk honey is a combination of extracted/liquid honey and comb honey.
- Chunk honey must be displayed in a one-pound, clear, wide-mouth, straight-sided, glass jar with appropriate one-piece metal or plastic lid. The one-pound (16oz.) net weight jar should not be embossed.
- Only one chunk of comb should be in each jar for competition. The chunk of comb must be in one piece, of uniform thickness, and with a straight mid rib. Entries should consist of white virgin comb with this year's wax. All foundation should be unwired, thin surplus. The cuts should be clean and uniform. The chunk comb should be cut and sized to appropriately fit the container. The honey should fill the rest of the jar to the correct fill line. The comb should be oriented in the container as found naturally in the hive. Comb with watery cappings should be avoided. The comb should extend the length of the jar. The chunk of comb should account for at least fifty percent (50%) of the internal volume of the jar.
- **Judges evaluate entries on the following: confirmation with the criteria set forth herein; cleanliness of the jar and lid; correct fill level; uniformity of the jars that comprise the entry; cleanliness and clarity of the honey; absence of pollen, brood, uncapped cells, "wet" or "watery" cappings, or travel stains on the cappings; freedom from granulation; absence of floating wax debris in or on the surface of the honey; moisture content (only if needed); and aroma and flavor (for off-aromas or flavors).**

JUDGING CRITERIA FOR ALL CATEGORIES

- Contest judges will evaluate and score entries on the day of the contest.
- Contest Committee Chairman will announce awards at the end of judging in the Creative Arts / State Fair Competition area.
- These contests do not award Best of Show.



BEEKEEPERS HONEY CONTEST

➔ WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

CHECK-IN 10:00 - 11:15 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

SPECIAL PRIZES AWARDED BY:



CATEGORIES



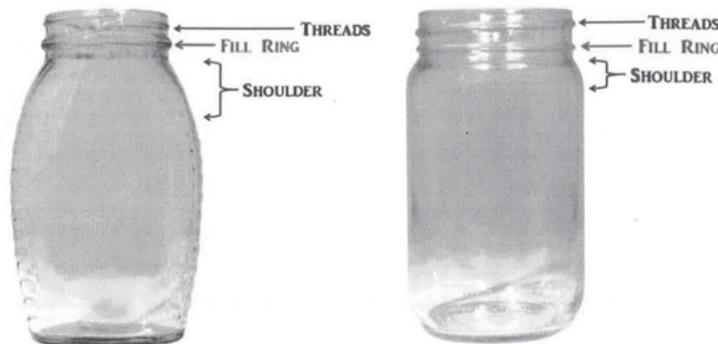
- **CD10.** Polished Jar Honey – Light
- **CD11.** Polished Jar Honey – Medium or Amber
- **CD12.** Polished Jar Honey – Dark
- **CD13.** Black Jar Honey
- **CD14.** Creamed Honey
- **CD15.** Chunk Comb Honey

HONEY JAR DIAGRAMS



The correct jar types for the Polished Jar Contest:

CLASSIC **QUEENLINE**





SPEEDY DISHES CONTEST

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2026

CHECK-IN 10:00 - 11:15 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

BEST OF SHOW
AWARDED BY:



CONTEST DESCRIPTION



Create a delicious dish using no more than six (6) ingredients that can be prepared in a jiffy! Contestants will bring their best homemade dish to be presented to a panel of judges for evaluation.

JUDGING

Entries will be judged on taste, appearance, and ease of preparation.

ENTRY FEES (PER ITEM)

- \$4 per entry
- All ages are welcome
- Amateurs only; no professional cooks or culinary teachers may enter

MAXIMUM ENTRIES

Contestants may submit a maximum of six (6) entries, with only one (1) entry per category.

RIBBONS AND PRIZES

Each category will be awarded a first, second, and third place ribbon and may also include honorable mention. Best of Show is awarded.

