

2024 Barbecue Cook-off Rules

Matagorda County Area Go Texan

May 2-4, 2024

Prizes awarded as follows:

1 st Place Brisket ***	\$4000 cash and trophy
2 nd Place Brisket	\$750 cash and trophy
3 rd Place Brisket	\$300 cash and trophy
4 th and 5 th Place Brisket	Award
Showmanship	
1 st & 2 nd Best Cooking Rig	Award
1 st & 2 nd Best Decorated Layout	Award
1 st & 2 nd Place Sonny Side (formerly People's Choice)	Award
Events: Dutch-Oven Dessert, Fajitas, Ribs, Beans, Wild Game, Margarita, Bloody Mary.	
1 st Place	50% & Award
2 nd Place	30% & Award
20% will go to Area Go Texan to cover event costs.	

***** PLEASE NOTE- THE MATAGORDA COUNTY AREA GO TEXAN COMMITTEE WILL PAY ENTRY FEES TO THE HLSR BBQ COOK-OFF FOR THE HIGHEST SCORING BRISKET TEAM INVITED TO ATTEND. CHIEF COOK ON THE TEAM MUST RESIDE IN MATAGORDA COUNTY. THIS WILL BE PAID DIRECTLY TO THE HLSR IN THE NAME OF THE TEAM REPRESENTING MATAGORDA COUNTY AREA GO TEXAN THAT COMPETES IN HLSR IN 2024.**

- 1. Entry deadline is May 3rd at 12:00PM. All entries must be signed up for and paid for at this time! LATE ENTRIES AND CATEGORY SIGN UPS WILL NOT BE TAKEN!!**
2. For reservation of last year's contest space, contact Melanie Bradley at (979)429-7200. Leave a message and your call will be returned (or you can send a text) before April 5, 2024. **Spaces not paid in full will be released to the public April 6, 2024.**
3. Contestants on the roster must be 18 years of age or older. A team consists of one chief cook and no more than four assistants. Contestants may check into the Barbecue Cook-off Grounds beginning 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM on Thursday, May 2, 2024, and must be in place by 6:00 PM on Friday, May 3, 2024.
4. The highest-ranking/invited Brisket Team will be offered the privilege to represent Matagorda County at the World Championship Barbecue Contest at the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo in 2024. If the highest-ranking team declines this honor, it will be offered to the next highest ranking team. Each team should have their answer ready, and be in agreement, should they be offered the opportunity to represent Matagorda County at Houston, Texas. Chief Cook on the team invited to represent Matagorda County must reside in Matagorda County.
5. One wristband per team member will be issued at check-in. Limit of five (5) wristbands per team. These wristbands are for gate entry for the duration of the cook-off.
6. **All teams must** have a representative present at the mandatory cooks meeting at 2:00pm on Friday, May 3rd in the multi-purpose building. Meat cutting instructions will be determined at the cook's meeting.

