

BankPlus®

Red Beans & BBQ

FESTIVAL

 **BENEFITING STEWPOT** 

CONTESTANT **RULES + INFORMATION**



beansandbbq@stewpot.org



stewpot.org/beansandbbqfest

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

Stewpot's annual fall food festival is BACK (with a twist!) This year, teams will not only be serving up delicious red beans and rice. Teams now have the option to participate in another category that we Mississippians know best: **BARBECUE!**



Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 28th at the Belhaven Town Center from 11am-4pm for the 2023 BankPlus Red Beans & BBQ Festival! The BankPlus Red Beans & BBQ Fest is a family-friendly festival where neighbors come to enjoy food prepared by local business, restaurants, and congregations in their community who are competing for the coveted title of Best Beans and Best BBQ in town.

Join your neighbors for an afternoon of good food, live music, and cold drinks while supporting your favorite Mississippi Homegrown Charity, Stewpot Community Services.

Proceeds from the BankPlus Red Beans & BBQ Festival benefit Stewpot Community Services. Stewpot provides compassionate assistance, at no charge, to people in need of physical and spiritual nourishment. Through our ministries, we serve people who are hungry, poor, and homeless, offering food, shelter, clothing, mentoring, care, and concern. At Stewpot, we believe that we all are fed through our fellowship with one another and that we are all stronger when we are offering our gifts on behalf of others.



CONTESTANT

RULES + INFORMATION

1. REGISTRATION

Teams must complete the required application prior to **Monday, October 23rd**. Due to limited space, applications submitted are not guaranteed entrance to the contest. You are not guaranteed acceptance into the contest until you complete the team application, pay the application fee, sign the Waiver & Liability form, and sign the Rules & Procedures form.

Application fees are based on categories and contests entered. No refunds of the application fees will be made once you have been accepted in the contest, whether you appear or not.

Contestant Fees:

- Restaurants and businesses: \$250.00 (includes 1 primary category entry)
- Congregations, social groups, and schools: \$150.00 (includes 1 primary category entry)

Additional fees:

- \$50 per additional primary category entry
- \$25 per secondary category entry

2. CATEGORIES

PRIMARY CATEGORIES (must choose one):

- Red Beans and Rice
- Barbecue (subcategories listed underneath)
 - Beef
 - Pork
 - Poultry

See bullet point #10 for judging information

SECONDARY CATEGORIES (optional):

- Sauce
- Side
- Dessert

See bullet point #11 for judging information

3. EQUIPMENT

[Please click here for a Cook Team supplies checklist](#)

Each Cook Team is required to supply the following:

- All of the equipment necessary for the preparation and cooking of their entry including a cooker, wood, charcoal, or wood pellets. No team may share a cooker or grill with any other team.
- Extension cords and adaptors if you require electricity. We recommend that you bring your own portable generator, but it must be quiet. We have the right to ask you to discontinue the use of your generator if we deem it too loud.
- Serving utensils
- Tent and tent weights
- Chairs
- Tablecloth, if desired
- Tent decorations, if desired (there will be a Committee's Choice Best Decorated Tent award)

Stewpot will provide the following equipment and materials for each Cook Team:

- Each team will have a trash container and trash liners at their site. It is the responsibility of the Cook Team to regularly empty trash and replace liners
- 1 8ft table
- Paper products (plates, bowls, plasticware, napkins)
- Containers for judges
- Containers for leftovers donated to Stewpot

4. SET-UP

Cook teams may start setting up and cooking as early as 6:30 a.m. day of event.

5. FIRE SAFETY RULES

- A fire extinguisher must be displayed at each Cook Team site.
- Extremely flammable decorations shall not be permitted.
- No hay, straw or bamboo allowed within 35 feet of a tent or cooking site.
- The use of candles or open flames is strictly prohibited in or near tents

6. HEAD COOKS

Each team shall consist of a Head Cook and as many team members as the Head Cook deems necessary. The Head Cook will be the point of contact and represent the team for all communications. The Head Cook must be at least 18 years of age and must be present during the entirety of the event.

The Head Cook will be responsible for the conduct of his/her team and guests. Excessive use of alcoholic beverages, profane or abusive language, or loud music will be grounds for disqualification.

7. TEAM DIVISIONS

Non-restaurant Teams: All non-restaurant teams (businesses, organizations, congregations, social groups, etc.) are required to cook on-site. Non-restaurant teams will be judged separately from restaurant teams.

Restaurant Teams: Restaurant teams are allowed to cook off-site prior to the event. However, restaurant teams are welcome to cook on-site if they wish. Restaurant teams will be judged separately from non-restaurant teams.

8. COOK SITE

All cooking spaces will be numbered and pre-assigned by the Festival Director. No changes will be allowed. Equipment and tent(s) should not exceed the boundaries of the team's assigned cooking space. All seasoning and cooking should be done within the confined space (non-restaurant teams).

No live bands or entertainment will be allowed in individual cooking areas. Playing music on your site is allowed, but it should be limited to your immediate team area. No amplified music or sounds should be projected out of the team area.

9. CLEANLINESS AND SANITATION

All teams are expected to maintain their cook sites in an orderly and clean manner and to use good sanitary practices during the preparation, cooking, and judging process. The use of sanitary gloves is required at all times while handling food. Failure to use sanitary gloves may result in disqualification. Teams are responsible for cleanup of their site once the competition has ended. All federal, state and local food safety rules and regulations must be adhered to at all times.

10. JUDGING FOR PRIMARY CATEGORIES (RED BEANS & RICE, BARBECUE)

- Preliminary Round: The preliminary round consists of blind judging that identifies which teams in each category will move to the finals round.
- Final Round: Finals competitors will be judged with primary categories judged collectively and secondary categories judged collectively
- Criteria: All entries will be judged on taste, execution, and appearance
- Rating: The judges will give a score out of ten for each criterion, 1 being inedible, 10 being excellent.
- Scoring: Category scores will be weighted as follows: Taste – 50%, Execution – 35%, Appearance – 15%.

