



## ***Autumn In The Park Festival*** **2023 Amateur Bar-B-Que Cook-off Application Packet**



Date of Event: Saturday, September 16, 2023  
Location: Palos Park Village Green, 8901 W. 123<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Asphalt pavement along Memorial Drive

**The Amateur Bar-B-Que Contest is a community-based event; thank you in advance for your interest in participating.**

**The Village supplies ten (10) racks of baby back ribs to each contestant team. Contestants will submit the best six (6) portions from the ten racks for judging. It is expected that nine (9) racks of ribs, cut into individual portions (ribs) from the ten slabs the Village provides, will be available for the public tasting portion of the event.**

**Contestant teams will cook chicken for judging only – no public tasting. Chicken to be provided by the contestant teams.**

### **CONTEST RULES**

These rules are nearly identical to that of the Kansas City Barbeque Society. The primary difference is that they only allow wood, wood pellet and charcoal cookers. We allow all kinds of cookers for this event to encourage anyone to come and cook. The overall goal is for everyone to have a great time!

Each team will consist of a chief cook and as many assistants as the chief cook deems necessary. Teams must be comprised of amateur BBQ'ers; no professional or members of a professional team allowed (no restaurants). Contestants will provide all cooking devices to be used. All cooking of product shall be done within the confines of the team's assigned cooking space. Cooking spaces may be assigned by a member of the Village staff or designee.

The Village may limit the number of cook team entries to twenty-eight (28) due to space constraints. Teams can enter multiple entries, provided they pay a separate entry fee, and use a different team name. Contestants must be 18 years of age or older to enter.

Ten (10) slabs of Baby Back Ribs will be provided for each team. Chicken, for judging only, to be supplied by each team. **Teams that register by Friday, August 25, 2023, will pay a \$100.00 entry fee. The late entry period begins August 28, 2023, through Friday, September 8, 2023; teams will be assessed a \$115.00 entry fee. The above entry fee is for both chicken and ribs.**

Each team must cook the ten (10) slabs of Baby Back Ribs provided by the Village. This includes ribs for judging and for public sampling. Ribs must be cooked on site!

Chicken must be inspected by the contest organizer or designee prior to seasoning, and cooking to assure they are in a raw natural state. No pre-marinating of chicken allowed.

Until cooking begins, all meat must be held at a food safe temperature, lower than 40 degrees Fahrenheit, and not show any signs of spoilage. After cooking, meat must be maintained at a minimum temperature of 140 degrees Fahrenheit.

There will be no sale of contestant's chicken, ribs, rubs, sauces, etc. during the day of the contest. Information may be provided regarding sales at a different time/location.

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### **Contest Rules**

Contestants may distribute a 'side' during the People's Choice Rib distribution. Food or beverage (alcoholic or non-alcoholic) shall **NOT** be distributed by contestants or members of their team to the public. Food may be included as a 'side' **ONLY** during the time established for the public rib tasting distribution.

Contestants must provide all needed equipment, supplies and any electricity required. The Village does not provide electric hook-ups. If any tents are used, they must be secured for safety purposes by the contestant; they cannot be staked into the asphalt surface.

Pits, cookers, props, trailers, tents, or any other equipment, including generators, must be provided by the teams and may not exceed the boundaries of the team's assigned cooking space which is approximately 10' x 18'. If you are using a generator, please bring a small, quiet one to not detract from others enjoyment of the contest.

- For this contest, ribs are defined as Baby Back Ribs (pork back ribs).
- Chicken, provided by the teams, can be any part(s) you wish to have judged.
- You may cook the ribs and chicken in any manner that you feel will deliver a competitive product in the time allowed, provided that safe food handling guidelines are followed.
- Fires may be of wood, pellets, charcoal, electric or gas. Electric or gas grills/pits ARE permitted. Fires may not be built on the ground. Ashes must be disposed of site and **ONLY** in approved ash disposal containers provided by the Village.
- It is the responsibility of the chief cook to see that the team assigned cooking space is kept clean and supervised during and following the contest. All fires must be put out and all equipment removed from site following the contest. It is imperative that cleanup be thorough. Any team's assigned cooking space left in disarray or with trash, other than at trash containers, may disqualify said team from future participation. All teams must clean their cooking area at the end of the event.
- **Please return all collected People's Choice rib coins to the ticket area, thank you.**

The following miscellaneous cleanliness and safety rules will apply:

- Cleanliness of the cook team, and the team's assigned cooking space is required. Shirt and shoes are required to be worn.
- Plastic gloves are required while handling food.
- Sanitizing of work area should be implemented with the use of a bleach/water rinse (one cap of bleach/gallon of water).
- Each contestant will provide their own separate container for washing, rinsing, and sanitizing of utensils.
- The Village will provide a water source near the contest area.