PURPLE	BEST OF SHOW	\$200
BLUE	1ST PLACE	\$15
RED	2ND PLACE	\$10
WHITE	3RD PLACE	\$5
YELLOW	HONORABLE MENTION	RIBBON



SPEEDY DISHES CONTEST

➔ **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2026**

CHECK-IN 10:00 - 11:15 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

BEST OF SHOW
AWARDED BY:



CONTEST RULES



- Your dish may have a maximum of six (6) ingredients, excluding salt, pepper, oil, butter, and water
- All ingredients may be convenience items (e.g., canned soup, cake mixes, salad dressing, etc.)
- Limited refrigeration available
- Please ensure your entry can be portioned into bite sized servings for up to 20 judges
- A **typed recipe** for the entry item must be included on a separate sheet of 8.5"x11" white paper with the contestant's name, address, & phone number on the back. All ingredients with preparation instructions in order of ingredient usage must be included. Must include **U.S. standard measurement** in the recipe only or alongside metric system measurement. Any recipe photocopied out of a publication or printed from an online publication will not be accepted.

CATEGORIES



- **CQ10.** Appetizer
- **CQ11.** Main dish
- **CQ116.** Snack
- **CQ15.** Dessert (any)
- **CQ13.** Salad
- **CQ12.** Vegetable side dish



RETRO REVIVAL CONTEST

➔ **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2026**

CHECK-IN 10:00 - 11:15 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

BEST OF SHOW
AWARDED BY:



CONTEST DESCRIPTION



Step back in time and bring classic recipes from the 1940s through the 1980s back to life! Contestants are invited to **reimagine, update, or put a modern twist on vintage favorites**—from retro casseroles and desserts to iconic appetizers and main dishes. Dust off grandma’s cookbook and let nostalgia inspire your culinary creation!

JUDGING

Entries will be judged on flavor, creativity, presentation, and how well the dish honors the original recipe while adding a fresh perspective.

ENTRY FEES (PER ITEM)

- \$4 per entry
- All ages are welcome
- Amateurs only; no professional cooks or culinary teachers may enter

MAXIMUM ENTRIES

Contestants may submit a maximum of six (6) entries, with only one (1) entry per category.

RIBBONS AND PRIZES

Each category will be awarded a first, second, and third place ribbon and may also include honorable mention. A Best of Show ribbon is awarded once.

PURPLE	BEST OF SHOW	\$200
BLUE	1ST PLACE	\$15
RED	2ND PLACE	\$10
WHITE	3RD PLACE	\$5
YELLOW	HONORABLE MENTION	RIBBON



RETRO REVIVAL CONTEST

➔ **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2026**

CHECK-IN 10:00 - 11:15 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

BEST OF SHOW
AWARDED BY:



CONTEST RULES



- Entries can be heated before serving judges
- Limited refrigeration is available; must request upon submission
- Convenience items (e.g., canned soup, cake mixes, salad dressing, etc.) are allowed based on original recipes
- **The original recipe** must be printed and included with your submission; can be photocopied or printed from the original source.
- The new, updated recipe for the entry item must be typed on a separate sheet of 8.5" x 11" white paper with the contestant's name, address, & phone number on the back. All ingredients with preparation instructions in order of ingredient usage must be included. Must include **U.S. standard measurement** in the recipe only or alongside metric system measurement.

CATEGORIES



- **CF10.** 1940s
- **CF11.** 1950s
- **CF12.** 1960s
- **CF13.** 1970s
- **CF14.** 1980s



TEX MEX CONTEST

➔ **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026**

CHECK-IN 10:00 - 11:15 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

BEST OF SHOW
AWARDED BY:



CONTEST DESCRIPTION



From enchiladas to queso, this contest highlights the bold, comforting flavors of Tex-Mex cuisine. Contestants will present their best dish to a panel of judges for evaluation.

JUDGING

Entries will be judged on taste and appearance.

MAXIMUM ENTRIES

Contestants may submit a maximum of six (6) entries, with only one (1) entry per category.

ENTRY FEES (PER ITEM)

- \$4 per entry
- All ages welcome
- Amateurs only; no professional cooks or culinary teachers may enter.

RIBBONS AND PRIZES

Each category will be awarded a first, second, and third place ribbon and may also include honorable mention. A Best of Show ribbon is awarded once.

