



Chili Team FAQ's

WPI Firefighters' Fund

6th Annual Stop-Drop-n-Roll Chili Cook-Off

October 16, 2010 | 10 am – 5 pm | Bass Pro Shop in Grapevine, TX

When is the Stop-Drop-n-Roll Chili Cook-Off?

While the date changes from year-to-year, this year it is on Saturday October 16, 2010 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Where is it?

In the main parking lot of Bass Pro Shops in Grapevine, Texas (the parking lot next to Fuddruckers). The address is 2501 Bass Pro Drive, Grapevine, Texas 76051.



Sounds fun, but I've never cooked in a Chili Cook-Off before. What's it like?

Our chili cook-off is a fun, family-friendly fundraiser that raises money for injured firefighters and families of fallen or injured firefighters through the WPI Firefighters' Fund. To read all about the WPI Firefighters' Fund, visit www.wpiiff.org.

Last year, we had about 90 chili teams and a crowd of close to 5,000! When you sign up for the chili competition, you are given a 10'x10' space which we will assign to you the day of the Cook-Off. You'll start cooking around 9 a.m.—the general public arrives at 10 a.m. ready to start sampling. Prizes and awards are presented at around 4:30 p.m. The rest of the day is yours to hang out, cook, shop, relax, drink a margarita or two, and have a good time!

Is the chili competition open to everyone? How do I register?

Yes, there is space for about 100 chili teams and it is first come, first reserved. You can reserve your chili team space by completing the registration form available on www.wpiiff.org.

How much does it cost to participate as a chili team?

It costs \$20 per team (a team is 1-4 people) per category competition. In other words, if you are only competing in the **CASI** (Chili Appreciation Society International) category, you pay \$20. If you want to compete in the CASI and **Novice** (Novice is any team that is not CASI) categories, you pay \$40. All teams providing "**throw down**" chili are eligible for the **People's Choice Award**.

What are the competition categories?

- ▶ **CASI** stands for Chili Appreciation Society International. These are the folks that hold the biggest cook-off in the U.S. every year in Terlingua, Texas. If you are competing in the CASI category, you are subject to the CASI cooking rules; you can go to www.chili.org to check those out. CASI competitors must use "grind" only. Don't forget your "throw down" chili (we'll explain what this

means a little later). Anyone who would like to become a member of CASI should also go to www.chili.org.

- ▶ **Novice** is every team that is not a member of CASI. This category of competition has no restrictions on ingredients, type of meat, etc. If you're new to the Chili Cook-Off, you may wonder how much chili you need to cook. We encourage all teams to bring **at least** ten to fifteen pounds of meat for their chili so that you can provide a sample of your chili to the public (we provide the sample cups). You'll want to make enough to give them a little taste but don't forget to save some for the judges. The chili served to the public is what is considered "throw down" chili and how our chili teams make the Cook-Off such a success!
- ▶ **Show** is a chili team that not only cooks chili, but also has some skit or theme; you must tell the registration booth if you want to be considered for "show" at the time you arrive, set up, and register. An idea of show teams who have placed in the past include, "Star Spangled Bandit Chili," "Yo Ho Pirate Chili Chicks" and "Parrothead Chili."
- ▶ **People's Choice** is the chili team that is chosen as the crowd favorite. The People's Choice voting ballots are passed out when a sample cup is purchased (one ballot per sample cup). When you register your chili team you are automatically entered into the running for the People's Choice award.



What is "throw down" chili?



This is the chili used for the sampling cups for the public; you will be eligible to compete in the People's Choice category if you provide throw down chili. This is also the biggest way to help the WPIFF raise funds at the cook-off, so please bring plenty of throw down (most teams cook between ten to fifteen pounds of chili). Be sure to reserve enough for the judging cup (a large Styrofoam cup is approximately 14 to 16 oz).

What does my chili team's registration fee cover?

Your chili team's registration fee covers the following areas:

- ▶ One 10'x10' space in which to set up your **covered** cooking area; we can provide you with electricity if needed. Just designate that on your registration form. You must supply your own pop-up tent, tables, chairs, etc.
- ▶ Free admission to the **Cooks' Party** the night before the cook-off.



Tell me more about the Cooks' Party.