7. Each team will receive foam trays and containers with lids for food entries. Each of these trays/containers will have a double matched theatre ticket, which has been affixed to the tray with tape. The chief cook will keep one part of the ticket in their possession to show at the awards to claim prizes. The other part of the ticket will need to remain taped onto the tray at turn in, with no writing or markings allowed. **The ticket on the box cannot be altered in anyway.** (If altered, that box will be disqualified.)
8. Cooks are to prepare and cook in as sanitary manner as possible. Cooking conditions are subject to inspection by the MCACT. Conditions found to be unsanitary will be grounds for disqualification from this cook-off. Fire must be wood or wood charcoal. NO gas or electric fires are allowed. No holes, open fires, or dug pits will be allowed. **A fire box will be allowed and must have a minimum of 12" clearance between bottom of box and the ground or paved surface with a heat proof barrier under it and have a safety barrier placed across the top and around the sides of the box. Precautions must be made to prevent fires and accidents. We request each team have a minimum of 2 ea. 5# A, B, C Fire Extinguishers within reach.**
9. Music bands, and/or sound equipment within your team area is allowed. Sound amplification must be of limited volume so as not to interfere with other cooks. Excessive loud music and/or sounds which interfere with announcements, scheduled live bands and entertainment on stage, or which intrude upon or interfere with the comfort of fellow contestants will NOT BE ALLOWED NOR TOLERATED. NO PROFANE MUSIC WILL BE ALLOWED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.
10. No pyrotechnics or explosives are allowed.
11. The Chief Cook for each team will be responsible for the conduct of his team, guests, or invitees. As well, the Chief Cook will be responsible for his team's compliance with the rules and regulations herein set forth. Any offensive conduct, nudity, lewdness, or any form of vulgarity will NOT be allowed, and will be grounds for disqualification from the cook-off. This is a family event. Texas Alcohol Laws will be enforced. Everyone must be 21 years of age minimum to consume alcohol.
12. Contestants may not sell any food or alcoholic beverages to the general public.
13. The Matagorda County Fair & Livestock Association, Matagorda County and the Matagorda County Area Go-Texan Committee are not responsible for theft, damage, or injury sustained during the cook off on any of the grounds.
14. The Committee Ambassador reserves the right to make additional rules and regulations as the situations warrant. Decisions of the MCACT Ambassador are final.
15. The release form on the back of your entry form must be signed by all members of your cooking team in order to participate.
16. Vehicle parking in barbecue cook-off area is prohibited. Once you have set up camp, you must move your vehicle to designated areas. Any vehicle left inside the barbecue area will be cause for team disqualification unless special permissions are gained prior to event. This includes golf carts, motor vehicles, motorcycles, 3 or 4-wheelers, bicycles, or any type of transportation into the cook-off area, except wheelchairs or apparatus for the handicapped. Please notify in advance if you plan to use a handicap apparatus. All non-essential vehicles will need to be removed by 4:00pm on Friday. Any essential vehicle still in the cook-off area after 4:00pm must be escorted out of the gates no later than 5:00pm. After 5:00pm, ALL VEHICLES LEFT IN THE COOKOFF AREA ARE SUBJECT TO BE TOWED AT THE OWNER'S EXPENSE!

17. Animals of any kind will not be permitted in any contestant's contest space, nor will any animal be permitted on the Barbecue Cook-off Grounds, except for service dogs.

18. Judging Times:

Dutch-Oven Dessert	Friday, May 3rd	5:00pm
Beef Fajitas	Friday, May 3rd	6:00pm
Wild Game	Friday, May 3rd	7:00pm
Margaritas	Friday, May 3rd	8:00pm
Bloody Mary	Saturday, May 4th	11:00am
Ribs	Saturday, May 4th	12:00pm
Beans	Saturday, May 4th	2:00pm
Intermediate/Junior Ribs	Saturday, May 4th	3:00pm
Beef Brisket	Saturday, May 4th	4:00pm

19. Ice will be made available to cook-off teams. Ice route times will be announced at the chief cook's meeting.

20. QUIET TIME is from midnight until 7:00AM. This means all music will end, there is no exception. Chief Cooks should start evacuating their guests by 11:30 PM. **All guests must leave no later than 12:00 AM.**

21. All protests concerning Matagorda County Area Go Texan Cook Off must be submitted prior to judging and be accompanied by a \$150 cash deposit. The deposit will be returned ONLY if the protest is upheld. Once judging as commenced, NO protests will be accepted. The judge's decision is final and not subject for protest. Judging procedures will not be interrupted for protest investigation. The protest will be reviewed by at least five members of the MCAGT Committee. The ruling of the AGT Committee will be final. Both sides of the protest must be present at the time of the protest. There will be no anonymous protests accepted. Every contestant, in consideration of his/her entry being accepted by the Matagorda County Area Go Texan Committee, agrees that the conclusion reached by the Committee shall be final, without any recourse against the Matagorda County Area Go Texan Committee.