PURPLE	BEST OF SHOW	\$200
BLUE	1ST PLACE	\$15
RED	2ND PLACE	\$10
WHITE	3RD PLACE	\$5
YELLOW	HONORABLE MENTION	RIBBON



TEX MEX CONTEST

➔ **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026**

CHECK-IN 10:00 - 11:15 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

BEST OF SHOW
AWARDED BY:



CONTEST RULES



- Entries can be heated before serving judges
- One convenience item is allowed per entry. (e.g., canned soup, etc.)
- No mixes are allowed
- Limited refrigeration is available; must request upon submission
- A **typed recipe** for the entry item must be included on a separate sheet of 8.5"x11" white paper with the contestant's name, address, & phone number on the back. All ingredients with preparation instructions in order of ingredient usage must be included. Must include **U.S. standard measurement** in the recipe only or alongside metric system measurement. Any recipe photocopied out of a publication or printed from an online publication will not be accepted.

CATEGORIES



- **CU16.** Dessert
- **CU15.** Entrée
- **CU10.** Salsa
- **CU14.** Enchiladas
- **CU11.** Party foods
- **CU12.** Tacos



CHICKEN OR THE EGG CONTEST

➔ SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2026
CHECK-IN 10:00 - 11:15 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

BEST OF SHOW
AWARDED BY:



CONTEST DESCRIPTION



Dishes must feature chicken or eggs as key components. The focus is on flavor, creativity, and effective use of the main ingredients. Contestants will present their best dish to a panel of judges for evaluation.

JUDGING

Entries will be judged on appearance, texture, and taste.

MAXIMUM ENTRIES

Contestants may submit a maximum of six (6) entries, with only one (1) entry per category.

ENTRY FEES (PER ITEM)

- \$4 per entry
- All ages welcome
- Amateurs only; no professional cooks or culinary teachers may enter.

RIBBONS AND PRIZES

Each category will be awarded a first, second, and third place ribbon and may also include honorable mention. A Best of Show ribbon is awarded once.

PURPLE	BEST OF SHOW	\$200
BLUE	1ST PLACE	\$15
RED	2ND PLACE	\$10
WHITE	3RD PLACE	\$5
YELLOW	HONORABLE MENTION	RIBBON



CHICKEN OR THE EGG CONTEST

➔ **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2026**

CHECK-IN 10:00 - 11:15 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

BEST OF SHOW
AWARDED BY:



CONTEST RULES



- No mixes are allowed
- Entries can be heated before serving judges
- One convenience item is allowed per entry (e.g., canned soup, salsa, etc.)
- Limited refrigeration is available; must request upon submission
- A **typed recipe** for the entry item must be included on a separate sheet of 8.5"x11" white paper with the contestant's name, address, & phone number on the back. All ingredients with preparation instructions in order of ingredient usage must be included. Must include **U.S. standard measurement** in the recipe only or alongside metric system measurement. Any recipe photocopied out of a publication or printed from an online publication will not be accepted.

CATEGORIES



CHICKEN

- **CS13.** Casserole
- **CS12.** Entrée
- **CS10.** Hors d'oeuvres
- **CS11.** Salad

EGG

- **CS17.** Dessert
- **CS16.** Entrée
- **CS14.** Hors d'oeuvres
- **CS15.** Salad



CHARCUTERIE BOARD CONTEST

➔ **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2026**

CHECK-IN 10:00 - 11:15 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

BEST OF SHOW
AWARDED BY:



CONTEST DESCRIPTION



This contest showcases the artistry of charcuterie boards judged **solely on visual presentation**. Creativity, arrangement, color balance, and theme are key. Contestants present a creative and attractive handmade charcuterie board to judges for evaluation.

JUDGING

Entries will not be tasted. Entries will be judged on presentation and creativity.

MAXIMUM ENTRIES

Contestants may enter up to five (5) categories. One (1) entry per category.

ENTRY FEES (PER ITEM)

- \$4 per entry
- All ages welcome
- Amateurs only; no professional cooks or culinary teachers may enter.

RIBBONS AND PRIZES

Each category will be awarded a first, second, and third place ribbon, and may also include honorable mention. No Best of Show ribbon is awarded in this category.