What? This party is our way of saying “thank you” to all the chili cooks and sponsors. We invite you to come out, mingle with your fellow cooks, and enjoy live music and dinner catered by Fuddruckers Restaurants. Discounted prices on soft drinks, beer, and margaritas. You can RSVP for the Cooks' Party on your chili team registration form. Free for up to four people per chili team. If you need extra tickets to the Cooks' Party for your buddies, they are \$10.00 each. More details about the Cooks' Party are available at www.wpiff.org.

Where? Parking lot of Bass Pro (same location as the Chili Cook-Off)

When? Friday, October 15, 2010
7 pm – 10 pm sharp

What else do I need to bring to the Cook-Off?

Bring everything you need for your space including your pop-up tent, chairs, cooking supplies, and decorations. You don't need to bring bowls or spoons for the public as we provide that. Please, no outside beverages. The beverage sales are helping us to raise money for injured firefighters and families of fallen or injured firefighters.

When and where do I check-in?

Designate one person from your chili team to check in at the Chili Judge's tent no later than 10 am. This line may be a little long so be prepared, but don't worry – it moves fast. The Chili Judge Referee will check you in and provide you with you a styrofoam “judging” cup. This is the cup that you will fill with chili and deliver to the judges' booth at either 2 p.m. for CASI and 3 p.m. for Novice.

How is the chili judged?



Chili is judged on a scale from one to ten based on the following criteria:

- ▶ **AROMA**
- ▶ **RED COLOR**
- ▶ **CONSISTENCY**
- ▶ **TASTE**
- ▶ **AFTERTASTE**

Who judges the chili?

We have a panel of chili judges who volunteer their time to taste and then vote for what they consider the best chili. It is completely anonymous and only the Chili Judge Referee, a seasoned veteran CASI member, knows the identity of your chili team. The Chili Judge Referee totals the scores and we announce the winners around 4:30. Show teams should be prepared to perform their skits at noon.

Do I get to find out my score at the end?

Unfortunately, if you do not place in the top ten CASI Chili or the top five Novice Chili we are unable to provide your ranking or scorecard. We will however, post the top ten in People's Choice on our website after the Cook-Off.

What time do I need to get there on the morning of the Cook-Off?

You can get there as early as 7 a.m. Although we don't allow chili teams to reserve spots, the earlier you get there the greater the likelihood you can choose your spot. There are no cars allowed on site after 9 a.m. The general public arrives at 10 a.m. so you should be ready to provide chili tastes by then.

Where do I park?

You can bring a vehicle on the site before 9 a.m. to unload your chili team supplies. After 9, you'll need to move your car and can park anywhere in the Bass Pro parking lot.

How much chili cook should I give out to the public?

The crowd will be tasting **A LOT** of chili, so just give them a little spoonful.

What are the prizes up for grabs?

A really cool trophy and prize yet to be determined. Last year we gave two roundtrip airline tickets to our winner and some very generous gift cards for runners-up.



So besides chili, what else will be going on at the Cook-Off?



There will be live music, vendor booths, a silent auction, and activities for kids including guest appearances by the 2010 Texas International pageant winners, firefighters, and even Superheroes!

Are there any restrictions, rules, or general guidelines I need to be aware of?

Yes. They include, but are not limited to

- No glass
- No pets
- No outside alcoholic beverages
- No firearms
- Event will take place come rain or shine
- All teams and exhibitors are responsible for cleaning up their area
- You must be 21 to consume alcohol
- There is space for approximately 100 chili teams; we had 96 last year, so sign up early!

I'm coming from out of town. Where should I stay?

We recommend the Residence Inn DFW Airport North/Grapevine located just steps away from Bass Pro. Check our website around August-September for the reduced rate discount code. If you have an RV, check out The Vineyards Campground and Cabins on Lake Grapevine.

Are there other ways to participate in the event besides cooking chili?

Yes! There are many...

- Be a chili judge
- Volunteer your time helping out at the cook-off
- Donate an auction item or shop the auction at the cook-off
- Spend the day tasting chili and enjoying the cold beverages being sold; bring your family and friends
- Shop the vendor booths or have one of your own
- Donate to the WPIFF
- Tell everyone you know about the WPIFF and the cook-off; everyone is invited!



If you have any other questions, please visit www.wpiff.org, email wpiff@williams-pyro.com, or call 817.872.1500.