

SouthArk Outdoor Expo Rib Cook-off Rules

Sponsored by Withrow Family

September 10, 2022

For More Information, www.southarkexpo.com, foundation@southark.edu

Date: Saturday, September 10, 2022

Location: East of the El Dorado Conference Center, 311 South West Ave., El Dorado, AR at the corner of S. Washington and E. Locust S. “Cookers’ Headquarters” tent is located on S. Washington St. and W. Locust Sts.

Cook time: 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Set-up: Friday, September 9, 2022, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. First come, first served. Cookers will set up on South Washington Ave, between Locust & Pony St., east of El Dorado Conference Center. If there is an overflow of grills, they will be placed on E. Locust St., east of S. Washington.

CASH PRIZES AND TROPHIES

Best Ribs

1st	\$2000 & Trophy
2nd	\$750 & Trophy
3rd	\$500 & Trophy
4th	\$250 & Trophy
5th	\$125 & Trophy
6th	\$75 & Trophy

Cooker's Choice

1st	\$750 & Trophy
2nd	\$250 & Trophy
3rd	\$125 & Trophy

Best Rig Construction

1st	\$250 & Trophy
2nd	\$100 & Trophy
3rd	\$50 & Trophy

Best Team Spirit

1st	\$250 & Trophy
2nd	\$100 & Trophy
3rd	\$50 & Trophy

SCHEDULE

Friday, September 9

11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Setup your grill

Saturday, September 10

7:30 a.m. Complete Setup – No vehicles in cookers' area after 7:30 a.m. Park at corner of Pony St. and S. Washington at El Dorado Printing and unload from there.

8:00 a.m. Pick up ribs at the rib truck on Pony St.

9:00 a.m. Staff will distribute sausage for cookers' to give to guests.

11:00 a.m. Judging for Best Team Spirit

12:00 p.m. **Pick up judging containers for Cooker's Choice & Ribs at "Cooks' Headquarters" tent**

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Judging for Best Rig Construction

1:00 – 1:15 p.m. Turn in Cooker's Choice at the east entrance of El Dorado Conference Center (Entry may be disqualified after 1:15 p.m.) Look for "sign".

1:00 p.m. **Pick up shell containers for public sale at the "Cooks' Headquarters" tent.**

2:00 – 2:15 p.m. Turn in competition ribs at the east entrance of El Dorado Conference Center (Ribs may be disqualified after 2:15 p.m.) Look for "sign".

2:30 p.m. Deliver all remaining ribs for public sale at the Cookers' Headquarters tent on S. Washington.

4:00 p.m. Awards Ceremony (must be present to win)

SET-UP RULES

Arriving on Friday

- Set-up cooking pit on Friday, September 9, 2022 between 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Cookers will set up on S. Washington St. between Locust and Pony Sts. First come, first served.
- Security will be provided in the cooking area all day and overnight.
- Teams are responsible for providing canopy tents, tables, chairs, and other equipment needed in the cooking pit. *No stakes are to be driven into the street.*
- Quiet generators only are permitted in the cooking area with prior arrangements.
- Bring your own extension cord, which must be secured to the ground to prevent tripping hazards.
- Limited electrical outlets provided.

Setting Up and Parking on Saturday

- Teams must have cooking pit **set-up by 7:30 a.m.**
- After you set up your cooking pit on Saturday morning, vehicles must park outside of the cooking area. Park at El Dorado Printing parking lot on S. Washington at Pony St., or in surrounding lots along the perimeter of the conference center.
- **Unloading entry is only allowed at S. Washington and Pony St. No vehicles are allowed in the cooking area after 7:00 a.m. on Saturday.**

Security/Safety

- El Dorado Police or Union County Sheriff off-duty officers will provide security all day Friday, Friday overnight, and on Saturday. The El Dorado Fire Department will be present to handle any potential fire hazard during the event

Free Samples - Cooking teams will be given complimentary sausage to cook & give away as tasty samples. Cookers are welcome to give away free food samples of their choices.

PLEASE DO NOT GIVE AWAY ANY TYPE OF RIBS. THE ONLY RIBS THAT WILL BE AT THE COOKOFF ARE THE ST. LOUIS RIBS THAT COOKERS WILL RECEIVE.

Rib entries are not to be removed from the cooking area.

Any violation of this rule will result in immediate disqualification of the competition.

No ribs may be brought in from outside to use for competition or for give away to the public. Violation will result in disqualification.

RIB COMPETITION RULES

On Saturday, cookers shall report at **8:00 a.m.** to the rib truck on S. Washington at Pony St., to briefly discuss the rules and answer any questions. Bring your container in which to place your ribs to carry back to your cooking area. Racks of St. Louis-style pork ribs will be handed out. **Teams will be issued a minimum of six racks of ribs.**

Complimentary sausage will be delivered to each team at 9:00 a.m. by staff.

Begin seasoning and cooking your ribs at any time after ribs have been received. Cookers provide all seasonings and “special” ingredients. Cookers may use any type of fuel designed for the grill or smoker.

Please handle food in a sanitary manner using cooking utensils or gloves. Bring your own gloves.

