



People's Choice Competition Rules

Saturday People's Choice Competition

11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Potential Pot as of 3/15/2026 (with 100% participation)

\$1,950.00

Payout Structure

- **Entry fee \$25**
- Seventy-five percent (75%) of all People's Choice entry fees will be paid out to the winning teams.
 - If public participation in the People's Choice judging generates funds equal to or greater than the total team prize pool, the payout will increase to one hundred percent (100%) of the entry pool being returned to the teams.
- Payout structure will be determined by the total number of teams entered in the People's Choice competition.
- For 20 entries or fewer, the full payout will be awarded to 1st Place. For more than 20 entries, the payout will be distributed as follows:
 - 1st Place: 50% of the payout pool
 - 2nd Place: 35% of the payout pool
 - 3rd Place: 15% of the payout pool
- Under the standard payout structure, the remaining twenty five percent (25%) of entry fees will be retained by the event to support event operations and charitable initiatives associated with the Central Texas Barbecue Roundup.

General People's Choice Rules

The People's Choice Competition is one of the most important and exciting parts of the Central Texas Barbecue Roundup. It allows the attending public to meet the pitmasters, taste their creations, and personally take part in judging the competition. This interaction creates a special connection between the teams and the community and helps build the future of the event.



Teams may enter the People's Choice Competition for a \$25 entry fee and may prepare any consumable culinary dish of their choice, with the exception that the dish may not contain alcohol. All entries must be safe for public consumption.

Entry Requirements for Teams

- Entry fee: \$25 per team
- Teams may prepare any dish or culinary creation of their choosing
- Samples are not limited to one dish
- Alcohol is not permitted in any entry
- Entries must be safe and suitable for public consumption
- Teams should prepare approximately 200 to 250 small sample portions for judge sampling.

Serving Procedure

- Display Your Number: Participating teams will be assigned a numbered paddle that they will receive at the team meeting. This number identifies the team for judging purposes and will also correspond with the team's walk song number.
- Teams will provide small sample portions of their entry to People's Choice judges as they visit the team's station.
- There are no restrictions on the type or size of serving containers used by teams when dispensing sample portions.

People's Choice Judging Procedure

- People's Choice judges (attending members of the public) will register and pay the judging entry fee at the event gate and will receive a green wristband identifying them as a People's Choice judge. Upon registration, they will also receive a link to the online digital judging form, which will be completed for each sample received from participating teams.
- The number of People's Choice judges will be limited to a controlled amount to ensure participating teams are not overwhelmed and that the sampling process remains manageable for all competitors.
- When visiting a team's station, the judge will taste the sample provided and then open the digital judging form on their mobile device. The judge will enter the team number displayed on the team paddle, complete the evaluation, and submit the



score. After submission, the form will display a confirmation screen. Teams may politely ask to see the confirmation to ensure the score was recorded.

- Each judge may submit only one score per team entry.
- The judging form is short and simple so judges can quickly submit their evaluations as they move between teams.

Judging Criteria

Each entry will be evaluated on the following three criteria:

1. Appearance and Presentation

Judges evaluate how visually appealing the entry is, including color, plating, texture, and overall presentation.

2. Aroma

Judges evaluate the smell of the entry and how appealing and balanced the aroma is.

3. Taste and Texture

Judges evaluate the flavor profile, seasoning balance, tenderness, and the overall eating experience.

Tie Breaking

If a tie occurs, the following tie breaking sequence will be used:

1. Highest Taste and Texture score
2. Highest Aroma score
3. Highest Appearance and Presentation score

If a tie still remains after these steps, the judges will conduct a coin toss, with the coin faces chosen by two randomly selected judges.

Judging Window

People's Choice judging will take place between 11:00 AM and 4:00 PM.

Closing of Judging

All judging closes promptly at 4:00 PM.

If teams still have food, they are welcome to provide those samples to the public free of charge.



Awards

The winner of the People's Choice Competition will be announced at the awards ceremony.