



Havelock Chili Festival, P.O. Box 113, Havelock, NC 28532

[havelockchilicommittee@outlook.com](mailto:havelockchilicommittee@outlook.com) • [www.chilifestival.org](http://www.chilifestival.org)

JULY 2025

Dear Prospective Cooks:

The 43rd Annual Havelock Chili Festival will be held on Saturday, October 18, 2025, in Walter B. Jones Park, downtown Havelock, NC. Event hours are Saturday 10am until 6pm. We are looking for the best amateur and professional chili cooks to battle it out for the 2025 title(s). We are not members of the International Chili Society (ICS) this year.

### **ENTRY FEES/REQUIREMENTS**

- CHILI - \$45 entry fee + All competitors must provide a minimum of five (5) gallons of chili to serve the public for the People's Choice competition. However, the more chili you have for tasting, the more visitors can taste your chili and vote for you to win!

### **COMPETITION - ALL ENTRANTS MUST FOLLOW CRAVEN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT GUIDELINES.**

- All Chili Cooks must participate in the People's Choice competition. People's Choice serving to the public will begin at 12pm and continue until 4pm or until you run out. Festival visitors will vote for their favorite chili via 1 ballot per wristband purchased.
- People's Choice CHILI can be prepared off-site, heated the day of the festival and must be HOMESTYLE chili as defined - "Homestyle Chili is any kind of meat, or combination of meats, and/or vegetables cooked with beans, chili peppers, various spices and other ingredients. Homestyle chili may be any color. Beans are required. Preference is not given to either cut meat, ground meat, shredded meat or cubed meat. Seafood is allowed. You may garnish this chili however you like."

### **TRADITIONAL RED CHILI COMPETITION**

- There will be ONE category in the JUDGED CHILI competition: Traditional Red. Entry fee is included with People's Choice entry should a cook choose to enter the judged competition.
- All JUDGED Competition Chili must be prepared on-site. People's Choice Homestyle chili can be prepared off-site.
- Competition chili will be judged by a blind taste test of local judges.

### **REQUIREMENTS/RULES FOR ALL COOKS**

- Contestants must provide all necessary equipment to include utensils, tables, cookers, a 5-lb fire extinguisher, and cleaning stations per Health Department regulations.
- Serving containers, spoons, and napkins will be provided by the HCF. Condiments are the responsibility of the contestant. A MANDATORY Cooks Meeting will be held (see timeline page 2), and initial issue of paper products will be made at that time.
- Tickets/wristbands for chili tasting will be sold by the Festival. NO MONEY WILL BE COLLECTED BY CONTESTANTS. Details for how voting will be handled will be explained at the COOKS meeting at 8am.
- Awards: JUDGED Competition Chili and People's Choice - Saturday at 5pm.
- Chili cooks are welcome to bring cookers, etc. Friday evening 4 to 8pm but 10x20 tents cannot be raised until Saturday at 6am. No security will be provided.

### **TENTS**

- We plan to provide 10x20 tents to each Chili cook but were still finalizing some details with the Fire Marshall at the time of publication. We will keep you all informed on tent availability.

Cooks will be sent any changes/details closer to event. Any questions may be directed to [HavelockChiliCommittee@outlook.com](mailto:HavelockChiliCommittee@outlook.com)

Sincerely,

The Havelock Chili Festival Committee



Havelock Chili Festival, P.O. Box 113, Havelock, NC 28532, 252-422-4853

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## **43<sup>rd</sup> Annual North Carolina State Chili Cook-off Application**

**Saturday, October 18, 2025**

Inviting all Chili Cook Competitors

The 2025 Havelock Chili Festival will be held Saturday, October 18, 2025.

To compete in this year's Chili Cook-off\*, please fill out the attached application to register. All proceeds from the Havelock Chili Cook-off benefit the local Havelock community through scholarships and grants to nonprofit organizations.

### **COOKS TIMELINE**

7:00 to 8:00 AM	HEALTH DEPT INSPECTION
8:00 - 8:15 AM	<u>MANDATORY MEETING:</u> All Chili Head Cooks at Fire Dept.
8:30 - 11:30 AM	Traditional Red Chili 3-Hour Cooking Period. Turn in for judging at 11:30 AM.
11:30 AM	Turn in for Judging
12:00 PM	Start selling People's Choice
4 PM	Chili People's Choice Voting Ends
5 - 5:30 PM	Chili Winners Announced (Exact time dependent on counting time needed)
6 PM	Festival Ends

### **AWARDS**

Cash awards will be determined on day of event based on number of entrants.

\*PLEASE NOTE: We are not sanctioned by the International Chili Society (ICS).

#### **TRADITIONAL RED**

1<sup>st</sup> Place .....TBD  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place .....TBD  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place .....TBD

#### **PEOPLE'S CHOICE**

1<sup>st</sup> Place...\$500 & Banner

#### **BOOTH APPEARANCE**

Best Overall....\$50 & Banner



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## **43<sup>rd</sup> Annual North Carolina State Chili Cook-off Application**

**Saturday, October 18, 2025**

**Inviting all competitors :**

**CHILI - JUDGED TRADITIONAL RED CHILI & PEOPLE'S CHOICE**

Head Cook Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (city, state, ZIP) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Number \_\_\_\_\_

### **PEOPLE'S CHOICE CHILI COOK-OFF ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> People's Choice Chili Entry Fee                                   | \$45 + at least 5 gallons of Chili |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Check if also competing in Traditional Red Competition            | \$0                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Late Fee for Applications submitted after October 1 <sup>st</sup> | \$35                               |

Total Amount Submitted \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for choosing to participate in the 2025 Havelock Chili Cook-off.