The Village will need a minimum of twelve (12) contestants to hold this event and anticipates a maximum of twenty-eight (28) contestants.

### Contestant Prizes

Trophies will be awarded for First through Fifth place, as judged, for both ribs and chicken. A People's Choice trophy will also be awarded for ribs only. A Grand Master, and Reserve Grand Master trophy will be awarded to the teams having the highest combined judged score in both ribs and chicken.

## Contest Rules

### People's Choice

Once all ribs are turned in for judging, the public tasting portion of the contest will begin. Of the ten (10) slabs of baby back ribs provided by the Village, nine (9) slabs cut into individual portions (single rib) are to be made available for the public to sample. Festival attendees are encouraged to purchase coins from the Village to sample the ribs. Coins are deposited in a container (provided by Village) at the contestant tent. Each coin entitles the bearer to sample one portion (single rib). The public will then fill out a ballot provided by the Village and submit their selection for the People's Choice award. Teams are asked to return the coins to the ticket area following the contest.

### Submission Process for Judging

- **For ribs** - each contestant **MUST** submit a minimum of six (6) separated and identifiable ribs placed in a single container as provided. They may be turned in with double bones, single bones, or heavy meat on both sides of a single bone. Be sure each portion is cut through so that the Judges do not have to pull portions apart.
- **For chicken** – each contestant **MUST** submit a minimum of six (6) individual portions presented in a single container as provided.
- **ALL CONTAINERS WILL BE PROVIDED.** Containers must not be marked, or the exterior altered in any way. Numbers assigned on the container shall not be altered in any way. Aluminum foil, stuffing, toothpicks, skewers, and other foreign materials are prohibited.
- Garnish is optional. If used, it is limited to chopped, sliced, shredded or whole leaves of fresh green lettuce; curly parsley; flat leaf parsley; kale; or cilantro.
- The Palos Park Amateur Bar-B-Que Cook-off allows for blind judging only. Entries will be submitted in an approved numbered container provided by contest organizer, then will be randomly selected for judging, without the judges knowing the team's name or number. Entries will be judged by a judging team - judges will be at least 18 years of age; and majority, if not all, will be Kansas City Barbeque Society (KCBS) trained and certified.
- Marking or sculpting the meat by any means will not be tolerated. This will include, but is not limited to, painting, sculpting, or decorating. To simplify the judging process, no side sauce containers will be permitted in the meat judging containers.
- Meats may be presented to the judges with or without sauce, as the contestant wishes. Sauce may not be pooled or puddled in the container.

### Scoring Procedures

Each team will provide a minimum of (6) six portions for judging in a contest container provided by the Village.

The judges voting sheet will consist of the following scoring opportunities:

On a scale of 0 (disqualified), 1 (inedible) to 9 (excellent)

1. Appearance\*\*
2. Taste
3. Tenderness/Texture

Appearance, tenderness, and taste scores will be weighted in the following manner:

**Appearance: 0.55**                      **Taste: 2.2**                      **Tenderness: 1.25**

\*\*Appearance of the meat only.

### **CAUSES FOR DISQUALIFICATION**

- Failure to comply with the rules and regulations established in this document.
- Excessive use of alcoholic beverages by a team, its members and/or guests. Under no circumstances are alcoholic beverages to be distributed to the public by contestants and/or guests.
- Use of controlled substances by a team, its members, and/or guests.
- Foul, abusive, or unacceptable language by a team, its members, and/or guests.
- Fighting and/or disorderly conduct.
- Health Department has the authority to remove any contestant.

During judging, an entry may be disqualified if there is evidence of marking, sculpting, or foreign objects. If the box is presented with ribs not properly separated or with an insufficient number of ribs, one or more of the judges not receiving a rib cannot judge and therefore, the entry will receive low total scores.

