

Chili Cook-off Information

WhistleStop Weekend 2016 will host the Alabama Chili Championship (CASI) and the Rocket City Chili Championship (Open). The Top 3 winning CASI cooks AUTO Qualify for 2016 Terlingua International Chili Championship (TICC) in November held in Terlingua, Texas.

The Alabama State Chili Championships is sanctioned by the Chili Appreciation Society International (CASI). Sanctioning insures that a high standard of judging criteria will be used to determine our winners. All scoring tabulation will be done by CASI officials.

Chili Cook-Off Classes:

Alabama State Chili Championship (CASI): Competition Chili must be cooked on-site for judging. CASI contest-style chili is a traditional red chili with a meat, seasoning and spices in a smooth liquid gravy. It contains NO beans or other "Fillers". The chili contains very little or no grease. Trophies will be given to the Top 3 winners. First through third place CASI winners receive a trophy and qualify for CASI points which can be used for entry into the Terlingua International World Championship Chili competition held annually during the month of November in Texas.

Rocket City Chili Championship (OPEN / HOMESTYLE): This class of Chili must be cooked on-site for judging. No restrictions of meat, beans, or fillers. Anything goes! This chili is the cook's favorite combination of ingredients resulting in a dish seasoned with chili peppers, spices and combination of fillers. Trophies will be given to the Top 10 winners will be recognized with the top 3 receiving trophies.

PEOPLES'S CHOICE: Chili can be prepared in advance, or on-site. All competitors will automatically be entered in the People's Choice category upon entry unless otherwise stated. **A minimum of three gallons (3 gal.) must be prepared for distribution to the public for sampling on Saturday, May 7th from 11am-1pm.** This competition involves sampling by judges and event attendees. Please be aware that each team's liability is based on ingredients cooked in anything you serve. Teams preparing and serving harmful ingredients will be held liable. Each booth will be given 3/4 oz. sample cups and spoons, napkins and a 1 oz. ladle for serving. Trophies will be given to the Top 3 winners.

Schedule for Saturday, May 7

7am-8:30am (Set-up) *during set-up vehicles may enter the Chili Cook-Off area for unloading.*

***Detailed information on parking will be included in the cookers packet.*

7am-10am (Meat Inspection Begins) *meat inspectors will be on site located in the Auto House. Meat must be inspected before cooking can begin. All meat must be raw, non-marinated and in original packaging.*

9:00- 9:30am (Mandatory Cooks Meeting) *will be held in the Auto House to go over rules and answer any questions about the cook-off. A representative from each team must be present at the meeting. Teams will receive the Styrofoam cups (16 oz) needed for judging.*

11am (Event Opens to the Public)

12pm (OPEN - Chili Turn-In for Rocket City Chili Championship at the Auto House)

12:15pm-1:30pm (OPEN Chili Judging at the Auto House)

11am-1:00pm (People's Choice Judging)

11:30am-1:30pm (CASI Showmanship Judging)

2pm (CASI Turn-In for Alabama State Chili Cook-off (CASI) at the Auto House)

2:15pm-3:30pm (CASI Chili Judging at the Auto House)

4pm-5pm (Site Breakdown & Clean-up)

5pm (KCBS and Chili Cook-off Awards on the Main Stage)

Competition Guidelines/Rules

1. Persons 18 years and older are eligible to compete in Chili Cook-Off Competitions
2. Teams must pre-register to compete. Open and People's Choice Competition is limited to 50 entries. Registration fee is \$50 to enter the Rocket City Chili Competition for "Open Category and for "People Choice" there is no extra charge. Entry fee includes two wristbands per team which must be worn during WhistleStop Weekend hours by all team members. Additional wristbands can be purchased upon request for a Special Discount. See registration application.

