



2024 Great TASTE of a Fair

Vendor Guidelines

The Great TASTE of a Fair competition is on **Wednesday, September 11**, the day before Opening Day, from **11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Champions BBQ.**

CONTACT

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PLEASE NOTE: *The Great TASTE of a Fair Food Vendor Competition may be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances or at the discretion of Oklahoma State Fair, Inc. management.*

CATEGORIES

1. Sweetest of the Sweet: Items in this category should be breakfast items, deserts, sweet snacks or drinks.
2. Slice of Savory: Items in this category should be items that are savory or anything that contains meat.
3. New to the Scene: Items in this category should be items that you are serving at the Oklahoma State Fair **for the first time.**

VENDOR APPLICATION

Applications will be accepted July 29 at 10 a.m. through August 12, 2024, at 5 p.m. CST. The application is available [here](#).

Each vendor is eligible to enter one item per category. Entry items must be approved menu items.

We accept a limited number of entries, no exceptions. Slots are available on a first-come, first-served basis. **PLEASE NOTE:** *Final category decisions are at the discretion of the Great TASTE of a Fair committee.*

To make the application process as easy as possible, only one entry form per vendor is needed. On the application, there is a place to enter the information for Item No. 1 Entry - this section is required for all applications. Applicants will then be asked if they will be entering Item No. 2. If yes is selected, you will complete the same information as required for Item No. 1.; and then be asked if you are entering Item No. 3. If no is selected either for Item No. 2 or Item No. 3, you will continue to the "CONFIRMATION OF RULES" section.

Applicants will be required to provide the following information for each entry item: food item name, category, how long you have been serving the item at the Oklahoma State Fair and a brief item description - including possible food allergy ingredients.

Participating vendors will receive the Great TASTE of a Fair Schedule before the event. Once space is full in each category, all vendors will be notified. Competition applicants not selected will be notified.

DAY OF COMPETITION

The competition will take place on September 11 - the day BEFORE Opening Day - from 11 a.m. to approximately 1 p.m.

Participating vendors will be assigned a 10-minute time slot to prep and present their food item at Champions BBQ to the judges. All five (5) vendors in each category will prep and present their item in that 10-minute time slot. This will allow the judges to compare items in the category to give the most accurate score. **PLEASE NOTE:** All items should be cooked and prepared in your booth. The prep time is for you to add any necessary finishing touches to your entry.

An Oklahoma State Fair volunteer will arrive at the booth designated on the application approximately 5 minutes before the given time slot. The volunteer will transport the vendor and food items to the judging area at Champions BBQ. Once the presentation has concluded, the same volunteer will deliver the vendor back to their booth. The whole process should take approximately 15 minutes or less.

Because we must adhere to the schedule, vendors must make sure all needed items are prepared and ready when the driver arrives. **PLEASE NOTE:** If the vendor is unable to make the designated time slot, be aware you are forfeiting the competition, as we are on a tight schedule. If you or a selected presenter will be unable to make the designated time slot, please let Holly Kinyon know as soon as possible. On the day of, she can be contacted at **405-487-9822** by phone or text message.

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

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10:55 AM	Volunteers Pickup Group 1 at Booth
11:00 AM	Group 1 5-Minute Prep Time
11:05 AM	Group 1 5-Minute Presentation Time
11:10 AM	Volunteers Return Group 1 to Booth
11:10 AM	Group 1 Judging Time

PRESENTATION

Each vendor must prepare FIFTEEN (15) samples of the item for judges. This item should just be a two-bite sample, not the full portion. A minimum of fifteen is required to ensure all judges receive your item for taste testing.

Vendors must also prepare ONE (1) regular serving of the food item for presentation purposes. This item needs to be a realistic version of the food item served to Fairgoers. No special treatment required - just the best food you can make! **PLEASE NOTE:** Most judges use the presentation serving for pictures that will be posted to their social media channels and included in potential news stories or broadcasts.



JUDGING, RESULTS & PUBLICITY

The judging panel for Great TASTE of a Fair is made up of local “celebrities” - members of the media, local food bloggers, and restaurant owners - which could provide opportunities for on-camera demos and special-interest stories, so be prepared.

Scores will be tallied by the Oklahoma State Fair, Inc. accounting department at the conclusion of the event. Judges will be looking for: overall appeal, appearance & presentation, execution of the product and taste. **PLEASE NOTE:** Decisions of the judge’s panel are final and may not be contested.

The first-place winner of each category will be contacted between 2 and 3 p.m. on September 11.

This is done so each of these vendors will have time to prepare the winning item for our special FAIRest of Them All judge(s) at 5 p.m. **PLEASE NOTE:** All judging decisions should not be released until the Oklahoma State Fair makes an announcement, which will be done no later than 10 a.m. on September 12.

The official winner announcement will be made by both the Oklahoma State Fair and our judges.

AWARDS

Each vendor will receive a participation banner to hang in their booth. All banners will be handed out when the vendor comes to present their item.

First place in each category will receive \$300 and a trophy. Second place in each category will receive \$150 and a trophy. Third place in each category will receive \$50 and a trophy.

Trophies will be delivered as soon as possible. Cash prizes will be delivered before the close of the Fair.

FAIREST OF THEM ALL

First place items in each category will be eligible for this award. Once results have been calculated by the Oklahoma State Fair accounting department, the first-place winners will be contacted between 2 and 3 p.m. on September 11.

Between 4 and 5 p.m. on September 11, the FAIRest of Them All judge(s) will head to the vendor booths to taste the item. Once a winner is chosen, the FAIRest of Them All winner will be contacted. The FAIRest of Them All winner will also receive a FAIRest of Them All trophy, in addition to their category trophy.

Winners will be featured on the Oklahoma State Fair website, social media accounts, mentioned in the Great TASTE of a Fair press release, and will likely be contacted by media outlets for coverage of their winning item. The FAIRest of Them All winner will also be asked to provide ~150 servings of their winning item at the Oklahoma State Fair Chairman’s Party at 5 p.m. on Thursday, September 12. The winner will be compensated for this event.