Ribs are judged on: • Taste • Tenderness • Appearance

12:00 p.m. – A member of each cooking team will go to the “Cookers’ Headquarters” tent, corner of and randomly select **ONE** judges’ container for ribs. This container will have two envelopes taped on the top of the box. Both envelopes contain the same number. Winners will be announced by this number. **DO NOT OPEN OR REMOVE** either envelope from the judges’ rib container. **Doing so will result in disqualification.** Both envelopes must be attached to the judges’ container at the turn-in location.

2:00 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. – To turn in your **competition ribs**, place one rib from EACH of the six racks of ribs you are cooking (totaling six separate ribs) in the judges’ container for ribs. Sauce is optional and must be served in a container provided at cooker headquarters. No garnishes are allowed. Deliver your container to the east entrance of El Dorado Conference Center, (look for the sign) between **2:00 p.m. and 2:15 p.m. to a rib cook-off representative.**

You must have BOTH of your envelopes at the turn-in location. One will be taken with your

ribs and the other will be given back to you. Do not open your envelope until instructed to do so at the Awards Ceremony. Ribs turned in after 2:15 p.m. will be disqualified.

2:30 Turn in non-competition ribs

In order to account for all rib racks distributed, teams MUST turn in containers with the remaining cooked ribs. Otherwise, tickets must be presented - one for each rack of ribs not turned in – please pay \$25 per rack for each rack that you will keep. Other ribs remain the property of Outdoor Expo. NO EXCEPTIONS!

COOKER’S CHOICE COMPETITION RULES

Entries will be judged on taste and appearance. Submit any food of your choosing--**except ribs**. Your entry must be cooked in your cooking area and on your cooking rig during the day of competition.

12:00 p.m. – A member of each cooking team will go to the “Cookers’ Headquarters” tent, S. Washington and W. Locust Sts., and randomly select ONE judges’ container for Cooker’s Choice. This container will have two envelopes taped on the top of the box. Both envelopes contain the same number. Winners will be announced by this number. **DO NOT OPEN OR REMOVE** either envelope from the judges’ Cooker’s Choice container. **Doing so will result in disqualification.** Both envelopes must be attached to the judges’ Cooker’s Choice container at the turn in location.

1:00 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. – To turn in your Cooker’s Choice entry, place three (3) servings in the judges’ container for Cooker’s Choice. Deliver your container to the east entrance of El Dorado Conference Center, look for sign, between **1:00 p.m. and 1:15 p.m. to a Cooker’s Choice cook-off representative.** You must have **BOTH** of your envelopes at the turn in location. One will be taken with your entry and the other will be given back to you. A Cooker’s Choice entry turned in after 1:15 p.m. may be disqualified.

Cooker’s Choice entries are not to be removed from the cooking area. Any violation of this rule will result in immediate disqualification of the competition.

There will be 9 judges for ribs and 3 judges for Cooker’s Choice. This is a double blind contest. Judges will not know the identity of cooking teams and entries will be scored by number only; the identifying number of the cooking teams will not be known until the Awards Ceremony.

DON’T OPEN YOUR ENVELOPES AND DON’T LOSE THEM!!!!!!

4:00 p.m. – Bring your Best Ribs and Cooker’s Choice envelopes to the Awards Ceremony at the main stage at **4:00 p.m.** You will be told when you may open your envelope(s).

**Opening an envelope prior to being notified
will result in disqualification.**

TEAMS MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN!

BEST TEAM SPIRIT COMPETITION RULES

The Best Team Spirit award will be judged on cooks' enthusiasm, staging of the cooking area (rig set-up, streamers, banners, flags, signs, etc.). Although not mandatory, you may include costumes, skits, and/or songs.

11:00 a.m. – Staff will post a “Best Team Spirit” sign on your tent at approximately 9:00 a.m. – please check that you have one. At approximately 11:00 a.m., judges will announce their presence at each cooking pit.

4:00 p.m. – Winners will be announced at the Awards Ceremony at the main stage.

TEAMS MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN.

BEST RIG CONSTRUCTION COMPETITION RULES

Rig construction will be judged on cleanliness of rig, design, construction, and effectiveness/ease of use.

12:00 p.m. - At approximately 12:00 p.m., judges will announce their presence at each cooking pit so teams.

COOKING FOR THE PUBLIC - PROCEDURES

All racks of cooked ribs will be sold to the public. **Put only one (1) COMPLETE rack of ribs per container.** We do ask that each rack of ribs turned in for sale be cut in half to fit into each container provided. Please deliver all non-competition ribs to the "Cooker's Headquarters", no later than 2:30 p.m.

1:00 p.m. – At 1:00 p.m., the Styrofoam clam shell containers for public sale may be picked up at the “Cookers’ Headquarters” tent, S. Washington and W. Locust St.

2:30 p.m. – Be sure to deliver **ALL** remaining ribs for public sale in the provided containers to the “Cookers’ Headquarters” tent.

If you purchase tickets for your ribs in advance, make sure to turn in your tickets or receipt, if you paid online, to the “Cookers’ Headquarters. Teams are expected to account for all ribs issued either by turning in cooked ribs or ticket(s). **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

In order to account for all rib racks distributed, teams **MUST** turn in containers with the remaining cooked ribs. Otherwise, tickets must be presented - one for each rack of ribs not turned in – please pay \$25 prior to the event for each rack that you will keep. Other ribs remain the property of Outdoor Expo. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**