

## JSC Chili Cook off Rules and Guidelines

**THE TEAM CAPTAIN FOR EACH CHILI TEAM PARTICIPATING IN THE JSC CHILI COOK-OFF IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING SURE THAT *EACH MEMBER* OF THEIR TEAM IS AWARE OF THESE RULES AND AGREES TO ABIDE BY THEM!**

### **REGISTRATION**

Registration for the JSC Chili Cook-Off must be completed online using the JSC Chili Cook-Off [website](#) (this is an external JSC site). The registration fee is \$55 per team **before April 3rd, 2026**, and **\$65 from that date until April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026**. No registrations will be accepted after **April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026**, unless approved by the Chili Cook-Off Committee chairperson.

Registration fee payment is online at [Eventbrite](#).

A valid e-mail is required for registration. **An e-mail address may not be used for multiple teams**, each team captain must supply a valid e-mail. E-mail is used to communicate with teams prior to the Cook-Off, including information about pre-Cook-Off meetings, site assignments, weather updates, and preliminary judging selections.

### **ENTRY, ENTRY FEES AND SITES**

This registration fee entitles each team to one 12 foot by 12 foot cooking spot, and one chili entry. You may purchase additional adjacent sites for an additional \$55 per site (\$65 after April 3rd, 2026). Note that this additional fee does not allow you to enter additional chili entries. Additional chili entries for your team are \$55 per each chili entry (\$65 after April 3rd, 2026) above the cost of any additional sites. Additional chili entries **MUST** have a different team name and **MUST** be prepared by a different cook, using a different recipe. **Each chili entry must provide a minimum of 20 pounds of meat to be inspected prior to cooking.**

Multiple teams may share a single site, but they must enter each chili team individually, and indicate on their registration form that they are wishing to share a site with another team. And pay separate entry fees.

You must indicate on the registration form your first, second and third choices for site locations, based upon the numbers on map provided on the website. Please note that the site locations on the map are approximate. **Multiple site requests are to be entered using a comma between the desired sites (e.g. FIRST CHOICE 21, 23, 25 SECOND CHOICE 23, 25, 26).**

Sites will be assigned on a **FIRST-COME, FIRST-PAID** basis, using the choices you have provided on the registration form. **SITE LOCATION(S) FROM PREVIOUS YEARS ARE NOT GUARANTEED!** Sign up early to assure your chances of getting your preferred location.

**NO ENCROACHING ON NEIGHBORING SITES!** A 20' by 20' tent will **NOT** fit in a 12' by 12' site!

Site assignments may not be changed or swapped without the express consent of the Chili Cook-Off chairperson. **Any team(s) swapping sites, or appropriating a site not assigned to them, without such express consent will be disqualified from all competition.**

### **GAMES AND SHOWMANSHIP**

Each team has the option of participating in the cornhole tournament and showmanship competition(s) associated with the Cook-Off. **Team captains must indicate their team's participation when they sign up their team on the website.** No team will be allowed to sign up for the cornhole tournament or showmanship competition after April 10th at 17:00. **Teams who do not register in advance will not be eligible to compete in either the cornhole tournament or showmanship event(s).**

### **TICKETS AND PARKING PASSES**

Each team will receive four (4) parking passes. These passes should be displayed on the dashboard of each vehicle desiring entry into "Passes Only" areas on the day of the Cook-Off. Passes are distributed to the teams at the Team-Captain's meeting scheduled during the week prior to the Cook-Off. No additional parking passes will be provided, and they may not be purchased from the committee. Additional parking passes may be acquired from other teams, if they are willing to part with them.

A parking pass entails ONE (1) vehicle to enter the Cook-Off passes-only parking areas. An additional parking pass is required for a trailer if you are bringing one into the pass-only parking areas (this is **in addition** to the vehicle towing it). If authorized in advance, a Recreational Vehicle requires two (2) parking passes in order to enter.

Each team is responsible for purchasing Cook-Off tickets for team members, as well as selling tickets to friends and co-workers.

### **ELECTRICAL, WATER AND ICE**

The JSC Chili Cook-Off does not provide electrical, water or ice to the teams.

