



POPPA EARLES 2025 TAILGATE FESTIVAL



General Team Information & Event Guidelines

Get ready for a two-part cooking showdown! Each team must prepare **two dishes**: a classic **Chicken & Sausage Gumbo** and **their Best Tailgate Creation**. Our panel of judges will decide the gumbo winner, while fans will cast their votes for the top tailgate dish. Scores from both categories will be combined to crown the ultimate title of **South's Best Tailgate!** Trophies and prizes will go to the **top three finishers in each of the three categories**—so bring your best game and your boldest flavors.

Setup & Schedule

- Early Setup:** Friday, November 28th | 2:00 PM – 9:00 PM
- Day-of Setup:** Saturday, November 29th | Starting at 5:00 AM
- Head Cook's Meeting:** 6:30 AM | Main Stage (attendance encouraged)
- Public Opening:** 11:00 AM

Winners for all events will be announced around 5 – 5:30pm on the day of the event

Team Space

- Each team is assigned a **10' x 10' cooking area** with your entry fee. Some extra space will be available behind your tent to utilize.
 - Tents must be **10' x 10' or smaller**. No exception
 - Teams may purchase two entry spots for a larger space. Two entries would get a **10' x 20' space for you to cook** (please confirm in advance).
 - Bring your own tents, grills, fuel, utensils, chairs, décor, water, electricity, etc.
 - All cooking must be done in your tent area.
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General Rules & Requirements

- Food must be prepared safely and sanitarily.
- Décor must be family-friendly (offensive material will be removed).
- Personal music players are allowed if they don't disturb others. Music is provided at event.
- Keep your area clean—dumpsters & trash cans provided. Please clean up after event, we do not have a clean-up crew. Let's make this a clean and successful event.
- No food sales permitted for cook-off teams. Only vendors**
- No water or electricity provided—bring your own supplies.** Generators **are** allowed but must be quiet generators and set up away from event area to no disturb other teams or patrons.

Good Luck to everyone! Look forward to seeing you out there and making this a great event for a great cause!



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GUMBO COOKOFF Rules and Regulations

This event is a **Chicken and Sausage Gumbo Cookoff**, so please keep your recipes traditional—seafood, duck, or other unusual ingredients should not be used, as creativity will not be part of the judging criteria (judges may deduct points). Judging will be conducted blindly by our selected judges panel. Cooking may begin at 5:00 a.m. (or after) on the day of the event, and all entries must be delivered to the judges’ table at your assigned turn-in time. Your turn in time will be provided before the competition starts. Once judging is underway, gumbo may be served to the public if you choose beginning at 11:00 a.m. when the gates open to the public.

- Each team must prepare a **minimum** of 1 gallon of Chicken and Sausage Gumbo.
- Cooking may begin at **5am or after** on the day of the event. Every team will have at least **5 hours to cook**.
- Judging samples will be turned in across **three groups at 10:30a.m., and 10:45a.m.** Your exact turn-in time will be provided before the event begins.
- Teams are responsible for supplying **all cooking ingredients**.
- Containers will be **provided by the event** to turn into judges. Provide your own containers to serve to public.
- Your **roux must be made on-site**. Premixes, jarred, or commercial roux are not allowed.
- Chicken, sausage, and vegetables (onions, bell pepper, celery, etc.) **must be raw** at the start of the event and cooked on-site. Cooking is done onsite. Pre-chopping is allowed.
- **Stock** may be made ahead of time, and store-bought stock is permitted.
- All ingredients are subject to inspection. **Please follow the guidelines—we don’t want to disqualify anyone. This is a fun event for a great cause!**
- **Rice or fillers** may not be included in judging containers but can be served to the public.

Judging Criteria Categories (in the event of a tie, the tie-breaker will be your finish in the first category (Taste). If there is a tie in that category, we will move to the next category and so on till the tie is broken)

1. **Taste**
2. **Color Appearance**
3. **Consistency/Thickness**
4. **Seasoning/Spice**
5. **Aroma**

SCORE SHEET PROVIDED



GUMBO COOKOFF SCORE SHEET

Team number _____

Each Category will be scored from 1-10 with 10 being the highest

1. _____ **Taste** Well-balanced, with no single ingredient overpowering the others. Full flavor
2. _____ **Color/Appearance** A deep, rich dark caramel color is ideal. 8 9 10 9 8
3. _____ **Consistency/Thickness** Should be velvety smooth. Not too thick or watery.
4. _____ **Seasoning/Spice** Right amount of sodium. A good spice but not overly hot.
5. _____ **Aroma** Must smell appetizing, flavorful and inviting.

In the event of a tie, the tie breaker will be determined by the finish in category 1. If that is a tie, we go to category 2 and so on to decide.

Poppa Earle's Tailgate Festival 2025

Judges Signature _____ Date 11-29-2025



POPPA EARLES 2025 TAILGATE FESTIVAL



BEST TAILGATE DISH Rules and Regulations

This competition will be **judged by the public**, so bring your best tailgate dish to impress the fans! There are no restrictions—cook whatever you think people will love.

- You provide your own ingredients, utensils and containers to serve to the public.
- Precooking or preparing food is allowed. No cooking start time is implemented.
- **Serving Time:** Have your dish ready by **11:00 a.m.** when gates open to the public. Cooking ends at **4:00 p.m.**, when all ticket containers will be collected for counting.
- What to Cook: There are no rules or guidelines—prepare your favorite tailgate dish and make it memorable, since the crowd will be voting.
- Serving Size: Offer small tasting portions; guests will be sampling many dishes.
- Minimum Quantity: Plan for at least **200 servings**. The more people you serve, the more potential votes you can earn.
- Voting Process: Each festival guest who pays the \$25 food fee will receive a bracelet and **two voting tickets**. **Please serve only those wearing YELLOW event bracelets**, as they are the only eligible voters. *All proceeds from food fees will be donated to the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank.*
- Casting Votes: Guests will drop their tickets into their favorite team’s bowl (provided). They may put all two tickets in one bowl or spread them out however they choose.
- How Winners Are Decided: The team with the **most tickets in their bowl** wins. Bowls will be collected at **4:00 p.m.** and winners announced at **5:15 p.m.**
- In the event of a tie, your finish in the Gumbo cook-off will be the tie breaker.

BEST TAILGATE OF THE SOUTH Champion!

Get ready to claim the title of **South’s Best Tailgate!** Your finishes from the Gumbo Cookoff and the Best Tailgate Dish Cookoff will be combined, and the team with the **lowest overall score takes the crown!** For example, finishing 1st in one event and 4th in the other gives you a score of 5—lowest score wins it all! In case of a tie, the Gumbo Cookoff finish will break it. The champion of the **Best Tailgate of the South** will be revealed around **5 – 5:30 p.m.—don’t miss it!**



GRAND PRIZE! Trophies and prizes will be awarded to the winners in each cookoff category. We’re also thrilled to announce the **Grand Prize for the South’s BEST Tailgate Champion!**

(Pictured left) — **LSU Heisman Legends framed display**, featuring autographs from **Joe Burrow, Jayden Daniels, and Billy Cannon** (Iconic Locker Room Jersey Tribute).

Authenticity: Each autograph—Joe Burrow, Jayden Daniels, and Billy Cannon—is verified and authenticated by a leading trading card company. **Valued at: \$2,000**



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COOK-OFF PRIZES

We are giving away **\$5,000** in prizes to cookoff winners!!



	1 st Place 	2 nd Place 	3 rd Place 
GUMBO COOK-OFF			
BEST TAILGATE DISH			
BEST TAILGATE OF THE SOUTH			