3. Applications for Chili Cook-off competitions will be available beginning Friday, March 4, 2016. No refunds will be made after March 30, 2016 regardless of reason.
4. All Chili Cook-Off information, including acceptance into contest, will be sent via email. **Should your email change at any time it is your responsibility to notify the WhistleStop Committee.**
5. Chili cooking sites are assigned based upon order of when applications including payment are received. Each chili cooking site is approximately 10' x 10'. Set-up time is 7 am to 8:30am on Saturday, May 7th. During set-up times vehicles may enter the Chili Cook off area for unloading. All vehicles must have driver's placard with name and phone number visible on dash board. (Provided in Cook's Packet). Any vehicle left in the Festival area after 8:30am on Saturday will be towed.
6. Meat must be inspected before cooking can begin. Meat inspectors will be located in the Auto House until 10 am on Saturday, May 7th. All meat must be raw, non-marinated and in original packaging.
7. A **MANDATORY** Cooks' Meeting will be held Saturday at 9:00 am at the Auto House to go over the rules and answer any questions about the cook-off. A representative from each team must be present at the meeting.
8. Chili entrees must be submitted in Styrofoam cups (24 Oz) provided at the Mandatory Cooks' Meeting.
9. Contest chili entrees will be turned in at the Auto House.
10. Ice will be available for \$5 a bag during the Festival.
11. Water and electricity are available on a limited and shared basis.
12. Absolutely NO pets are allowed on the festival grounds.
13. Safety of this event is paramount! Any unsafe acts or safety issues identified by the Festival committee may cause removal from the Festival grounds.
14. Motorized vehicles are prohibited at all times during festival hours unless otherwise authorized by Festival committee.
15. No commercial vending or solicitation allowed in the Chili Cook off area. Commercial spaces available- contact WhistleStop Coordinator.
16. All cooker supplies, including alcoholic beverages, must be brought in before 9 am on Saturday. Alcoholic beverages will not be allowed to enter through the gates during WhistleStop Weekend Festival hours.
17. Keg beer is prohibited at all times, unless prior arrangements have been made with the Festival Director.
18. WhistleStop prohibits the distribution any flyers, or pamphlets of any kind, without prior approval from the Festival Director.
19. Awards will be announced at the Main Stage on Saturday, at 5:00 PM. The Top 10 in CASI, Open and People's Choice will be recognized with the Top 3 in each category receiving trophies. First through tenth place CASI qualify for CASI points which can be used for entry into the Terlingua International World Championship Chili competition held annually during the month of November in Texas.
20. A "Grand Champion" Award will recognize the best team overall competing in the following: CASI, OPEN, PEOPLE'S CHOICE and Showmanship and will be awarded the

WhistleStop “Grand Chili Champion” Award and will automatically be entered into the competition the following year. All four Event Categories must be entered to be eligible for the “Grand Champion” Award. A points system will be used to determine an overall “Grand Champion”. Points will be awarded to competition teams who place 1st, 2nd, 3rd places in each of the three above listed categories to determine the overall “Grand Champion”.

GRAND CHAMPION POINT SYTEMS

CASI & OPEN

1st = 4 pts.

2nd = 3 pts.

3rd = 2 pts.

4th thru 10th = 1 pt each.

SHOWMANSHIP

1st = 4 pts.

2nd = 3 pts.

3rd = 2 pts.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

1st = 4 pts.

2nd = 3 pts.

3rd = 2 pts.

ADDITIONAL COOKING INFORMATION

- **CHILI COOKED ON SITE** - All chili must be cooked from scratch on site the day of the cook-off. All chili must be prepared in the open (No cooking in motorhomes, etc.).
- **CHILI COOKED FROM SCRATCH** - "Scratch" is defined as starting with raw meat. No marinating is allowed. Commercial chili powder is permissible, but complete commercial chili mixes ("Just add meat" mixes that contain premeasured spices) are NOT permitted.
- **NO FILLERS IN CHILI** - Beans, macaroni, rice, hominy, or other similar ingredients are not permitted.
- **SANITATION** - Cooks are to prepare and cook chili in as sanitary a manner as possible.
- **INSPECTION OF COOKING CONDITIONS** - Cooking conditions are subject to inspection by the head judge or his/her designee and CASI Referee. (Failure to comply is subject to disqualification.)

