

WALK FOR WOMEN PRESENTS  
**SPICE**  
SOUTH PADRE ISLAND CHILI EXPO

## Official Chili Cook-off Rules

Open for setup at 7:00 am

Turn-in for judging at 11:45 am

Open to the public for tasting at Noon

Winners announced at 2:00 pm



### General Rules and Regulations

- Contestants must pre-register in order to enter the contest. **Registration the day of the contest is not permitted.**
- **A \$25.00 ENTRY FEE IS REQUIRED FOR EACH CHILI ENTERED.** Entry fee is payable the day of the contest **CASH or CHECK ONLY.**
- **Chili must be cooked from scratch on site the day of the cook-off.**
- Teams are responsible for supplying all cooking utensils and supplies needed, as well as furnishing their own propane cooker. You will also need to bring your own bowls/spoons for tasting your chili while cooking. These will not be provided to you.
- **No wood or coal burning allowed.** We encourage you to have your own fire extinguisher for safety reasons. **There will be no electrical hook-ups.**
- **All coolers and pots will be inspected upon arrival at the event and before you are escorted to your table.** This is to ensure no pre-cooked food comes into the event.
- **SANITATION:** In accordance with SPI Health Department regulations, Teams must have the following at their tables for use while preparing, cooking and serving:
  - ◊ Hand sanitizer
  - ◊ Disinfectant spray for preparation surfaces (e.g., Lysol, bleach and water, etc.)
  - ◊ Plastic gloves (for serving)
- A panel of judges will determine the top 3 entries in Red, Green/White, Freestyle chilies, and Vegetarian category. The decision of the judges will be final. People's Choice will be determined by the number of tokens given to each team by the public.
- Walk for Women will sell spoons to the public to taste the chili. Tokens (to be determined) will be provided to the public for People's Choice judging.

- Teams are encouraged, not required, to name their chili and decorate their cooking area to reflect that name.
- This chili and bean cook-off is for cooks who just want to have fun and be recognized for their superb culinary skills. Let your hair down (but wear a hat!!!) Dress up, wear a costume, just have fun!



### Serving/Cooking Station Rules

- You must be respectful to others, no offensive displays, excessive noise or music.
- Lewdness, nudity is prohibited.
- The use of firearms, explosives, or pyrotechnics is prohibited.
- Interfering with other cooking teams is prohibited.
- No tents or canopies are allowed due to the limited space on the deck.



### Chili Cooking Rules

- Quantities required for **distribution** to the public:
  - Red, Green/White and Freestyle Chili: Minimum of 10 pounds of meat.
  - Vegetarian: Minimum of 10 quarts (2.5 gals).
- Quantity for **judging**: One pint (16 oz.) is required to submit for judging.
- Chili must be cooked from scratch **on site** the day of the cook-off.
  - COOKED FROM SCRATCH - "Scratch" is defined as starting with raw meat. No marinating is allowed. Commercial chili powder is permissible, but complete commercial chili mixes ("just add meat" mixes that contain premeasured spices) are not permitted.
  - **No ingredient may be pre-cooked in any way prior to the beginning of the official cook-off.**
  - **All chili must be prepared onsite.**
  - Cooks ARE allowed to pre-chop and premeasure all ingredients.
- CATEGORIES – definitions:
  - **RED** chili is defined as any type of **red meat** or combination of red meats, e.g. beef, venison, duck, etc., cooked with **red chili peppers** and other spices and ingredients. BEANS ARE NOT PERMITTED.
  - **GREEN/WHITE** chili is defined as any type of **white meat** or combination of white meats, e.g. pork, chicken, turkey, etc., cooked with **green chili peppers** and other spices and ingredients. Beans ARE permitted, including canned beans.
  - **FREESTYLE** chili is defined as **any type of meat** or combination of meats, cooked with **any combination of chili peppers** and other spices and ingredients. Beans ARE permitted, including canned beans.

- **Vegetarian** chili is defined any combination of chili peppers, vegetables, beans, etc., and other spices and ingredients to create a chili-like dish that does not include any meat. Beans are permitted, including canned beans.
- SANITATION - Everything must be prepared in a sanitary manner.
  - Hats and gloves must be worn when handling, cooking and serving.
  - Cooking conditions will be subject to inspection by the SPI Health Department. (Failure to comply is subject to disqualification.).
- You must be willing to taste your own chili.
- Chili must be covered with a lid when not serving.
- Teams are **allowed** to give samples of their chili **to other teams**. Teams are **NOT allowed** to give samples to the **public prior to noon**. Teams are **NOT allowed** to give samples **to judges** prior to turn in. Any deviation from this rule will result in disqualification.
- Trophies will be awarded by judges' results and People's Choice.