BLUE	1ST PLACE	\$50
RED	2ND PLACE	\$25
WHITE	3RD PLACE	\$15
YELLOW	HONORABLE MENTION	RIBBON



CHARCUTERIE BOARD CONTEST

➔ **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2026**

CHECK-IN 10:00 - 11:15 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

BEST OF SHOW
AWARDED BY:



CONTEST RULES



- Entries should be displayed on a board, tray, or platter (minimum size: 6" x 6", maximum size: 14" x 14")
- Mixes and convenience items are allowed
- Some non-food items may be used for garnish
- No more than 30% of the display may consist of non-food decorative elements
- **Entries will not be tasted**

CATEGORIES



- **CN10.** Dessert board
- **CN14.** Holiday Board (any)
- **CN13.** Jar-cuterie Board (four or more vessels of any kind)
- **CN12.** Seasonal board (winter, fall, spring, summer)
- **CN11.** State Fair of Texas inspired board



FAIR CONCOCTIONS CONTEST

➔ **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2026**

CHECK-IN 10:00 - 11:15 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

BEST OF SHOW
AWARDED BY:

Big Tex.

CONTEST DESCRIPTION



Celebrate bold, festive flavors with fun, indulgent dishes inspired by what you would find at the State Fair! Be creative, fun, and think outside the box.

JUDGING

Entries will be judged on taste, creativity, and appearance.

MAXIMUM ENTRIES

Contestants may submit a maximum of four (4) entries, with only one (1) entry per category.

ENTRY FEES (PER ITEM)

- \$4 per entry
- All ages welcome
- Amateurs only; no professional cooks or culinary teachers may enter.

RIBBONS AND PRIZES

Each category will be awarded a first, second, and third place ribbon and may also include honorable mention. A Best of Show ribbon is awarded once.

PURPLE	BEST OF SHOW	\$200
BLUE	1ST PLACE	\$15
RED	2ND PLACE	\$10
WHITE	3RD PLACE	\$5
YELLOW	HONORABLE MENTION	RIBBON



FAIR CONCOCTIONS CONTEST

➔ **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2026**

CHECK-IN 10:00 - 11:15 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

BEST OF SHOW
AWARDED BY:

Big Tex.

CONTEST RULES



- No mixes are allowed
- Limited refrigeration is available; must request upon submission
- One convenience item is allowed per entry (e.g., canned soup, salsa, etc.)
- Must have 12 servings per category
- The Sippers category is a beverage/drink category
- No alcohol in the Sippers category
- A **typed recipe** for the entry item must be included on a separate sheet of 8.5"x11" white paper with the contestant's name, address, & phone number on the back. All ingredients with preparation instructions in order of ingredient usage must be included. Must include **U.S. standard measurement** in the recipe only or alongside metric system measurement. Any recipe photocopied out of a publication or printed from an online publication will not be accepted.

CATEGORIES



- **CR12.** On a stick
- **CR13.** Sippers
- **CR11.** Savory
- **CR10.** Sweet



SOUP OR SALAD CONTEST

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2026

CHECK-IN 10:00 - 11:15 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

BEST OF SHOW
AWARDED BY:



CONTEST DESCRIPTION



Warm, hearty soups or fresh, inventive salads are welcome in this flexible contest. Contestants will present their best homemade dish to a panel of judges for evaluation.

JUDGING

Entries will be judged on taste and appearance.

MAXIMUM ENTRIES

Contestants may submit a maximum of six (6) entries, with only one (1) entry per category.

ENTRY FEES (PER ITEM)

- \$4 per entry
- All ages welcome
- Amateurs only; no professional cooks or culinary teachers may enter.

RIBBONS AND PRIZES

Each category will be awarded a first, second, and third place ribbon and may also include honorable mention. A Best of Show ribbon is awarded once.

PURPLE	BEST OF SHOW	\$200
BLUE	1ST PLACE	\$15
RED	2ND PLACE	\$10
WHITE	3RD PLACE	\$5
YELLOW	HONORABLE MENTION	RIBBON



SOUP OR SALAD CONTEST

➔ **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2026**

CHECK-IN 10:00 - 11:15 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

BEST OF SHOW
AWARDED BY:



CONTEST RULES



- Entries can be heated before serving judges
- Limited refrigeration is available; must request upon submission
- One convenience item is allowed per entry
- A **typed recipe** for the entry item must be included on a separate sheet of 8.5"x11" white paper with the contestant's name, address, & phone number on the back. All ingredients with preparation instructions in order of ingredient usage must be included. Must include **U.S. standard measurement** in the recipe only or alongside metric system measurement. Any recipe photocopied out of a publication or printed from an online publication will not be accepted.