- **COOKS MAY HAVE TO TASTE THEIR CHILI** - At the discretion of the head judge or CASI Referee, chili cooks may be required to remove the lids from their chili cups and taste their chili before turning in for judging. (If a contestant refuses, his or her chili will be disqualified.).
- **ONE CHILI PER COOK** - Each head cook is responsible for preparing one pot of chili that he or she intends to be judged and turning in one judging cup from that pot. No more than one judging sample can be taken from any one pot.
- **COOKS MUST SIGN NUMBER SLIPS** - Chili cooks must sign their secret number slips in ink with their first and last names at the time cups are issued. Winners will not be eligible if their secret numbers are unsigned when presented. NOTE: Cooks must present their signed secret numbers to win.
- **PROTECT THE JUDGING CUP** - Once judging cups have been issued, each head cook is responsible for his or her judging cup. Cooks must not remove or tamper with the numbers on the outside of the cups. Any marked or altered cup must be replaced prior to turn-in or it will be disqualified.
- **FILLING CUPS** - Cups will be filled $\frac{3}{4}$ full or to the level designated at the cooks' meeting.
- **CHILI TURN-IN** - Chili will be turned in at the place and time designated at the cooks' meeting or as otherwise designated by the head judge.
- **PYROTECHNICS** - No chili contestant may discharge firearms or use any pyrotechnics or explosives at a chili cook-off. Contestants discharging firearms and/or using explosives or other pyrotechnics will be disqualified from the chili cook-off and immediately removed from the Festival.
- **PENALTIES** - Failure to comply with CASI rules will result in disqualification of an individual cook for the cook-off. Decisions of the official(s) are final. In case of disqualification, the CASI official monitoring the cook-off will immediately notify the head cook and give a reason for disqualification. In the event disqualification of a cup of chili occurs after judging has started, it is not necessary that the cook be located or given an explanation for the disqualification.
- **JUDGING CRITERIA AND SCORING** - A single score takes into consideration the five criteria for scoring chili:
 - Aroma
 - Consistency
 - Red Color
 - Taste
 - Aftertaste
- **TURN-IN TIME** - No chili will be accepted after judging commences. Contestants must be notified at the cooks' meeting of the turn-in time.

SHOWMANSHIP RULES

- **SHOWMANSHIP ENTRIES** - To be judged, contestants must declare their intention to compete in show at least thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of showmanship. This may be done when signing for the chili judging cup.
- **SHOW TEAMS ALSO MUST ENTER CHILI** - Showmanship teams must have a minimum of one cook entered in the chili competition in order to qualify for showmanship points.
- **ONE NAME PER SHOW TEAM** - Showmanship teams must enter all cook-offs in a chili year under one name and with one mailing address in order to avoid confusion in the recording of showmanship points. Team names may change at the beginning of the chili year.
- **PERFORMANCE OF SHOWMANSHIP** - Hired professional performers will not be allowed in showmanship competition.
- **PERFORMANCE** - Showmanship teams must be limited in their activity so as not to interfere with the other contestants. Traveling (moving around the cooking area) is allowed, and traveling show teams will be judged while traveling.
- **SHOW STANDARDS** - Nudity and lewdness are banned from showmanship. Intentional use by any contestant will result in disqualification of that team.
- **NO INTERFERENCE WITH SHOW** - There will be no outside entertainment or interference (e.g., bands, performances, etc.) with showmanship during the showmanship period.
- **AMPLIFICATION** - Decisions on volume and interference with adjacent show teams are at the discretion of the head show judge, head judge, and/or CASI official monitoring the cook-off. Failure to comply with an official's request to reduce volume or refrain from otherwise interfering with another show team will result in disqualification of that team.
- **PYROTECHNICS** - No showmanship contestant may discharge firearms or use any pyrotechnics or explosives at a chili cook-off. Contestants discharging firearms and/or using explosives or other pyrotechnics will be disqualified from the chili cook-off and immediately removed from the Festival.
- **PENALTIES** - Failure to comply with CASI rules is subject to disqualification of the individual show team for that cook-off. In the case of disqualification, the CASI official monitoring the cook-off, head judge, or head showmanship judge immediately must notify the show team captain and give a reason for the disqualification. Decisions of the official(s) are final.