Teams wishing to use electricity at their site may have a generator IF THEIR SITE IS LOCATED ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE JOGGING TRAIL. Generators must be sited far enough away from the neighboring site that the generator noise is unobtrusive. All extension cords running from a generator to your site **MUST** be brightly colored yellow or orange, and be covered at least twice by safety cones. Under **NO CIRCUMSTANCES** may an extension cord cross any jogging path.

Water hoses for rinsing out your pots are located on the west side of the Pavilion. Under no circumstances will teams be allowed to use the sink located under the Pavilion.

The ice trailer is for the exclusive use of the Cook-Off committee for soft drinks and beer kegs. Don't ask to buy a bag from us, we will not sell you one.

## **DRIVING, PARKING, AND BUSES**

No parking passes are required on Friday for setup. However, team members without a valid JSC Badge must enter the site from the Gilruth Gate (Gate 5) on Friday.

**Parking passes are required for all vehicles** entering the Gilruth Gate (Gate 5) on Saturday. This pass entitles you to park in the paved parking lots around the Gilruth Center and the grass field to the south. Note that the inclement weather policy below may affect the ability to drive and park in the grassy areas.

Barricades and ropes will be erected to block any area where driving is prohibited. **DO NOT MOVE OR DRIVE AROUND ANY BARRICADE OR ROPE, PERIOD!** Any team member caught driving around barricades or ropes will be required to immediately leave JSC property, and may subject the entire team to immediate disqualification and denial of permission to participate in the Cook-Off.

**Absolutely NO DRIVING OR PARKING inside the outer jogging trail.** All team members MUST adhere to this rule. Anyone caught driving or parking inside the outer jogging trail may subject their team to immediate disqualification, or if after the competition is complete, denial of participation in the next year's Cook-Off.

No personal or team golf carts, 4-wheeler vehicles, ATVs, scooters, Segway, skateboards, unicycles or bicycles are allowed in the Cook-Off site.

Recreational Vehicles will be allowed on a case-by-case basis, to be approved by the JSC Center Operations Directorate/Lisa Gurgos (281-450-0833). RV's will require two parking passes in order to be allowed in to park. Teams wishing to park an RV will not be issued additional parking passes for the RV. RV parking is in the north gilruth lot (ball field side of Gilruth parking) or the grass field, if open.

**Do not park in the spaces reserved for judges, or in handicapped parking spaces without a valid state-issued handicap parking pass. A limited number of handicapped parking is available to the west of the Cook-Off site along Second Avenue.**

For team members without parking passes and general Cook-Off attendees, parking is available on-site at JSC. Enter the JSC main gate off Saturn Drive and proceed to the marked parking lot. Buses will run from 7:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. between the parking lot and the Cook-Off site. Handicapped parking is available there as well, and a handicapped-equipped bus is among the buses circulating between the parking lots and Cook-Off site.

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

In the event of forecast inclement weather, or past inclement weather that, in the judgement of the Cook-Off Committee, renders the fields too soft to drive on, no driving on any grass will be allowed.

This includes the drive from the Gilruth Gate (Gate 5) around the back side of the Cook-Off site, as well as the field to the south of the Cook-Off site.

In the event of severe weather, Committee members will direct participants to a safe evacuation into the Gilruth Center. If an evacuation is required, no one will be allowed to remain outside at the Cook-Off site until after the danger has passed. Teams should extinguish all flames, cover pots and pans, and if time is available, secure their site prior to evacuating.

### **SETUP ON FRIDAY**

Site setup begins at 2:00 p.m. on Friday before the Cook-Off and continues until 7:00 p.m. that evening. **Do not arrive before 2:00 p.m.** expecting to drop off supplies, booth parts, etc. You will not be allowed to do so. Teams that violate this setup rule will be warned and asked to cease activities until the allowed setup time. **Failure to heed this warning will result in team disqualification.**

Please see the **INCLEMENT WEATHER** section above, which will apply on Friday as well as the day of the Cook-Off.

Teams may temporarily park their vehicles alongside the ropes in the parking lot to unload during the setup period on Friday. **One person with keys MUST STAY WITH THE VEHICLE AT ALL TIMES.**

Committee members will be available to help move material to your site on 4-wheel vehicles/carts. Please be patient, there will be many teams needing such assistance and we will endeavor to get to everyone as quickly as possible.