CATEGORIES



SOUP

- **CK10.** Chicken
- **CK11.** Tex-Mex soup
- **CK12.** Cream
- **CK13.** Veggie
- **CK18.** Other meat

SALAD

- **CK14.** Chicken
- **CK16.** Pasta
- **CK15.** Fruit
- **CK17.** Veggie



FARM TO FORK CONTEST

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2026

CHECK-IN 10:00 - 11:15 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

BEST OF SHOW
AWARDED BY:



CONTEST DESCRIPTION



Entries must feature fresh, seasonal ingredients sourced from gardens, farms, or local producers. Judges consider taste, quality of ingredients, and overall connection to farm-fresh cooking. Contestants will present their best homemade dish to a panel of judges for evaluation.

JUDGING

Entries will be judged on taste, ingredients used, and presentation.

MAXIMUM ENTRIES

Contestants may submit a maximum of six (6) entries, with only one (1) entry per category.

ENTRY FEES (PER ITEM)

- \$4 per entry
- All ages welcome
- Amateurs only; no professional cooks or culinary teachers may enter.

RIBBONS AND PRIZES

Each category will be awarded a first, second, and third place ribbon and may also include honorable mention. A Best of Show ribbon is awarded once.

PURPLE	BEST OF SHOW	\$200
BLUE	1ST PLACE	\$15
RED	2ND PLACE	\$10
WHITE	3RD PLACE	\$5
YELLOW	HONORABLE MENTION	RIBBON



FARM TO FORK CONTEST

➔ **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2026**

CHECK-IN 10:00 - 11:15 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

BEST OF SHOW
AWARDED BY:



CONTEST RULES



- No mixes are allowed
- Contestants must make a sweet or savory dish using fresh produce
- Limited refrigeration is available; must request upon submission
- No commercially canned products are allowed; fresh or frozen produce is allowed, as well as tofu
- A **typed recipe** for the entry item must be included on a separate sheet of 8.5"x11" white paper with the contestant's name, address, & phone number on the back. All ingredients with preparation instructions in order of ingredient usage must be included. Must include **U.S. standard measurement** in the recipe only or alongside metric system measurement. Any recipe photocopied out of a publication or printed from an online publication will not be accepted.

CATEGORIES



VEGETABLES

- **CE10.** Broccoli
- **CE11.** Brussels sprouts
- **CE12.** Cauliflower
- **CE13.** Corn
- **CE14.** Eggplant
- **CE17.** Gourd/Squash
- **CE22.** Grains, legumes, and chickpeas
- **CE23.** Greens (kale, collards, spinach, etc.)
- **CE24.** Mushroom
- **CE15.** Potatoes
- **CE16.** Railroad pie
- **CE18.** Tomatoes

SWEETS

- **CE19.** Fried pies (minimum of eight (8))
- **CE20.** Fruit desserts (any)
- **CE21.** Nut desserts (any)
- **CE25.** Vegetable dessert (any, e.g., sweet potato, rhubarb, etc.)



INTERNATIONAL CONTEST

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2026

CHECK-IN 10:00 - 11:15 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

BEST OF SHOW
AWARDED BY:



CONTEST DESCRIPTION



Showcase flavors from around the world with dishes inspired by global cultures. Whether it's a recipe passed down in your family or a new concoction you have always wanted to try, we want to see your international flavors! Contestants will present their best homemade dish to a panel of judges for evaluation.

JUDGING

Entries will be judged on taste and appearance.

MAXIMUM ENTRIES

Contestants may submit a maximum of six (6) entries, with only one (1) entry per category.

ENTRY FEES (PER ITEM)

- \$4 per entry
- All ages welcome
- Amateurs only; no professional cooks or culinary teachers may enter.

RIBBONS AND PRIZES

Each category will be awarded a first, second, and third place ribbon and may also include honorable mention. A Best of Show ribbon is awarded once.