22. Cook-off camps may tear-down and exit the premises following the awards presentation.

23. NO REFUNDS.

SHOWMANSHIP

A showmanship team must be entered in one or more phases of the cook-off. Your paid entry fee automatically enters you in all showmanship contests, if desired.

Prizes Awarded for:

Best Cooking Rig 1st and 2nd (no entry form necessary)

Best Decorated Layout 1st and 2nd (no entry form necessary)

PEOPLE'S CHOICE (SONNY MEADOR) AWARD 1st and 2nd place award

The Sonny Side Award (formerly people's choice) is given to encourage the friendliness, team spirit and "just having a good time" that Sonny Meador was a true example of. Everyone who knew Sonny knew he had a passion for the kids, raising the most funds to give out in our community... and more importantly wanted everyone to share a lot of laughs... and a lot of drinks. Teams will be given a bucket to collect

“tips” that will be collected nightly. The highest two “tip” amounts win, so encourage your tent guests to tip. All money collected will benefit the MCAGT Scholarship Fund.

ALL INSPECTIONS WILL BE BEGIN AT 8:00am Friday, May 3rd.

All teams are subject to random tag inspections Saturday, May 4th.

BRISKET

Contestants may tag up to 2 briskets per entry form. Only one cut of meat to be judged per contestant, team, or piece of cooking equipment. Contestants are not allowed to share cooking equipment. Turn in MUST be from 1 brisket only. You cannot mix 2 briskets. No pre-marinated, pre-spiced, or pre-soaked meats are allowed before inspection. Meat inspection will begin Friday, May 20th at 8:00am. All briskets are to be tagged prior to cooking by a committee member. No electric or gas fires or electrically controlled cookers allowed for cooking Competition Meats. Fires must be wood or charcoal. You may cook with sauce, but do not add sauce, marinade, sop, or juice to meat or container once the meat is prepared for turn-in. No chemical based curing salts are allowed. No aluminum foil allowed in container. No garnishing, sauce or other markers allowed. For judging purposes, send twelve (12) slices of brisket. All cuts will be witnessed during cutting for competition.

BEANS (JACKPOT ENTRY \$25 WITH A 50/30 SPLIT 1ST AND 2ND PLACE)

Beans must be cooked in a large pot over an LPG, controlled fire. Contestants must cook a minimum of three pounds. Dry beans only may be used; no pre-cooked or canned beans. No pressure cookers or other automatic cooking devices may be used. Ingredients must be cooked from scratch on-site. No meat may be used as a major ingredient. Salt pork or bacon may be used for flavoring. When dishing up your beans for the judges, please be sure no meat is in the cup. For judging purposes, send full container.

DUTCH OVEN DESSERTS (JACKPOT ENTRY \$25 WITH A 50/30 SPLIT 1ST AND 2ND PLACE)

All food must be prepared on-site and cooked over a *wood fire or charcoal*. Dutch oven fires will have a heat barrier between fire and ground. A firebox surrounding the fire must guard the fire. Dessert-bread, dessert-biscuits, cakes, or pastry can be sourdough or baking powder. All entries must be made from scratch; no prepared mixes. Any fruit ingredient must be dried or fresh; no canned. No aluminum foil allowed in container. For judging purposes, send ten (10) servings.

WILD GAME (JACKPOT ENTRY \$25 WITH A 50/30 SPLIT 1ST AND 2ND PLACE)

Wild game is a jackpot contest. The entry fee is \$25 and is payable with your entry fees. The 1st place team will receive 50% of the total jackpot and a trophy; the 2nd place team will receive 30% of the total jackpot and a trophy. No aluminum foil allowed in container.