### **Cooks Judging Cups**

- A **COOKS MEETING** will be held at 10:30 am on the day of the cook-off. One member of each team **MUST** attend. At this meeting, each Team will be given 1 official judging cup for each entry. Each Team is responsible for delivering their cups with the chili sample to the judging area at the official turn in time for judging – **11:45 am**.
- **PROTECT THE JUDGING CUP** – Walk for Women will issue the judging cups at the cooks meeting. You will pick up one judging cup for each entry. Once judging cups have been issued, each head cook is responsible for his or her judging cup. Cooks must not remove or tamper with the tickets on the bottom of the cups. The cooks' duplicate ticket will be inside the cup – **REMOVE** it before filling the cup with chili. Any **marked or altered** cup must be replaced prior to turn-in or it will be disqualified. If your cup is damaged or otherwise marked before turn in you can obtain another cup in the judge's room.
- **FILLING CUPS** - Cups should be filled  $\frac{3}{4}$  full.
- **CHILI TURN-IN** - Chili will be turned in at the place and time designated at the cooks' meeting.
- **PENALTIES** - Failure to comply with the rules set forth herein may result in disqualification of an individual cook or team for the cook-off. Decisions of the official(s) are final.



### **Judging**

- Chili judging will be done using preliminary and final judges. All judging in "blind" i.e. the judges do not know which team turned in the chili they are tasting.

- Judges must abstain from inspecting or tasting chili prior to judging. Judges must not be associated with any cook at the cook-off (e.g., one spouse cooking and the other spouse judging).
- Judging criteria and scoring - A single score takes into consideration the five criteria for scoring chili:
  - Aroma
  - Consistency
  - Color
  - Taste
  - Aftertaste
- Scoring - Each cup of chili will be scored on its own merits with a whole number from 0 to 5, 5 being the highest.



### **Tasting Cups for Serving to the Public**

- Tasting cups for serving to the public will be provided by Walk for Women. They will be passed out just prior to noon. These are not to be used for you to taste your chili.
- Teams will be roving with extra cups during the serving period. If you start to run out and do not see a volunteer, borrow cups from a neighboring team.



### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **Who do I contact for information about the cook-off or to enter a team?**

Registration forms, rules and Health Department permits can be found on the W4W web site at [www.spiwalkforwomen.org](http://www.spiwalkforwomen.org). You can also contact Rees at 956-495-9884 or [reeslangspi@gmail.com](mailto:reeslangspi@gmail.com)

#### **What is the cost and what do we need to bring?**

Entry fee is \$25.00 per chili entry, i.e. per chili turned in for judging. Example, if you are cooking in two categories, your entry fee will be \$50. Cash or check only please.

Each team cooking 1-2 entries will be provided one 5' x 3' (approximate size) table space. Each team cooking 3 or more entries will be assigned two 5' x 3' (approximate size) tables. The rest is up to you. Teams are responsible for their own cooking utensils (including bowls and spoons for tasting while cooking), decorations, cook stove/propane cooker and propane. **Remember** – There is no electricity and no wood or charcoal fires, and **everything must be cooked on site**. You are also not allowed to put up a tent or canopy of any kind - space on the deck is limited.

#### **What is the set up time, cooking time, when is the judging?**

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**\*\* Walk for Women reserves the right to expel any team who refuses to comply with these rules and regulations. Such teams will forfeit all fees.**



- You may begin setting up and cooking 7 am. There will be a team on-site to assist you in moving your gear to your assigned space.
- All coolers and pots will be inspected upon arrival at the event and before you are escorted to your table. This is to ensure no pre-cooked food comes into the event.
- Chili will be turned in for judging at 11:45 am.
- Winners will be announced at approximately 2:00 pm.

### **What is People's Choice Chili Award?**

People's Choice Chili is judged only by the people. There are no other judges. The chili with the most votes becomes the winner. Each chili team is encouraged to decorate their booth to reflect their team's name in their booth decor.

Attendees will cast their votes for People's Choice Chili by depositing one or more tokens (provided at time of admission) into a "Voting Container" that will be supplied to you the morning of the cook-off.

### **How much chili is required?**

- Red, Green/White and Freestyle Chili: We require a minimum of 10 pounds of meat.
- Vegetarian: We require a minimum of 10 quarts (2.5 gals).

### **What are the award categories?**

- A panel of judges will determine 1st through 3rd place in the Red, Green/White, Freestyle and Vegetarian. The decision of the judges will be final.
- People's Choice will be determined by the public attending the event.