### **SETUP DAY OF COOK-OFF**

Teams may begin dropping off supplies and site materials at **7:30 a.m.** on the day of the Cook-Off. Note that any vehicle desiring to enter the Gilruth Gate (Gate 5) **MUST HAVE A PARKING PASS** on this day, and if towing a trailer, must have an additional parking pass for the trailer.

As in setup on Friday, teams may temporarily park a vehicle alongside the ropes in the parking lot to unload. **Again, one person with keys MUST STAY WITH THE VEHICLE AT ALL TIMES. Vehicles left unattended will be towed!**

Committee members will be available to help move material to your site on 4-wheel vehicles/carts. Please be patient, there will be many teams needing such assistance and we will endeavor to get to everyone as quickly as possible.

**DO NOT DRIVE AROUND BARRICADES OR ROPES TO REACH YOUR SITE!**

### **GENERAL COOK-OFF RULES**

**NO PETS**, except for service dogs in uniform.

**NO GUNS, WEAPONS, OR AMMO OF ANY KIND.** All cars that come onsite at JSC are subject to search by JSC Security Officers. All violators WILL BE REMOVED from JSC premises.

**TEAM CAPTAINS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONDUCT OF THEIR TEAM MEMBERS!** Fighting, loud vulgar language, extreme intoxication or reckless conduct by a team member or a guest associated with a team will result in that person being subject to removal from the JSC grounds, and possible sanctions against the team up to disqualification and denial of future Chili Cook-Off participation. Violators may also be subject to criminal charges. **IN SHORT, MAKE SURE EVERYONE ASSOCIATED WITH YOUR TEAM BEHAVES!**

**EACH TEAM MUST HAVE A WORKING FIRE EXTINGUISHER** (not shared between teams).

**EACH TEAM MUST HAVE A MINIMUM OF 20 POUNDS OF MEAT PER CHILI.**

**MEAT AND FIRE EXTINGUISHERS WILL BE INSPECTED BEFORE TEAMS CAN BEGIN COOKING.** Inspections will begin at approximately 8:00am under the pavilion and end at 9:00am. Do not begin cooking your meat until it has been inspected by a committee member. Teams lacking a fire extinguisher will not be allowed to participate in the cook-off. **Inspectors will verify weight and expiration date.**

Chili is to be made on site, **ABSOLUTELY NO PRECOOKING YOUR CHILI (including public tasting chili)!** If a team is caught with precooked chili they will be disqualified!

Competition turn-in cups will be available underneath the Pavilion at the judging area between 8:00am and 9:00am. It is the team's responsibility to send a representative to pick up their cup. We **WILL NOT** come around to sites to deliver turn-in cups. If your team has been selected to provide a preliminary judge, you will be reminded at that time.

Chili should be available for public tasting no later than noon. **Your team must provide at least four (4) gallons of chili for public tasting! *Public tasting chili may be cooked separately from your turn-in chili, but both must be cooked from the same recipe.***

If your team has been selected to provide a **preliminary judge**, that person **MUST be at the judging area under the Pavilion no later than 2:15pm.**

**Competition chili turn in time is 2:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m. means 2:00 p.m., not 2:15, not 2:20. CHILI TURNED IN LATE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Teams **MUST** stay until the end of the award ceremony to verify their winning ticket in order to claim their winning place and trophy. If a team does not produce their ticket within 5 mins of announcement they will be disqualified, and the previous team winner will advance.

**People choice voting is via QR Code which opens at 12:00pm and closes at 3:00pm.**

Teams may begin packing items used in the Cook-Off away at any time, **but you may not begin tearing down your site and removing large items to your vehicles until after the conclusion of the awards ceremony.**

Trash from your site must be bagged in strong trash bags. All bagged trash MUST be placed in the dumpsters located by the Gilruth Center, or taken with you as you leave. **The NASA dumpsters are for BAGGED TRASH ONLY, AND NOT TO BE USED FOR NON-BAGGED ITEMS!!** This includes pallets, lumber, booth parts, etc.

**Any TRASH or NON-BIO DEGRADABLE MATERIAL LEFT IN A TEAM'S SITE will result in your team being denied the ability to participate in the Cook Off the following year. This includes hay, wood, pallets, lumber, decorations, fences, tents, broken chairs, couches, grills etc.**

**YOU BROUGHT IT IN, YOU TAKE IT HOME!**