Each team must specify what wild game is being entered. For judging purposes, send ten (10) servings. **ANY WILD GAME REGULATED BY TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT.**

RIBS (JACKPOT ENTRY \$25 WITH A 50/30 SPLIT 1ST AND 2ND PLACE)

Contestants must cook a minimum of two slabs of pork ribs. Slab pork spare ribs only. NO country-style, baby-back, or loin back is allowed. Turn in eight (8) full ribs cut apart. No pre-marinated, pre-soaked, or pre-spiced ribs are allowed. No aluminum foil allowed in container. No garnishing, sauce or other markers allowed.

FAJITAS (JACKPOT ENTRY \$25 WITH A 50/30 SPLIT 1ST AND 2ND PLACE)

Contestants must cook a minimum of two slabs of beef fajitas. Fajita skirt cut only may be cooked; “beef for fajitas” is NOT allowed. For judging purposes, send (12) twelve ¼” - ½” strips. No pre-

marinated, pre-soaked, or pre-spiced fajita skirt is allowed. No aluminum foil allowed in container. No garnishing, sauce or other markers allowed.

MARGARITAS (JACKPOT ENTRY \$25 WITH A 50/30 SPLIT 1ST AND 2ND PLACE)

Contestants must turn in a full cup of margarita flavor of their choice. (no mixes allowed) Margaritas are judged on taste (2/3 of the score) and presentation (1/3 of the score).....so make them fun and pretty.

BLOODY MARYS (JACKPOT ENTRY \$25 WITH A 50/30 SPLIT 1ST AND 2ND PLACE)

Contestants must turn in a full cup of Bloody Mary. Bloody Marys are judged on taste (2/3 of the score) and presentation (1/3 of the score)... so make them fun and pretty.

JUNIOR COOKERS (NO FEE TO ENTER.. \$200 first place award plus a BBQ pit, \$50 second place award. All participants get a trophy. Cash prizes donated by S's Discount Liquor)

Contestant must be between the ages of 8 and 12 years old. Contestant must be related to one of the cook team members in the space they are cooking. Pork ribs only to be cooked. No baby back ribs. Adult contestant must start the fire for them to cook on. Separate barrel or small fire pit to be used to cook meat. No adults to assist once the fire has been started. Junior cooker must season the meat and move it around as necessary themselves. All necessary steps should be taken to locate the Junior Cooker's pits away from regular cook pits. Turn in eight (8) full ribs cut apart. No pre-marinated, pre-soaked, or pre-spiced ribs are allowed. No aluminum foil allowed in container. No garnishing, sauce or other markers allowed.

INTERMEDIATE COOKERS (NO FEE TO ENTER.. \$200 first place award plus a BBQ pit, \$50 second place award. All participants get a trophy. Cash prizes donated by S's Discount Liquor)

Contestant must be between the ages of 13 and 17 years old. Contestant must be related to one of the cook team members in the space they are cooking. Pork ribs only to be cooked. No baby back ribs. Adult contestant must start the fire for them to cook on. Separate barrel or small fire pit to be used to cook meat. No adults to assist once the fire has been started. Junior cooker must season the meat and move it around as necessary themselves. All necessary steps should be taken to locate the Intermediate Cooker's pits away from regular cook pits. Turn in eight (8) full ribs cut apart. No pre-marinated, pre-soaked, or pre-spiced ribs are allowed. No aluminum foil allowed in container. No garnishing, sauce or other markers allowed.

IF A TEAM PAYS FOR MORE THAN 1 COOK SPOT, THEY ARE ALLOWED ENTRY AS ANOTHER TEAM BUT ALL MEAT MUST BE COOKED ON A SEPARATE PIT FROM THE FIRST ENTRY.

ABSOLUTELY NO GLASS BOTTLES ALLOWED!!! DO NOT BRING THEM IN THE GATE!!!! NO HAY ALLOWED!!!

Team Packets sponsored by:



Outpatient Medical Imaging
MRI, Xray, CatScan, Dopplers, Ultrasound, etc.
720 Avenue F North
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(979)488-4397

QUESTIONS?! CONTACT KAY CRAIN: 979-240-4755