SHOWMANSHIP JUDGING RULES

- **SELECTION OF SHOWMANSHIP JUDGES** - Show judges must be chili heads or other individuals who know what constitutes showmanship. Show judges must not be associated with any show team at the cook-off (e.g., one spouse showing and the other spouse judging).
- **INSTRUCTING JUDGES** - Every showmanship judge must be given an explanation of the judging criteria and scoring for showmanship.
- **ANONYMITY OF JUDGES** - Showmanship judges must remain anonymous to everyone during the judging. Showmanship judges' scores may be revealed after results are announced.
- **SHOWMANSHIP JUDGING CRITERIA AND SCORING** - A single score takes into consideration five criteria for showmanship:
 - Theme
 - Costume
 - Booth set up
 - Action
 - Audience appeal
- **SCORING** - Each showmanship team will be scored on its own merits with a whole number score from 1 to 10, 10 being the highest. No pluses (+), minuses (-), fractions ($\frac{1}{2}$), or decimals (.5) will be taken into consideration.
- **JUDGING SHEET** - The official CASI Showmanship Judging Sheet included in the official CASI Rules Packet must be used for judging. (Ample copies must be made for showmanship judging.)
- **SHOWMANSHIP PERIOD** - Judging shall be held for two (2) hours during the cook-off, ending at least thirty (30) minutes prior to turn-in time for chili or beginning at least thirty (30) minutes after turn-in.

ADDITIONAL COOK INFORMATION

- Each cook site is a 10' x 10' (approx.) plot of land. You may set up your booth on Saturday (May 7, 2016) as early as 7 a.m. after you have completed on site check-in.
- Please be courteous of your noise level in the early hours.
- Break down of your cook site may begin at any time after 4 pm, but no vehicles are allowed in or out of the event site until 4 pm on Saturday.
- You may drive a vehicle to cook site location for set up and breakdown at designated times only.
- Cooking sites do not have running water; however water will be available on site.
- Electricity will not be provided. You are welcome to bring your own generator, but it must be placed in a generator quiet box and at least 25 ft away from other tents due to noise level.
- Open fires are not permitted. BBQ grills and propane stoves are allowed.
- Your cooking site is not intended for the parking of a vehicle.

- All vehicles must be removed from the event site by 8:30am on Saturday, May 7, 2016.

ON-SITE REGISTRATION (DAY-OF)

Registration Hours of Operation: Saturday, May 7, 2016, 7:00-9:00 am. Pre-Registration prices will be: (Pre-Registration ends April 30, 2016) **PLEASE REGISTER EARLY. WE EXPECT TO SELL OUT BEFORE THE EVENT DATE!!**

A representative from your team will need to check-in at final registration on Saturday, May 7, 2016. Refer to the site map on the Info page for the Registration Tent location.

It is recommended that check-in and booth set-up be completed on Saturday by 9:30 am. Final inspection at 10 a.m.

At final on-site registration you will receive:

Confirmation of your booth space assignment

3/4 oz. sample cups, napkins, sample spoons and a plastic one gal zip-lock bag

1 oz. ladle

24 oz cups for chili turn-in to judges

2' x 1' sign with your team name to display at booth (C=CASI, O=OPEN and PC=PEOPLE'S CHOICE)

NOTE: WE DO NOT PROVIDE TENT, TABLES or CHAIRS

For those participants that did not pre-register, we will be taking registration applications at final registration. Please bring a completed registration form and cash payment. Remaining booths spaces will be on a first-come/first-served basis. These items may not be available if you do not pre-register.