**LOUISIANA SMOKED MEAT FESTIVAL**

**SMOKED MEAT COOKERY CONTEST RULES/INFORMATION**

**DATE:** Saturday, May 7, 2022

**LOCATION:** Ville Platte Civic Center, 704 N. Soileau St., Ville Platte, LA

**SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS:**

* **No motor homes, campers, etc. allowed.**
* **No air conditioners allowed.**
* **No outside beverages (alcoholic a/o nonalcoholic) are allowed.**

**DIVISIONS:**

* **AMATEUR**: open to businesses; civic, social, religious, or school groups; families, group of individuals, etc.
* **PROFESSIONAL**: open to restaurants, chefs, caterers, those who receive payment for preparing food, etc.

**CATEGORIES:** Both amateur and professional divisions will be divided into 6 categories according to the smoked meat product used:

* Smoked sausage/andouille/pounce
* Smoked tasso
* Smoked game
* Smoked poultry
* Smoked seafood
* Barbeque/smoker cooked meat

\* Contestant may enter maximum of 4 categories per booth, but must prepare a different dish for each category entered.

\* No extra entry fee required for each of the 4 categories. If a team has two or more booths, the team may enter a maximum of 8 dishes regardless of booth spaces rented.

\*\* JUDGING: Smoked Meat Cookery Competition will be judged on:

1. Significant smoked flavor (Smoked meat should be one of the top 4 main ingredients in dish) – 40 pts.
2. Taste – 40 pts.
3. Appearance – 10 pts.
4. Degree of difficulty – 10 pts.

**AWARDS:**

* **Smoked Meat Cookery Contest**
	+ MEDALS will be awarded to the first, second, & third place teams in each category.
	+ GRAND CHAMPION WINNERS (One professional, one amateur) will be selected from among the 1st place winners in each division, and each receives the GRAND CHAMPION SMOKEHOUSE AWARD.
* **Best Decorated Booth**
	+ 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place teams receive plaque.
* **Best Dressed Team**
	+ 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place team receive plaque.

**SET UP:**

* Booth personnel may set up equipment, supplies, etc. on Friday, May 6 between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Festival gates open to the public at 4:00p.m. You may want to come early as spaces are first come, first served. Although Friday set-up is preferred, you may set up on Saturday, May 7 beginning at 7:00 a.m., but before 9:00 a.m. **All set-up must be completed by 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 7**.

**CHECK-IN:**

* Contestant/team member must check in with Cookery Committee inside Civic Center between 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. on Saturday. The committee will provide each team with Styrofoam container(s) to be used for submitting contest entry(ies). **Any team that does not check-in by 9:00 a.m. will be disqualified.**
* The Committee will ask for names of all team members and names of dish & categories entered. Please come with a written list of dish names and be prepared to give us this information. Don’t wait until this time to select a name for your dish!

**CONTEST TIME:**

* Cooking for competition will begin at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday and **must be done at Civic Center**; prep work (e.g., chopping onions, marinating meat) can be done beforehand. Contest entry must be turned in between 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. to the Cookery Committee inside the Civic Center. **Any team that prepares food for competition beforehand and/or does not turn in dish(es) by 11:30 a.m. will be disqualified.**

**RULES:**

* Contestant must provide butane cookers, camping stoves, barbeque pits, etc. for cooking. No ground fires will be allowed. The Festival will provide limited electricity (must indicate on entry form) and access to running water. Contestant must provide all other equipment, tables, chairs, signs, decorations, etc. needed by the team. **No motor homes, campers, etc. will be allowed on festival grounds. No air conditioners are allowed. All electrical hookups must be properly grounded.**
* **All cooking of contest entries must be done in the booth on the contest site.** No cooking of contest dish can be done beforehand. Meat may be marinated prior to competition. Contestant is to prepare, cook, and serve in a sanitary manner.
* Between 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., contestant must present dish(es) to the Cookery Committee for judging in the provided Styrofoam container. **No names, logos, writings, drawings, etc. are to be written/placed on containers by contestants.**
* Each contest entry will be assigned an identification number and all judging will be done by a panel of judges using identification numbers only. Decision of judges is final and committee will handle all questions, etc.
* Winners will be announced from stage at approximately 5:00 p.m.
* Contestants must provide the Country Store the dish indicated on the entry form at the agreed upon time. We ask that there be enough to fill 25 sample sizes (small Styrofoam bowls). **Any team that does not submit their proposed dish will be disqualified from the competition.**
* **Ice chests may be used for food storage only. All beverages must be purchased from the Festival Beverage Booth.**
* Each booth is responsible for providing its own ice and change. Each booth keeps all money it collects if selling own food. Booths can accept cash only- no tickets. If tickets are accepted, the booth will not be reimbursed by the festival.
* Head chef/cook will be responsible for the conduct of his/her team members and guests. He/she is responsible for keeping booth area clean. Bring trash bags for this. All cooking equipment, etc. should be removed as soon as possible after festival closing. The festival will not be responsible for equipment, etc. left on the grounds after festival closing.
* Each booth is responsible for sales tax.
* No boiled seafood (crawfish, crabs, shrimp, etc.) may be sold unless authorized by festival board.
* No vehicles will be allowed onto festival grounds after 5:00 p.m. on Friday and 9:00 a.m. on Saturday. This also means that no vehicles can be brought onto the grounds to remove equipment until after 1:00 a.m. Sunday morning.

**OTHER INFORMATION:**

* All beverages (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) must be purchased from the Louisiana Smoked Meat Festival beverage booth. Booth personnel may ask for quantity beer and liquor discounts at the bar. We ask for your cooperation by not bringing in your own beverages. Any booths wanting to open a charge account must supply a credit card and/or pay balance by card, cash, or PayPal before leaving festival grounds once festival is complete. Other arrangements can be made for payment by speaking to Kim Fontenot, Terry Menard, or Samantha Fontenot.
* Upon arrival to set up, please check in with Mike Ardoin, Kim Bolton, Daniel Fruge, or Samantha Fontenot on the festival grounds so that they may mark booth area as taken and see about any additional needs. Vehicles may be driven into the booth area to unload equipment, etc., but must be removed from the area immediately after unloading. Please hang the parking permit provided on the vehicle’s rearview mirror.
* You will be given 4 gate passes per day (8 total) for your booth. These passes will be taken at the gate and each person will be arm-banded for that day. Armbands must be worn at all times. Any booth worker not wearing an armband must pay the $ 5.00 gate entrance fee or he/she will be asked to leave the premises.
* You must provide your own tent(s), table(s), and chairs.
* Prizes will be awarded for Best Decorated Booth and Best Dressed Team. Judging will be done Saturday morning between 10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Although participation in these activities is optional, we encourage you to join in the fun by decorating and dressing up!