



2026 HADJI SHRINE CAJUN SHOOTOUT TEAM RULES AND REGULATIONS

Event Location and Team Spaces:

The event is located at Hadji Shrine Center, 800 West Nine Mile Rd., Pensacola, Florida. Each team will have a 15 x 15 space. If you need a larger space, please let us know and we will endeavor to accommodate. Teams must furnish their own cooking equipment, including gas for cookers and fire extinguishers.

Supplied Items:

HSC will provide sampling cups, and tasting utensils. HSC will not provide rice. If you need more supplies, volunteers will be around to provide supplies. The public will be given a golden spoon upon entry which they will use to try all gumbo entries. If they do not have a golden spoon or wristband, please tell them to return to entry to pay and receive their tasting utensils.

Team Captains:

Each team will designate a team captain, who is responsible for seeing that each assigned area is kept clean and that the judging sample is taken to the appropriate area. Teams are responsible for their own garbage and should dispose of the garbage in the designated cans in the cook-off area. **Team Captain is required to attend the Mandatory meeting at 8:30 am the morning of the event. This meeting will be held at the Stage. There will be signage to show the area to meet!** Cooking conditions are subject to inspection.

Check-In:

Set up can begin as early as 6:00 a.m. Please check with Gumbo Volunteer if you did NOT check in on Friday, then proceed to your spot. Teams must have their areas ready to go by 11:30AM. Gumbo sampling will begin at 12PM.

CATEGORY INFO:

Gumbo:

Gumbo must be prepared on-site. There will be two categories for judging: You can do either Seafood or Non-Seafood Gumbo. Each will be judged separately and require their own entry fee. You can do both categories to be judged as well, you would just need to pay for one entry for both categories. **The Roux CAN BE MADE OFF-SITE, but all needs to be assembled on site.** Other ingredients, such as protein, veggies and stock may be prepared in advance. Spices and secret ingredients may be used for seasoning purposes.

Teams must prepare a **minimum of 5 gallons of gumbo** and provide their own rice if wanted. Please remember that the People's Choice award is determined by sampling by the public, the more sampling the better the chance to win. Teams must bring their own ladles for serving gumbo. Teams are required to provide samples (approx. ¼ cup) of their gumbo to the public (in the provided cups). Wristbands will be on sale for \$20.00 and are required for Gumbo sampling.

ANYTHING COLD & IN A CUP ANCILLARY CATEGORY:

For the anything Cold & In A Cup Category, you are free to open your mind and create ANYTHING that is COLD.... And In A Cup! It's Hot outside, let's give the folks something to help them cool down! This could be a cold beverage, an ice cream, a cold salad.... The world is your oyster! You can prepare ingredients off site, but must be assembled on site.

We are asking teams to make at least 250 samples of whatever your entry is. We will be providing sample plates to the teams to give the serve to the public. Wristbands will be on sale for \$20.00 and are required for The Ancillary / Gumbo sampling.

Judging Process:

FOR THE CELEBRITY JUDGING

- Judging will be BLIND this year
- You will be provided with a togo box and 6 containers to turn in to the judges for each category. The containers provided must fit within the togo-box while being able to close the lid.
- Your team member is responsible for turning in your category in the time frame listed, or it will be disqualified. There will be a tent next to the stage with signage. This will be where you turn in your entries.
- You will be given a raffle ticket with a number matching your box. Please take a picture of this raffle ticket that is given to you in case you misplace it. This number is how we will call out the winner, as it is BLIND tasting.
- Judges will be divided into groups of 6, so be prepared for 6 samples in the provided containers.

CELEBRITY JUDGING CRITERIA FOR GUMBO:

- Appearance: has a good gumbo roux color appropriate to the category of gumbo
- Aroma: should smell appetizing
- Consistency: stirs like a good gumbo (thickness of base, etc.)
- Texture: balanced quantity of ingredients.
- Flavor: tastes like a well-balanced gumbo, pleasing to the palate

CELEBRITY JUDGING CRITERIA FOR ANYTHING COLD & IN A CUP:

- Execution: Does the dish meet criteria of category? Did the dish come together cohesively?
- Appearance: Is it pleasing to the eye? Does it look appetizing?
- Taste: Is it pleasing to the taste buds? Is it well balanced and make you want more?

BATTLE OF THE SCHOOLS:

- We want to see your team spirit. Children are the next generation of cooks and we want to introduce them to a little friendly competition.
- Not only will all school teams be eligible for winning the normal prizes, they will also be competing against each other for an additional \$300 and trophy for BEST SCHOOL GUMBO!

We will be doing two people's choice awards this year. Most Money Earned and Most Tokens Captured..

People's Choice is voted on with tokens. Each person purchasing a Wrist Band will be given 5 tokens for voting. These will be counted up at the pick up time of 2:30PM and whoever has the most tokens will win the category.

For the Most Money Earned Category. **THE PUBLIC CAN ALSO PUT CASH IN YOUR BUCKETS AND EACH DOLLAR COUNTS AS ONE POINT!!! GET THOSE PEOPLE TO COME OFF SOME OF THAT MONEY FOR YOU TO WIN THAT TROPHY!!!!** (Remember this is a fundraiser for Hadji Shrine!)

Failure to follow these rules will be grounds for disqualification. The Hadji Shrine Gumbo Shootout Planning Committee (Hadji Shrine Center) reserves the right to make additional regulations as situations warrant. All times stated in these regulations are subject to change. Gumbo Teams will be notified if changes are made. Decisions of the committee and judges are final.

Awards:

Awards will be given in the following categories:

- Judges' Awards:
- 1st Place Seafood Gumbo - \$300.00 & Trophy
 - 2nd Place Seafood Gumbo - \$200.00 & Trophy
 - 3rd Place Seafood Gumbo - \$100.00 & Trophy

 - 1st Place Non-Seafood Gumbo - \$300.00 & Trophy
 - 2nd Place Non-Seafood Gumbo - \$200.00 & Trophy
 - 3rd Place Non-Seafood Gumbo - \$100.00 & Trophy

 - 1st Place Cajun - \$200.00 & Trophy
 - 2nd Place Cajun - \$100.00 & Trophy
 - 3rd Place Cajun - \$50.00 & Trophy
- People's Choice: 1st Place - \$200 & Trophy 2nd and 3rd place Trophy
- Battle of The Schools: 1st Place - \$300.00 & Trophy
- Most Money Earned: Trophy

Requirements and Safety Guidelines:

1. Hadji Shrine has the right to refuse or accept any application.
2. Gloves must be worn by team members that are serving food.
3. A minimum of 5 gallons of each gumbo entered must be prepared.
4. Please make sure your area is clean and all trash has been removed from your site before leaving. Please have your area vacated by 9:00 p.m.

Volunteers for Hadji Shrine Temple Association, Inc., its officers, agents, employees and other representatives shall not be held liable for, and they are hereby released from liability for, any damages, loss, harm or injury to the person or property of the cook-off, any of its officers, agents, employees or other representatives, resulting from theft, fire, water, weather, accident or other cause. Cook-off participants hold Hadji Shrine Temple Association harmless from any claims, demands, suits, liability, damages, loss costs, attorney fees and expenses of whatever kind or nature, which might result from or arise from any action or failure to act on the part of the cook-off participant or any of its officers, agents, employees or other representatives.