The Village will make every effort to provide judges' feedback on an entry through raw scores and the use of comment cards, which will be distributed to the teams following the contest (not necessarily the same day). Comment cards will be available to the judges; judges will be encouraged by contest organizers to submit comments to the contestants. Individual judged scores will be sent to the teams following the event.

There will be NO REFUND of entry fees for any reason, except at the discretion of the contest organizer.

The decisions and interpretations of the Rules and Regulations are at the discretion of the Village of Palos Park representatives at the contest. Their decisions and interpretations are final.

## Schedule of Events

The Village of Palos Park  
*Autumn In The Park Festival*  
The Village Green  
8901 West 123<sup>rd</sup> Street

Event Date: Saturday, September 16, 2023

### BBQ Contest Schedule of Events

7:30 am to 9:00 am	BBQ contestant set up, and inspection of contestant's chicken
@ 9:30 am	BBQ Contest Cooks Meeting on site Rib meat distributed promptly following cooks meeting.
3:30 pm	Chicken turn in for judging
4:30 pm	Rib turn in for judging
@4:31 pm	Public tasting
@ 6:30 pm	BBQ Awards announced in the main tent

Questions may be directed to Rick Boehm, Village Manager at [rboehm@palospark.org](mailto:rboehm@palospark.org)  
or by telephone at 708.671.3702.





The Village of Palos Park  
*Autumn In the Park Festival*  
Palos Park Amateur Rib Cook-off Application 2023

Event Date: Saturday, September 16, 2023—Cooking will take place on the asphalt parking area adjacent to Recreation Building along Memorial Drive

**FEE: Paid entry fee by Friday, August 25, 2023 - \$100.00**  
**Entry fee August 28, 2023 through the deadline of Friday, September 8, 2023 - \$115.00**  
**Entry Fee includes judging for both chicken and ribs.**  
**(Checks made payable to the Village of Palos Park)**

Setup time: 7:30 AM to 9:00 AM. Area should not be left unattended after setup has been completed.

Chicken Turn-In for Judging 3:30 PM  
Rib Turn-In for judging: 4:30 PM ~ Public tasting: @4:31 PM  
Award presentation in the Main Tent: @ 6:30 PM

Chief Cook Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Home # \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

Type of grill: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Cooking: Ribs Only \_\_\_\_\_ Both Chicken and Ribs \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Cook / Chef and attending assistant (s):

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) \_\_\_\_\_
- (4) \_\_\_\_\_

I have read, understand, and agree to the terms and conditions set forth in the Amateur Bar-B-Que Cook-off Rules and Regulations.

Printed name of Chef: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Chef: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return payment and complete signed application** including all items listed below to:  
Rick Boehm, Village Manager, the Village of Palos Park, 8999 W. 123<sup>rd</sup> St., Palos Park, IL 60464:

- Cook-off application
- Hold Harmless Agreement
- Entry fee: if by check make payable to Village of Palos Park

Office Use Only:

Date Paid: \_\_\_\_\_ Check #: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed Rules/Waiver Attached: \_\_\_\_\_





The Village of Palos Park  
*Autumn In The Park Festival*  
Palos Park Amateur Bar-B-Que Cook-off

Event Date: Saturday, September 16, 2023

**Hold Harmless Agreement**

It is agreed by the applicant/participant that he/she shall assume full responsibility for, and hold the Village of Palos Park, and the event co-sponsors harmless and whole from any and all liabilities arising from the applicants, applicants' agents and representatives conduct and actions (including but not limited to: transit to and from event, event set up period, the event, and the event take down period). Applicant/participant understands that he/she is solely liable for any and all claims and losses related to his/her actions and products exhibited, created, or brought to the event.

Applicant/participant also understands that there will be NO REFUNDS of applicant's participation fees due to bad weather, ejection, disqualification, or other occurrences beyond the control of the Village of Palos Park and other sponsoring parties.

I also understand that without this form completed and agreed to, with all signatures affixed, the team entry form will NOT be accepted. This hold harmless agreement must be returned with the team entry form.

I have read the hold harmless agreement and refund policy and agree to abide by the above-mentioned and all other rules of the event.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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