

# **40th ANNUAL IDAHO CITY CHAMBER CHILI COOK OFF**

**Saturday, March 7th 2026**

## **Rules, Details and Schedule for Contestants**

You can find information about entering and paying online at  
[idahocitychamber.org](http://idahocitychamber.org) (events -Chili Cook Off)  
or in your emailed or printed packet

### **Cooking, Ingredients, & Food Prep:**

- You must prepare a minimum of 10 gallons of chili. Many contestants make much more..
- You must bring your own food, utensils, trash can, and dishwashing station – wash/rinse/sanitize/dry. Don't forget bleach!! The Chamber will provide handwashing stations.
- Your chili must contain chili peppers, in any form. It may be red, green, or vegetarian, but all chilis are judged together, regardless of type.
- Your chili should be made from scratch – not from a mix or canned. Canned or bottled ingredients will be permitted.
- Chili is prepared on site, on pavement or dirt. Many contestants use propane.
- Chili may not be put on to cook before **7am** and must be finished cooking for judging by **11:30am**, giving you a maximum of 4 1/2 hours of cooking time. You may set up as early as needed, after 6am. You **MUST** have your ingredients checked before you start cooking.
- **THERE IS NO PRE-COOKED FOOD OR HOME CANNED FOOD ALLOWED.**
- No game meat is allowed without a certified package to show to judges -no personal game meat.
- Dried beans may be soaked ahead, but often they are not tender by noon..
- Ingredients may be chopped or ground ahead, including meat, but original labels **MUST** be kept to show the check-in volunteers. Spices may be mixed ahead.
- All food and food preparation should be done meeting all Idaho Food Codes, time and temperature controlled for safety.
- People's Choice Award will not receive a cash prize, only trophies, etc. **BUT**, there will be no rules. All food safety rules must be followed.
- No condiments may be served that are being sold by a non-profit.
- No local, state, or federal law may be broken. Yes, we have to include that warning...
- The Judges Prizes of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> places will have cash prizes and trophies. No judges may be served condiments of any kind, or be bribed, in any way. Your contestant #'s will be coded, so it won't do any good to tell a judge your number. Yes, that warning is necessary...

**Idaho City Chamber of Commerce**

**PO Box 507, Idaho City, ID 83631**

**[idahocitychamber.org](http://idahocitychamber.org), [boardmembers@idahocitychamber.org](mailto:boardmembers@idahocitychamber.org)**

**Committee Chair – Rhonda Jameson, [simplyfun@live.com](mailto:simplyfun@live.com), 208-807-6434**

**Call or text Rhonda for more information or Clarification.**

**Updates and posts about contestants, sponsors, cups, raffle and silent auction:**

**Facebook Event “40th Annual Idaho City Chili Cook Off”**

**Online Sponsor, commemorative mug/ticket sales, Contestant, and Event information:**

**[idahocitychamber.info](http://idahocitychamber.info) (Events – Chili Cook Off) (OVER)**

## Schedule, Set-up & Parking

- Arrive/set-up no earlier than **6am** and no later than **8am**. Your name and spot number will be displayed on the ground where you should set-up. Bring a flashlight. Sunrise is @ 7:00am
- Check-in is at VISITOR CENTER, Main st./Hwy 21. You may choose to unload 1st, then check-in, or check-in in the parking lot and then go to your spot.
- You must move your vehicle to the Sinclair gas station, or your own property, ASAP. Main St. must be cleared by 8:30. Tickets will be given by 9:00am. Vendors will be arriving by then.
- At the Visitor Center you will check-in and receive:
  - 1) The time you will bring your sample for the judges to the Visitor Center.
  - 2) Your free commemorative cup/s,
  - 3) Your People's Choice Bucket to receive People's Choice "Happy Face" voting tickets.
  - 4) A **2 oz.** serving ladle, if you don't have one from a previous year.
  - 5) A Judges' sample bucket, with a letter written on the bottom.
  - 6) A feedback form to be turned in before you can receive your judges' forms.
  - 7) Your health Department compliance form, to be posted at your site.
- We will try to check your ingredients (See rules) in the parking lot, but we may have to meet you at your spot, after you get your check-in box..
- **YOU MAY NOT START COOKING UNTIL YOUR INGREDIENTS ARE CHECKED** and no earlier than **7:00am**
- You may not check-in later than **8:00am**.

