

TASTE OF RHODE ISLAND

OFFICIAL PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT

WINTER SHOWCASE | WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2026 | CROWNE PLAZA PAVILION, WARWICK, RI

Complete and return this Agreement to the email listed on page two. Submission confirms Vendor's acceptance of all terms, rules, and regulations and authorizes promotion of Vendor participation. Setup instructions will be provided prior to the event.

PARTICIPANT EXPERIENCE

Taste of Rhode Island gives participating businesses the opportunity to introduce their food and beverages to more than 1,000 local consumers, create meaningful face-to-face connections, and build awareness within the Rhode Island community. These guidelines are designed to create a professional, enjoyable experience for every guest and participating business.

CREATING A STRONG GUEST EXPERIENCE

Your exhibit is an opportunity to make a memorable first impression and introduce guests to the quality of your business. Vendor agrees to provide approximately 700 samples; maintain an attractive exhibit; supply serving items and ice; comply with all Department of Health regulations and licensing requirements; maintain liability insurance; and provide a fire extinguisher when using heating elements. No open flame is permitted. Only one business is allowed per exhibit.

SERVING A MEMORABLE SAMPLE

A generous one- to two-bite portion gives guests a true taste of your featured item and encourages them to remember your business after the event. Samples must be substantial and representative of the quality of the Vendor's regular menu offerings. Token-sized portions or samples consisting primarily of a garnish, cracker, or base are not acceptable.

EVENT SETUP & STAFFING

A timely, fully staffed exhibit helps your business make the most of every guest connection. Setup is 3:00-4:30 PM, with all staff, including management personnel, onsite by 4:30 PM. VIP admission begins promptly at 5:00 PM, and the event concludes at 9:00 PM. Early breakdown and staff changes during the event are prohibited. Participation includes one six-foot table with linen, one prep table, and up to four staff members unless upgraded participation or sponsorship is secured. Electricity must be arranged directly through Crowne Plaza at least two weeks before the event using the form available at www.tasteofri.com.

EXHIBIT VISIBILITY & SALES

Professional signage helps guests recognize and remember your business. All signage must remain within the assigned exhibit space and may not obstruct neighboring exhibits. Banners over six feet require Option B participation or sponsorship. Product sales are not permitted unless authorized through a sponsorship agreement.

IMPORTANT: PERFORMANCE DEPOSIT & PARTICIPATION POLICIES

A valid credit card is required for a \$250 Vendor Performance Deposit from each and every participant, even if the standard exhibit at no charge is selected. If showcasing more than one exhibit, a separate Exhibitor Agreement must be completed for each exhibit space.

The credit card will be charged ONLY if Vendor fails to attend; cancels more than one month prior to the event due to staffing, permitting issues, or other circumstances; breaks down before 9:00 PM; violates event rules; or causes venue damage. Vendor is responsible for adequate staffing, and illness, staff unavailability, or unforeseen circumstances do not relieve its obligations. Benefits are package-specific and non-transferable. Fees are non-refundable and non-transferable.

Each Vendor must provide one gift card, certificate, product, or gift basket valued at \$25 or more. Gift cards and certificates must remain valid for more than one year after the event, may not require an additional purchase, and must be submitted in advance. Products and gift baskets provided in lieu of a gift card or certificate may be presented before the doors open and delivered to the Taste of Rhode Island registration table.

FORCE MAJEURE, LIABILITY & ACCEPTANCE

Event Producer may modify, postpone, or cancel the event due to circumstances beyond reasonable control and shall not be liable for resulting losses. Vendor releases and holds harmless Taste of Rhode Island, Pat Cruz Events, LLC, Patricia Cruz, and Crowne Plaza from claims involving injury, loss, theft, or property damage related to participation. Event attendance or business results are not guaranteed. Exhibit space is not secured until the signed Agreement and valid credit card information are received. By signing, Vendor accepts all terms, conditions, policies, and participation requirements. Event Producer may refuse or cancel participation for noncompliance.

TASTING PARTICIPATION OPTIONS

Food samples must be generous one- to two-bite portions.

OPTION A | COMPLIMENTARY PARTICIPATION

- Face-to-face access to 1,000+ event guests
- Business name listed on the event website
- Business name included in select email promotions
- Up to four staff members (must be onsite during setup)
- Standard exhibit placement and signage restrictions apply

OPTION B | \$150 | RECOMMENDED VISIBILITY PACKAGE

Includes Option A, plus:

- Dedicated business spotlight shared on Taste of Rhode Island social media
- Direct website link to help guests learn more about your business
- Expanded exhibit branding with space for one 8' x 8' banner
- Increased visibility before and during the event

OPTION C | \$750 | PREMIUM VISIBILITY PACKAGE

Includes Options A and B, plus:

- Priority exhibit placement
- Expanded space that may accommodate a 10' x 10' tent
- Two dedicated social media spotlights and stories
- Logo placement on select event promotions
- Press and media inclusion, when available
- Enhanced onsite visibility
- Up to six staff members (must arrive before 4:45 PM)

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Taste of Rhode Island offers food and beverage distributors, industry partners, and community-minded businesses a powerful opportunity to showcase their brands to more than 1,000 local consumers and over 70 participating businesses. Corporate partnerships provide integrated visibility before, during, and after the event while creating meaningful face-to-face connections within our community. Tastings are not required. Non-food and beverage businesses may participate only as corporate sponsors.

PRESENTING PARTNER | \$6,000

One available. Exclusive designation and category exclusivity, when applicable; premier logo placement across marketing, advertising, tasteofri.com, and ongoing social media; premium onsite branding and activation opportunities; verbal recognition; media recognition; and opportunity for branded materials or giveaways.

GOLD PARTNER | \$3,500

Two available. Prominent logo placement on marketing materials, website, and social media; high-visibility onsite presence with verbal recognition; opportunity for branded materials or giveaways; and preferred category positioning, when applicable.

SILVER PARTNER | \$1,500

Logo placement on the website, select marketing materials, and social media recognition; onsite visibility; opportunity to distribute promotional materials and meet more than 1,000 local consumers face-to-face in a fun, relaxed atmosphere.

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PARTICIPANT APPLICATION & AGREEMENT

BUSINESS & EVENT CONTACT INFORMATION

BUSINESS NAME

CONTACT PERSON

PHONE

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

ONE PERSON TO RECEIVE EVENT INFORMATION & SETUP INSTRUCTIONS

NAME

EMAIL

PARTICIPATION SELECTION

SELECT ONE PARTICIPANT OR CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP OPTION

Option A

Option B

Option C

Presenting

Gold

Silver

TOTAL INVESTMENT

ELECTRICITY NEEDED?

Electricity form must be downloaded from tasteofri.com and sent directly to Crowne Plaza at least two weeks before the event.

SECURITY & PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION

A valid credit card is required for the \$250 Vendor Performance Deposit. Total investment may be paid by credit card or through tasteofri.com.

CREDIT CARD NUMBER

EXPIRATION

SECURITY CODE

BILLING ZIP CODE

CARDHOLDER NAME

PAYMENT NOTES (OPTIONAL)

AGREEMENT & AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

By signing below, the authorized representative confirms that they have read page one and agree to all terms, conditions, policies, payment authorization, and participation requirements contained in this two-page Agreement.

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

QUESTIONS: PAT CRUZ | PAT CRUZ EVENTS | 401-261-3300

RETURN COMPLETED AGREEMENT TO: PATPAOLINOCRUZ@GMAIL.COM