We look forward to seeing you on October 18<sup>th</sup>!

**Please make checks payable to HAVELOCK CHILI FESTIVAL and**

**remit with COMPLETED APPLICATION by OCTOBER 1st**

**to: Havelock Chili Festival, PO Box 113, Havelock, NC 28532.**

**Or fill out, scan and email to us at [HavelockChiliCommittee@outlook.com](mailto:HavelockChiliCommittee@outlook.com)**

**and pay online at [www.chilifestival.org](http://www.chilifestival.org) on the Chili Cook Info page. A 4% Convenience Fee will apply.**

**PLEASE NOTE: NO REFUNDS will be given unless there are extenuating circumstances. The Havelock Chili Festival Committee may allow refunds on a case-by-case basis. HCF Committee decisions are final.**

**PLEASE ASK FOR CLARIFICATION ON ANY ISSUES PRIOR TO PAYMENT.**

**The Havelock Chili Festival is a RAIN OR SHINE EVENT.**

**Should the Festival be cancelled due to severe weather, Cook entry fees will rollover to 2026.**

## PLEASE INITIAL THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS TO ACKNOWLEDGE:

- ☐ No electricity is provided. Please make arrangements for lighting. The festival will have lights for the safety of the attendees but not available for individual use by Participants. No portable generators are allowed at the Havelock Chili Festival.
- ☐ Once Participant locations are assigned, no changes will be made. If you have any special requests, please indicate on your application. The Havelock Chili Festival does not guarantee special requests can/will be honored.
- ☐ Participant agrees to clean area of festival grounds at conclusion of the Havelock Chili Festival, (including but not limited to zip ties, by-products of food preparations, etc.) or be assessed a \$200 Cleaning fee.
- ☐ Participants must make arrangements to transport any used cooking oil away from festival grounds. If Participant is observed disposing of cooking oil on the festival grounds a fine of \$1,000 will be assessed.
- ☐ Any gray water must be disposed of in the gray water barrels provided. If a Participant is observed disposing of gray water in the restrooms or on the grounds, they will be asked to leave and no refund of fees will be given. A fine of \$500 will be assessed and the Participant's application will not be accepted in future Havelock Chili Festivals.
- ☐ No direct water source is provided. However, MULTIPLE WATER TAPS ARE AVAILABLE ON SITE.
- ☐ Chili set-up can begin on Friday 4 to 8 pm or on Saturday at 6am and must be completed and all vehicles off the field by 9am. Only ONE vehicle will be allowed on the field per Participant.
- ☐ Acknowledge Craven County Health Department regulations and requirements have been read and understood, available at [www.chilifestival.org](http://www.chilifestival.org) and fill out and return to us: <https://www.cravencountync.gov/DocumentCenter/View/10524/Exempt-and-Nonprofit-Food-Sales-Registration-PDF>
- ☐ All cooking gear must be provided by the Participant.
- ☐ Tables, chairs and decorations will not be provided by the Havelock Chili Festival.
- ☐ All Chili Participants must take part in the People's Choice competition. Traditional Red judged competition is not required but encouraged.
- ☐ All participants **MUST HAVE a 5-lb dry chemical fire extinguisher** on site in their booth with inspection tag dated 2025 or WITH 2025 RECEIPT if no inspection tag available. HCF chili cooks will be inspected by the City of Havelock Fire Department. IF COOKING/FRYING WITH GREASE OR OIL, a CLASS K extinguisher is required. Please contact City of Havelock Fire Marshal, Richard Blaine, with any questions or concerns at (252) 444-6442 or [firemarshal@havelocknc.us](mailto:firemarshal@havelocknc.us)
- ☐ All Chili booths must be staffed on Saturday from 10am until awards are announced (see timeline). Vehicles must remain off the field until Festival attendees have exited. Volunteers will be provided to help serve and check wristbands.
- ☐ The Havelock Chili Festival Committee is not liable for damages, injury or loss to any person or goods from any cause whatsoever. The Havelock Chili Festival Committee cannot be held responsible for any claims for damage, injury or loss arising out of or in connection with use of space or grounds at the festival. All decisions of the Havelock Chili Festival Committee will be final. The Havelock Chili Festival is not responsible or liable for the failure of any Participant to comply with these requirements and fees will not be refunded for failure to pass these inspections.
- ☐ **Noncompliance will not be tolerated.** Any Participant who is observed not following the rules of the Havelock Chili Festival Cook-off will be asked to shut down booth operations. No refunds will be given. Participant will not be invited back to future events.
- ☐ No alcoholic beverages are allowed on city properties except beer purchased and consumed in the Beer Garden.
- ☐ Service animals are welcome but personal pets and other animals are not permitted per City Ordinance.
- ☐ Application must be submitted with all applicable fees on or before October 1<sup>st</sup>.

## PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT TO THE RULES OF THE HAVELOCK CHILI FESTIVAL:

As a Participant in this event, my signature verifies that I/we have read and understand this agreement of participation. I understand that my fees are non-refundable. (Please keep a copy of this signed document for your records.)

Your Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature

Date