PURPLE	BEST OF SHOW	\$200
BLUE	1ST PLACE	\$15
RED	2ND PLACE	\$10
WHITE	3RD PLACE	\$5
YELLOW	HONORABLE MENTION	RIBBON



INTERNATIONAL CONTEST

➔ **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2026**

CHECK-IN 10:00 - 11:15 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

BEST OF SHOW
AWARDED BY:



CONTEST RULES



- Entries may be any signature dish, sweet or savory, from the country chosen
- No mixes are allowed
- Limited refrigeration is available; must request upon submission
- One convenience item is allowed per entry (e.g., canned soup, etc.)
- A **typed recipe** for the entry item must be included on a separate sheet of 8.5"x11" white paper with the contestant's name, address, & phone number on the back. All ingredients with preparation instructions in order of ingredient usage must be included. Must include **U.S. standard measurement** in the recipe only or alongside metric system measurement. Any recipe photocopied out of a publication or printed from an online publication will not be accepted.

CATEGORIES



- **CP10.** Asian
- **CP11.** Cajun
- **CP12.** French
- **CP13.** Indian
- **CP14.** Italian
- **CP15.** Latin
- **CP16.** Mediterranean/Middle Eastern
- **CP17.** Any not listed above
- **CP18.** Sweden



ICE CREAM COOK OFF CONTEST

➔ **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2026**

CHECK-IN 10:00 - 11:15 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

BEST OF SHOW
AWARDED BY:



CONTEST DESCRIPTION



Contestants create homemade ice cream on-site, showcasing flavor, texture, and originality. All the cooking will occur during the State Fair in front of a live audience and will be presented to judges for evaluation. Contestants may come with their prepared custard base. Everything else will be prepared on site, including toasting any toppings needed.

JUDGING

Entries will be judged on texture and taste.

MAXIMUM ENTRIES

Contestants may enter one (1) category.

ENTRY FEES (PER ITEM)

- \$4 per entry
- All ages welcome
- Amateurs only; no professional cooks or culinary teachers may enter.

RIBBONS AND PRIZES

Each category will be awarded a first, second, and third place ribbon and may also include honorable mention. A Best of Show ribbon is awarded once.

PURPLE	BEST OF SHOW	\$200
BLUE	1ST PLACE	\$15
RED	2ND PLACE	\$10
WHITE	3RD PLACE	\$5
YELLOW	HONORABLE MENTION	RIBBON



ICE CREAM COOK OFF CONTEST

➔ **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2026**

CHECK-IN 10:00 - 11:15 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

BEST OF SHOW
AWARDED BY:



CONTEST RULES



- No mixes are allowed
- Participation is limited and is based on a pre-fair lottery system
- Limited refrigeration is available
- Ice will be provided
- Compressor machines, manual, pre-chilled canister, any electric machines are all accepted ice cream makers; please bring your own machine and salt
- Contestants must bring all the necessary ingredients and equipment
- Please prepare any custard base at home
- A **typed recipe** for the entry item must be included on a separate sheet of 8.5"x11" white paper with the contestant's name, address, & phone number on the back. All ingredients with preparation instructions in order of ingredient usage must be included. Must include **U.S. standard measurement** in the recipe only or alongside metric system measurement. Any recipe photocopied out of a publication or printed from an online publication will not be accepted.

CATEGORIES



- **CL10.** Chocolate (with or without additions)
- **CL11.** Vanilla (with or without additions)
- **CL12.** Fruit
- **CL13.** Nuts
- **CL14.** Any other (peppermint, marshmallow, etc.)



COOKING WITH CHEESE CONTEST

➔ **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2026**

CHECK-IN 10:00 - 11:15 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

BEST OF SHOW
AWARDED BY:



CONTEST DESCRIPTION



From gooey comfort dishes to gourmet specialties, this contest showcases foods where **cheese is the star ingredient**. Contestants will present their best cheese dish to a panel of judges for evaluation.

JUDGING

Entries will be judged on appearance, creativity, and taste.

MAXIMUM ENTRIES

Contestants may submit a maximum of six (6) entries, with only one (1) entry per category.

ENTRY FEES (PER ITEM)

- \$4 per entry
- All ages welcome
- Amateurs only; no professional cooks or culinary teachers may enter.

RIBBONS AND PRIZES

Each category will be awarded a first, second, and third place ribbon and may also include honorable mention. A Best of Show ribbon is awarded once.

