



# 17th Annual 3BQ Cook-Off Rules & Information

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## SET UP INFO:

- For 2026 the registration fee is \$55 paid [here](#). This fee must be paid to get your designated cooking area.
- Teams can start setting up their designated areas on Friday 03/20/2026 no earlier than 7:00 am. Your team area will be clearly marked upon arrival. Please only set up in your designated area. If you choose to set up in another area, you will be asked to relocate to your designated spot. There is no power source available at the park, but generators are ok to use. If you need to drop your pit off on Thursday, the gate will be open after 5:00 pm
- All teams must bring your own fire extinguisher.
- Cook team perimeter will be marked. We will ask that all teams limit their team set ups to this area.
- Cook sites will be determined based on time stamp of your deposit payment.
- Please be conscious of where you drive on the surface of the grass as well as concrete slabs. We do not want to damage the grounds.
- Parking areas will be communicated prior to event so please try to carpool as much as possible. We encourage non-team members and guest to utilize rideshares or carpooling as much as possible.
- We will have designated parking for the cooking teams. This is for you and your team members only. Vehicles belonging to non-team members will be asked to relocate from the designated area.
- Each team is responsible for cleaning up their own cooking area's trash and ashes. You will need to provide your own trash bags and trash cans for your team's area. We will charge a \$25 cleanup fee for any designated cooking area that is not thoroughly cleaned up by 5:00 pm on Saturday.



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## GENERAL RULES & FYI:

- Each team is eligible to turn in one item in each category for judging (chicken, ribs, brisket). No multiple versions from the same team.
- You may have multiple teams, but each team will have separate registrations.
- Each team is responsible for turning in their team's entries at the designated times for each category to the designated judging area.
- Team booth/ cooking area will be 20' x 20'.
- Each team is responsible for their own set-up/ clean-up of team activities.
- Each team must provide their own trash can for their area and is responsible for properly bagging their trash for disposal.
- Each team is responsible for the bagging, and disposal of their ashes. No dumping ashes on grounds.
- For the Quick Fire Challenge (QFC), chicken, ribs, and brisket all prepping and cooking must be onsite.

## CATEGORIES/ TURN IN INFO \*ALL ENTRIES MUST FIT INTO THE TURN IN BOXES PROVIDED:

- **11:30 am: Chicken** – each entry will need to represent ½ of the chicken. White and dark meat sections with skin intact.
- **1 pm: Ribs** – St Louis Style ONLY, Baby Backs will not be scored by the judges. 8 bones.
- **2 pm: Brisket** – Burnt Ends are optional but will not affect scoring. 8 slices.



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## QUICK FIRE CHALLENGE

- **Quick Fire Challenges – Traditional & Kid's Choice**
  - All participants for this category must report to the judge's area at 2:00 pm on Friday, 3/20 to put their money in the pot for the Traditional QFC.
  - The themed or mystery ingredient(s) will be announced at that time and each participating team will be given said ingredient(s) along with their container.
  - The themed ingredient(s) will be announced and each team participating in this event will be given the themed ingredient(s) along with their container.
  - The Kid's Choice will be judged by a panel of 5 kids, and teams are encouraged to cook to kid's tastes. Teams may compete in both challenges. All food must be prepared onsite.
  - **Kid's Choice QFC must be turned in by 7:30 pm (\$500 prize)**
  - **Traditional QFC must be turned in by 8:30 pm (\$20 buy-in; winner takes all)**

## BASIC COOKING RULES:

- No sauces or garnishes will be allowed in the judging containers. Sauces may be used during the cooking process but cannot be applied for entry presentation or judging. Foil, paper wrap etc. are allowed, but do not affect scoring. This does not apply to the Quick Fire Challenge.
- No propane cookers\* of any kind used for cooking items for judging, pellet grills are allowed. ***[\*may be used for Quick Fire Challenges]***
- Holes, dug pits, or open fire in boxes, or other containers resting on or less than one foot from the ground are not permitted.
- Each team must provide a container for any grease disposal. NO DUMPING on the ground.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

- The head cook/team name will be designated on the submitted team registration form.
- Registration can be submitted [here](#) and payment [here](#).
- Space provided, entries will be accepted up until the day of the event.
- Each team is responsible for communicating team name, and head cook information to BBQ Coordinator prior to first turn in deadline via registration form.



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## JUDGING:

- Each type of meat entry to be judged will be put in a container provided by the BBQ Cook-Off Coordinator. Marking of the judging containers will be handled in such a manner that the judges will not know which team's BBQ entry they are tasting. Each team will be issued the judging containers by the BBQ Coordinator prior to the submission deadline.
- A copy of the score card and criteria will also be provided for additional clarity.
- Judges will score each entry based on what they like. Scoring will be based on the following criteria:
  - **Look** – How does it look? Does it look like BBQ? How was it executed, smoke ring, color? Is it fully cooked?
  - **Taste** – Does it taste like BBQ? Does it taste good?
  - **Texture** – Do you want to eat it? Can you eat it (speaks to tenderness)? Is it dry? Is it over smoked? Tough?
- Each one of these criteria will be graded by each judge on a scale from 1-5 (1 bad - 5 excellent) for a max score of 15 total points per judge.
- All entries must fit into the entry container provided. Approximate size of container – 11x11”

## PRIZES:

1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th place trophies for meat entries will be awarded. A trophy for Grand Champion (best overall combined score). For the Quick-Fire Challenges, the winner will receive a trophy and cash prize.

## OTHER:

For further questions and inquiries please contact: [3BQ2009@gmail.com](mailto:3BQ2009@gmail.com). Inquiries sent via Facebook comment or Messenger will not be accepted.