



# Bastrop Juneteenth Celebration

## Gumbo Cook-off Entry Form



To add to the festivities Bastrop Juneteenth Celebration is honored to host the second Bastrop Mardi Gras Festival Gumbo Cookoff. The entry fee to participate **February 17, 2026**, is \$100 per team and for a \$15 tasting fee, spectators are invited to taste participants' entries.

The number of entries will be limited to 10 teams. Prizes will be awarded for First, Second and Third Place and People's Choice.

### **GUMBO MUST:**

- All food preparation may be offsite and ready to present for judging the day of the event.
- Only 1 gumbo entry per team registration is allowed.
- There is only one Cook-Off Category. However, because of the size of the sample cups, we request that each contestant choose 2 (two) proteins for their entry or choose to have all meat or all seafood gumbo.
  - Chicken and Sausage Gumbo: Must be primarily poultry & sausage, and must not contain any seafood.
  - Seafood Gumbo: Must contain seafood as primary ingredient. Gumbo entries containing seafood must post specifically what is included, to allow those with allergies to choose accordingly.
- Each team is required to make a minimum of ten (5) gallons of gumbo and 2lbs rice to provide samples to the public and a panel of judges.
- Be ready for Judging between 7-8pm. Judging will be blind from numbers only.

### **TEAM REQUIREMENTS:**

**Team Captain:** each team will designate a team captain that will be responsible for keeping their team's cooking area clean, that samples are given to the judges table, as well as ensuring all team members understand the Rules & Regulations

**Check-in and Set-up:** Because we are scaling the competition time and requirements back, we will adjust the check-in time accordingly. Please watch your emails and text for instructions prior to competition day.

**Space:** Each team will be designated a 10'x20' space for their food preparation and cooking. Each team will need to provide their own canopy, weights (30lb at each leg), tables and cooking equipment and supplies. Each team is responsible for the cleanliness of their space and for following City, County and State food safety regulations. Teams must break down their stations and completely vacate the areas no later than 8:30pm.

### **Health and Safety:**

- A centralized three compartment dishwashing and handwashing station will be provided for participants to use. Participants are welcome and encouraged to have their own hand washing and dishwashing setup within their 10x20' stations.
- All food preparation must occur underneath each team's respective canopy and cooking is required to happen outside of the canopy but within the 10x20' designated team spot. All food must be covered at all times.
- No smoking is allowed in the cooking area and no pets allowed in the cooking area.



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### JUDGING:

Numbered containers for the judging will be provided by the Bastrop Juneteenth Celebration at approximately 7:00 pm. A team captain is required to deliver the numbered sample container to the judging area by 6:30 pm. The judging area will be communicated to each Team Captain the morning of the event. The winners of the cook-off will be announced between 8:30pm. All decisions by the judges are final.

- The judges will give each gumbo a score between 1 and 5. The judging criteria are as follows:
  - Appearance – has a good gumbo-roux color
  - Aroma – must smell appetizing
  - Consistency – stirs like a good gumbo – thickness of base, etc.
  - Texture – balanced quantity of ingredients
  - Flavor – tastes like a good gumbo, pleasing to the palate
- Cooking conditions are subject to inspection. Failure to follow these rules will be grounds for disqualification. Any changes to these official rules and regulations will be communicated to Teams in advance of the event.

### WHERE:

Located on the streets of downtown Bastrop – along Main Street

### PRIZES:

Awards will be given in the following categories:

- Best Overall by Judges:
  - First Place - trophy and \$300
  - Second Place - trophy and \$200
  - Third Place - trophy and \$100
- People's Choice Award
  - Trophy and entry into 2027 Gumbo Cook-Off

### WHAT WILL BE PROVIDED

Each team will be provided with sample cups and judges sampling cups, utensils, napkins and a volunteer. Volunteers will collect tasting tickets to ensure only one sample is given per paid entrant and to keep your line moving. They will also collect votes for People's Choice.

### ENTRY FEE

**\$100 per team**

All proceeds from this event will benefit the annual scholarship and future celebrations of the Bastrop Juneteenth Celebration, a nonprofit organization. Each year the celebration holds annual weekend events. Activities include school reunions of the former historically African American schools in Bastrop, family reunion meet-ups, a parade, festival and a street dance.



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### SCHEDULE (subject to change):

4-5:00pm Teams arrive, check-in and set-up  
4:00pm Bastrop Mardi Gras Festival kicks off  
6:00 pm General ticket Cook-Off Open to the Public  
7:00 pm Teams must have gumbo available for judges  
8:00 pm Judging  
8:30 pm Winners announced

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(Please print information)

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Captain: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Members \_\_\_\_\_

Team Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Entry Fee: \$100 per team non-refundable. Make checks payable to Bastrop Juneteenth Celebration**  
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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_