PURPLE	BEST OF SHOW	\$200
BLUE	1ST PLACE	\$15
RED	2ND PLACE	\$10
WHITE	3RD PLACE	\$5
YELLOW	HONORABLE MENTION	RIBBON



COOKING WITH CHEESE CONTEST

➔ **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2026**

CHECK-IN 10:00 - 11:15 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

BEST OF SHOW
AWARDED BY:



CONTEST RULES



- No mixes are allowed
- Entries can be heated before serving judges
- One convenience item is allowed per entry (e.g., canned soup, salsa); store-bought bread for grilled cheese is allowed
- Limited refrigeration is available; must request upon submission
- Please ensure that all entries can be portioned into bite-sized servings for up to 20 judges; **do not pre-portion any dishes**, servers will do that prior to judging.
- A **typed recipe** for the entry item must be included on a separate sheet of 8.5"x11" white paper with the contestant's name, address, & phone number on the back. All ingredients with preparation instructions in order of ingredient usage must be included. Must include **U.S. standard measurement** in the recipe only or alongside metric system measurement. Any recipe photocopied out of a publication or printed from an online publication will not be accepted.

CATEGORIES



CHEESE DISHES

- **CB10.** Cheese appetizer
- **CB15.** Cheesecake (can be bars or a whole cake)
- **CB14.** Cheese dessert (except cheesecake)
- **CB17.** Cheese pizza or flatbread (additions allowed)
- **CB13.** Cheese soup
- **CB12.** Mac and cheese
- **CB11.** Pimento cheese
- **CB16.** Stuffed with cheese (stuffed mushrooms, jalapeño poppers, stuffed pasta, etc.)

GRILLED CHEESES

- **CB18.** Any combo with meat
- **CB19.** Any combo without meat



CANDY CONTEST

→ SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2026

CHECK-IN 10:00 - 11:15 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

BEST OF SHOW
AWARDED BY:



CONTEST DESCRIPTION



Contestants will present their best homemade items to a panel of judges for evaluation. Homemade sweets of all kinds—caramels, brittles, chocolates, and more—are welcome.

JUDGING

Entries will be judged on appearance, texture, and taste.

MAXIMUM ENTRIES

Contestants may submit a maximum of six (6) entries, with only one (1) entry per category.

ENTRY FEES (PER ITEM)

- \$4 per entry
- All ages welcome
- Amateurs only; no professional cooks or culinary teachers may enter.

RIBBONS AND PRIZES

Each category will be awarded a first, second, and third place ribbon and may also include honorable mention. Best of Show awarded once.

PURPLE	BEST OF SHOW	\$200
BLUE	1ST PLACE	\$15
RED	2ND PLACE	\$10
WHITE	3RD PLACE	\$5
YELLOW	HONORABLE MENTION	RIBBON



CANDY CONTEST

➔ **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2026**

CHECK-IN 10:00 - 11:15 A.M. • JUDGING 11:30 A.M.

BEST OF SHOW
AWARDED BY:



CONTEST RULES



- No mixes or sauces are allowed
- Limited refrigeration is available; must request upon submission
- Entries must include one and a half (1½) dozen candies per entry
- A **typed recipe** for the entry item must be included on a separate sheet of 8.5"x11" white paper with the contestant's name, address, & phone number on the back. All ingredients with preparation instructions in order of ingredient usage must be included. Must include **U.S. standard measurement** in the recipe only or alongside metric system measurement. Any recipe photocopied out of a publication or printed from an online publication will not be accepted.

CATEGORIES



- **CV21.** Bark (peppermint, nut, etc.)
- **CV10.** Caramels
- **CV11.** Divinity
- **CV12.** Fudge (chocolate)
- **CV13.** Fudge (not chocolate)
- **CV14.** Hand dipped chocolates
- **CV15.** Hard candy
- **CV16.** Mints
- **CV17.** Nut brittles
- **CV18.** Nut roll
- **CV19.** Pralines
- **CV20.** Toffee

JUNIOR CANDY (13-17 YRS.)

- **CV25.** Bark (Peppermint, nut, etc.)
- **CV26.** Divinity
- **CV27.** Fudge
- **CV28.** Hand dipped chocolates
- **CV29.** Mints

CHILD CANDY (4-12 YRS.)

- **CV22.** Bark
- **CV23.** Fudge
- **CV24.** Other candy