## Judging and Awards and The End

- You will receive a time to take your judges' sample bucket to the Visitor Center.
- There are usually 4-5 judges who judge you on: Taste (weighted by 3X), Aroma, Consistency, Aftertaste, and Color.
- **SERVING WILL NOT BE ALLOWED BEFORE THE LAST SAMPLE IS PULLED** for judging, at **Noon**. No Exception. We will try to have a gun shot at noon.
- Each person who has bought their sample cup will get **only one, 2 oz.** sample from you.
- At 1:30-1:40 all People's Choice happy face tickets will be pulled. You may continue to serve, if you still have chili, but no People's Choice tickets will count after buckets and boxes are pulled.. Everybody has equal time to collect tickets, so don't flip out. Again...We don't care if you have belly dancers holding signs, Vote for #6!" just HAVE FUN and DON'T BREAK THE LAW! There is always the Judge's Awards for the best chilis. You get a trophy, bragging rights, but no cash for People's Choice.
- Public can vote in ballot boxes on a table on Main st.or at your booth. We combine them.
- The public can ALSO rank your chili as they taste via the QRC code. No prize money. Just fun.
- **1:30-2:00** Silent Auction sheets are pulled and Money is collected.
- **2:00 or ASAP** - 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Places and the People's Choice Award are Announced. Teams collect their prize Money. Gather on Main St at Simply Fun. at the microphone for the announcements.
- **By 2:30** Turn in your feedback sheets and your ladle and receive your judges' sheets, before you leave, with your trash. You can take your trash to the dump (10 min. on Centerville Rd.) or pack out. The dump closes at **5:00** sharp.

**Call or text Rhonda Jameson at 208-807-6434 any time for clarification.**

OVER THERE'S MORE!

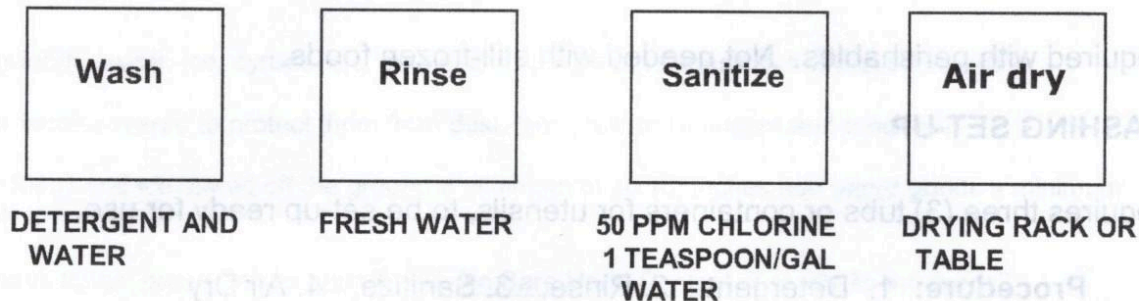
## DISHWASHING SET-UP

The following procedures are recommended in Temporary Food Establishments for washing multi-use eating and drinking utensils by hand.

Use three (3) vats such as small washtubs or a three-compartment sink.

1. The first vat is used for washing items with hot water and a suitable soap or detergent.
2. The second is used for rinsing in hot water.
3. The third is filled with chlorine solution made of 1 teaspoon per gallon of water. (Liquid unscented bleach, Clorox, Purex, or their equivalents are acceptable compounds.)

**Air-dry all sanitized items. DO NOT dry with a towel.**



**NOTE: Dumping wastewater on the ground or in a storm drain is prohibited.**

**Method of wastewater disposal must be approved by  
Central District Health Department.**