- Number of Judges: Each entry will be judged by a team of six judges
- Process for Submitting Entries
 - Each team will receive six containers per entry the morning of the festival. These containers will be pre-labeled with the team name and site number. DO NOT remove this label. Each team will need to bring their samples to the judges table no later than 1:15 PM. Once the sample is turned in, the sticker will be replaced with a code known only to the judges.
 - Garnish is **not** allowed in the container. Placing any identifiable marks on any of the containers will result in disqualification.
 - **Turn in for the competition is 1:15 PM.** All late entries will be disqualified.
 - Your container should have enough of your entry for six judges to sample. Remember the judges will be sampling every single entry, so sample portions should be small.

11. JUDGING FOR SECONDARY CATEGORIES (SAUCE, SIDE, DESSERT)

- Format: These contests are judged blind with no final round.
- Criteria: All entries will be judged on flavor, aroma, and overall impression
- Rating: The judges will give a score out of ten for each criterion, 1 being inedible, 10 being excellent.
- Scoring: Category scores will be weighted as follows: Taste – 50%, Execution – 35%, Appearance – 15%.
- Number of Judges: Each entry will be judged by a team of six judges
- Process for Submitting Entries
 - Each team will receive six containers per entry the morning of the festival. These containers will be pre-labeled with the team name and site number. DO NOT remove this label. **Each team will need to bring their samples to the judge's table no later than 1:30 PM.** Once the sample is turned in, the sticker will be replaced with a code known only to the judging committee.
- Garnish **is** allowed in the container.
- Turn-in for the competition is 1:30PM. All late entries will be disqualified.
- Your container should have enough of your entry for six judges to sample. Remember the judges will be sampling every single entry, so sample portions should be small.

12. HOW MUCH FOOD TO PREPARE

In past years, we have seen 500-750 attendees throughout the entirety of the event. Please plan your recipes accordingly, but keep in mind that you will be giving samples of your food, not entire plates.

12. Winners

Trophies will be awarded to the final round winners of the primary and secondary categories. Attendees of the event will vote on the "People's Choice" and a trophy will be given to the team with the most votes.

Winners will be announced at approximately 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 28, 2023 (or as soon as judging is completed and results are calculated).

Specific category requirements/challenges will be detailed to the judges in the same manner that they have been detailed to the competitors. It will be up to the judges to determine the success of the competitor at accomplishing the requirements of the round.

13. DISQUALIFICATION

The grounds for disqualification are as follows:

- Failure to use sanitary gloves while cooking and serving
- Excessive use of alcoholic beverages, profane or abusive language, or loud music
- Sharing a cooker or grill with another team
- Late entry for submitting sample boxes to judges
- Placing garnish or identifiable markings on the judging containers (*garnish is allowed for Secondary Category contests)

14. TICKETS

Each team will be given 15 general admission tickets. You will be emailed a PDF document with 15 different QR codes. Please use these to distribute to your team members who will be arriving after 11am. Team members who arrive prior to 11am will be given a wristband.

15. CONCLUSION OF FESTIVAL

Traditionally, leftovers have been donated to Stewpot. Stewpot will provide sturdy, large to-go containers if your team has leftovers.

Belhaven Town Center, BankPlus, and Stewpot are not responsible for items left at the conclusion of the event. Any items left on the premises will be thrown away.

Please make sure all trash at your site has been thrown away and no materials/equipment are left behind when you leave.

REGISTRATION FORM



Team Division

- ☐ Restaurant
☐ Non-Restaurant

Primary Category (must select one):

Select all that apply. Please note: Registration includes 1 primary category. The fee for additional primary categories is \$50

- ☐ Red Beans and Rice
☐ Barbecue: Beef
☐ Barbecue: Pork
☐ Barbecue: Poultry

Secondary Category (optional):

Select all that apply. Please note: The fee for each secondary category entry is \$25

- ☐ Sauce
☐ Side
☐ Dessert

Will you need electricity? (y/n): _____

Cooking with: ☐ Gas
☐ Natural Source

Team Name *This can be your business/restaurant name, or a name of your choosing:*

Head Cook Name: _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

I have read and agree to abide by all rules for the BankPlus Red Beans & BBQ Fest to be held on October 28, 2023.

Signature

Date



LIABILITY STATEMENT + AGREEMENT

The BankPlus Red Beans & BBQ Fest requires each Head Cook to sign and return the liability statement below. Failure to do so will result in disqualification from participation in the contest.

As a Contestant in the BankPlus Red Beans & BBQ Festival, I agree to indemnify and hold harmless Stewpot Community Services, its employees, agents, volunteers, the City of Jackson, Hinds County, and Belhaven Town Center from any and all claims made against the BankPlus Red Beans & Rice Festival, including without limitation, all costs, liabilities, judgments, expenses, damages, or reasonable attorneys fees, arising out of or in connection with (I) any structure erected by Contestant, (II) any apparatus, equipment, vehicle or personal property used by Contestant, (III) any act or omission to act of Contestant, its team, agents, invitees, participants, representatives, employees, servants and agents, and (IV) any claims made on account of or resulting from Contestant's or its team's participation in this contest. I further certify that I have read and understand all the rules and regulations associated with this contest. I understand that failure to comply with these rules will result in my disqualification from the Contest.

Signature

Date

MUST BE SUBMITTED BY MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2023
PLEASE EMAIL beansandbbqfest@stewpot.org or MAIL TO:

BankPlus Beans & BBQ Festival
P.O. Box 3691
Jackson, MS 39207