



Big T's Family Bash 2025 Kids Cook-Off Challenge Rules



- ❖ Saturday, October 25, 2025, at the WL Moody Reunion Fairgrounds
- ❖ \$25 per individual entry
- ❖ Check-in and set-up will be from 10:00 AM to 10:45 AM
- ❖ Cooking starts at **11:00 AM**
- ❖ Food must be ready for the judges by **12:00 PM**
- ❖ **This year's competition will be COOK'S CHOICE!** You may prepare anything you like, but **NO DESSERTS!** Be creative!!
- ❖ NEW this year: Bring your own grill! (see Rule #8)
- ❖ 1st prize in each age group is a trophy and \$100, guaranteed! There will also be prizes for 2nd and 3rd places.
- ❖ Please register online at www.goldencircltex.com/big-t-memorial-bbq-cook-off.html (so that we can set up a cook area large enough to accommodate everyone), but you will pay your entry fee on arrival (we can accept cash and cards at registration). **Please register by Thursday, October 23, 2025.**

RULES:

1. **Kids must be between 8 and 17 years old and able to cook independently. There will be 3 categories divided by age group: 8-11, 12-15, and 16-18. Kids may enter as individuals only; no teams.**
2. **Sizzlers Division, 8-11 years:** *Mentors may assist contestants when safety is an issue. For example, please help your children if knife safety is an issue. You may also light grills, etc. Please keep assistance to a minimum.*
3. **Junior Division, 12-15 years:** *Mentors may help start fires if needed, but may not physically assist in the cooking process. Verbal instruction or assistance is OK. *JRs must cook independently, including knife skills.* Please keep assistance to a minimum.*
4. **Senior Division 16-18 years:** *Mentors must be on site during the cooking process, but can only provide minimal verbal assistance. No physical assistance will be allowed for SRs.*
5. **Each contestant in all age groups MUST have an adult (over 18) mentor ON SITE for the ENTIRE cooking time.** Parents must sign a permission form if someone other than the parent/legal guardian will be supervising the cook on-site.
6. **ONLY 1 person will be allowed in the cooking area with the contestant.** All other people in your party must stay outside of the cooking area. *We will not allow extra children who are not competing in the challenge to be in the cooking area with the contestants & mentors. THIS RULE WAS MADE FOR SAFETY PURPOSES AND WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED.*
7. **All entries must be prepared on-site and from a raw state. Raw protein (beef, seafood, chicken, pork, etc) must remain packaged until after you check in. There will be a meat inspection prior to the beginning of the cook time.** This will ensure that all rules are followed

and there has not been any pre-marinating, seasoning, cooking, etc. before the competition time. Store-bought or pre-made buns/bread/tortillas/chips/etc will be allowed as the only exception to the “cooking from a raw state” rule. If you choose to use them, you may bring them in.

8. **NEW THIS YEAR: Cooks may bring in their own grills/cooking implements.** It can be charcoal, gas, or electric (limited outlets available; pre-register and check in early to guarantee your outlet!). You can use a grill, a camp stove, a hot plate, etc.–whatever you have! (We will have a LIMITED number of tabletop charcoal grills available if needed, please pre-register to let us know you need to use one.)
Please remember that there is only 1 hour allotted for cook time, so smokers will not be the best option for this competition.
9. Bringing a sturdy table is recommended. Any utensils or extras the cook would like to use, ie. tables, cutting boards, knives, etc., for their cook site must be provided by each contestant. Contestants must cook in the designated spots under the pavilion to make it easier for the judges to judge the contestants’ cooking skills.
10. Judges will score each entry based on **creativity, appearance, and taste**. The tasting portion will be a blind taste test. Judging will be done using a double ticket system (one ticket on a turn-in tray, and the cook keeps the other matching ticket). The tasting judges will not be walking around the cooking site, so they will not know who turned in what tray. Contestants will be provided with a turn-in tray. Please keep this tray clean, and do not put any marks on the container in any way.
11. Cook spaces **MUST** be kept clean and free of trash. Please come prepared with a receptacle (bags and/or a small trash can, etc) for your cook site’s trash. There will be larger trash cans and dumpsters on site for you to dispose of your trash after cooking is complete. Please clean up your work area after turning in your entry. Contestants must also take precautions to prepare food in a manner that is as sanitary as possible. *Judges and board members reserve the right to shut down a cooking site if unsanitary conditions threaten the safety of the food being prepared.*

We will do our best to accommodate children with special needs who wish to enter the competition, and extra supportive help will be allowed if needed. Please email us at bigtmemorialcookoff@gmail.com with any special questions and/or requests. We want to include everyone in our competition!

We’re very excited to bring the 7th Annual Kids Cookoff Challenge to Big T’s Family Bash this year!

Grab your aprons and let's get cooking!