



2026 BBQ COOK-OFF

Sunday, November 1, 2026

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: OCTOBER 18, 2026

Entry fees are non-refundable.

Payments are due by October 18, 2026.

Late entries are subject to board approval and will incur a \$25 late fee.

CATEGORIES

CHICKEN

PORK STEAK

BEEF BURGER TEAM THROWDOWN

ENTRY FEE

Entry Fee is for the number of categories you wish to enter into the competition.

SEASONING SHOWDOWN CONTESTANTS RECEIVE A \$50 DISCOUNT!

1 CATEGORY \$100

2 CATEGORIES \$150

3 CATEGORIES \$200

BEEF BURGER TEAM THROWDOWN

The Beef Burger Team Throwdown is designed to showcase products entered in the Seasoning Showdown.

To enter the Beef Burger Team Throwdown, participants must:

- Partner with an official Seasoning Showdown contestant and feature that contestant's seasoning product in their burger entry; OR
- Be an official Seasoning Showdown contestant and feature one of their own seasoning products in their burger entry.

Teams **MUST** identify the seasoning product used in their burger submission.

PUBLIC SAMPLING REQUIREMENT

Contestants must provide samples of their competition entry for festival attendees.

- Each team should prepare a minimum of **75 tasting samples per category entered**.
- Samples should be available to the public beginning at **11:00 AM**.
- Teams are encouraged to prepare additional samples if attendance exceeds expectations, but it is not mandatory.

JUDGING

- One entry per category per team.
- Entries must be prepared onsite during the competition.
- Judging will be based on appearance, taste, seasoning, texture, and overall impression.
- Judges' decisions are final.

FOOD SAFETY

- Contestants are responsible for complying with all applicable food safety practices.
- Raw meats must be properly stored and maintained at safe temperatures.

MEAT PREP

- Meat may be pre-trimmed prior to arrival.

- Meat may not be pre-cooked in any manner before arriving at the festival grounds.
- Seasoning, marinating, brining, and injection of meats prior to arrival is permitted.
- All cooking must take place onsite beginning at the official start time of 6:00 AM.

COOKING EQUIPMENT

- Wood, charcoal, pellet, gas, and electric smokers/grills are permitted.
- Teams must provide all cooking equipment and fuel necessary for the competition.
- Open fires on the ground are prohibited.
- Festival officials reserve the right to inspect cooking equipment for safety purposes.

TRICK-OR-TREAT

Trick or Treating is Saturday, October 31 from 6-8 PM. Contestants that participate may set up in their tent area on Saturday and will not have to take it down. A Trick-or-Trick stop sign will be provided at your tent location if you choose to participate.

SET UP: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Contestants may enter the festival grounds beginning at **5:00 AM** on Sunday.

Cooking may begin at **6:00 AM**.

Public tasting samples must be available by **11:00 AM**.

Official judging turn-in begins at **1:00 PM**.

Contestants must provide their set-up

TENT SPACE- 10' tent frontage

- Teams must provide their own tents, tables, chairs, cooking equipment, extension cords, generators, lighting, and all other supplies needed for their cook site.
- Generators are permitted but must be operated in a safe manner and not interfere with neighboring teams.
- Teams using generators must have a fire extinguisher readily accessible.
- Teams are responsible for keeping their cooking area clean and free of trash throughout the event.
- All trash and equipment must be removed at the conclusion of the competition.

PARKING & ENTRY

BBQ Throwdown vendors will receive two day passes for Sunday, November 1 and 1 VIP parking pass.

Please pick up your passes:

Monday, October 26 from 6:00 PM-7:00 PM at Carencro Community Center

Thursday, October 29 from 10 AM - 12:00 PM or 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Festival Grounds

Friday, October 30 from 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Festival Grounds

Additional Parking is free and located in front of the park.

-All contestants must provide SEVEN single-serving sample of the product entered by 1:00 PM on Sunday.

- Turn-in containers will be provided by the festival.
- Garnish is optional and will not be considered in scoring unless otherwise announced.
- Entries must be submitted during the designated turn-in window. Late entries may be disqualified.

WINNER ANNOUNCED SUNDAY - MAIN STAGE - 4:00 PM

Awards will be presented to:

BEST OVERALL CHICKEN- JUDGE'S CHOICE

BEST OVERALL PORK- JUDGE'S CHOICE

BEEF BURGER TEAM THROWNDOWN

BEST OVERALL BURGER- JUDGE'S CHOICE

BEST OVERALL FEATURED SEASONING OR SAUCE- JUDGE'S CHOICE
PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD FOR CHICKEN
PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD FOR PORK
PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD FOR BURGER

Winners receive:

- Custom Award
- Social Media Recognition
- Free Entry into the 2027 BBQ THROWDOWN

2026 FESTIVAL HOURS

Friday, October 30
5:00 PM - 11:30 PM

Saturday, October 31
10:00 AM - 12:00 AM
*5K is at 8 AM.

Sunday, November 1
9:00 AM - 6:30 PM
*Mass is at 9:00 AM followed by the Veteran's Day Celebration. Vendors may not open until 10:00 AM.