



23rd Annual Fall Festival & Chili Cook-Off
Saturday, November 16, 2019
11:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Riverplace Shopping Center
11111 San Jose Blvd.



On behalf of the Mandarin Council of the JaxChamber, I would like to thank you in advance for considering the 23rd Annual Mandarin Council Chili Cook-Off.

One of the main fund-raising vehicles for our Community Support Program each year is the Mandarin Council Fall Festival & Chili Cook-Off, which is slated for Saturday, November 16, 2019, from 11am-3pm, at the Riverplace Shopping Center.

Proceeds from the event help to raise funds for our Community Support Program. This event is a huge success and we have attracted hundreds of attendees annually. It is truly a community wide event of which we can all be proud. We have been able to award thousands of dollars to local schools and charities. We are excited that Junior Achievement, the Janice Meisel Scholarship Fund, and the Mandarin Food Bank have been selected as our non-profit recipients for this year's event.

Here are a few things to keep in mind as you plan for the event:

The Chili Cook-Off entry fee is only \$40 (**for a chance at the \$1,000 first prize!**).

1. Electricity is NOT available as a means to keep your chili hot. You must bring your own heat source to keep your chili hot (chili must be at least 140 degrees to serve, and we will check this).
2. Plan to arrive @ 10am with **a minimum of 5 gallons** of chili heated and ready to go. If you cannot heat your chili ahead of time, come early (starting at 9:30am) to start heating your chili. Our fans are hungry so please have your chili hot (at least 140 degrees) in time for the 11am start. From experience, the later you come to set up, the harder it is to get close to your spot, so please make arrangements to be there early.
3. If you are a sponsor of this event please feel free to bring promotional materials, gift certificates, information, menu's, etc. **Chili contestants may not sell merchandise** at the cook-off, or promote any business at your chili table, unless you are also an event sponsor.
4. We encourage booth decorations as it will draw more attention to your chili. If you have a canopy, you are welcome to bring it, but it can be no larger than 10' x 10'.
5. Judging will begin at 11:30am. **In order to be judged, you MUST:**
 - a. Have a minimum of 5 gallons of chili
 - b. Temperature MUST be at least 140 degrees. This WILL BE CHECKED prior to judging.
 - c. You MUST have an ingredient list. We do not need your recipe, just ingredients for allergy purposes.
6. We will provide taste cups, spoons and napkins, as well as a table and 2 chairs.
7. It is your responsibility to provide cheese, onions, chips, crackers, etc...but only if you wish to do so. You will also need to bring a ladle or large spoon to serve your chili.

8. Table locations are assigned so as to place the cookers among the vendors and sponsors. You will be able to park along the curb to unload your vehicle, but please move it to a parking space as quickly as you can. Please park away from the event a little ways so that attendees can park closer to the event.
9. The cook-off goes until 3pm. You must stay and maintain your table even if you run out of chili early. ***No one is allowed to breakdown their tables prior to 3pm.***
10. We will provide signs throughout the event stating the pricing of tickets.

Please DO NOT TAKE CASH. Direct chili eaters to the front table to purchase arm bands.

You will only observe an ARM Band. Each Arm Band Purchase will receive a people's choice ticket.

"People's Choice" Ballot Buckets will be at your table. We will Tally those tickets up right at 2:30 PM

We will have beer and wine again this year and we will have details at the event.

The chili contest will be judged by a panel of local celebrities, with a \$1000 first prize, and \$300 second prize, and a \$200 "People's Choice" prize. Anyone who gets the Arm Band will get a ticket to vote for People's Choice. So encourage everyone who likes your chili to vote for you!

DO NOT OFFER COMPENSATION FOR VOTES, monetary or otherwise. Do NOT offer alcohol to anyone at the festival. You put the event's alcohol license & permits in jeopardy by doing so.

Please remember none of this is possible without our generous sponsors - be sure to thank our sponsors as you see them at the event!

Looking Forward To Some Great Chili!

Alli Stephanuik, Chili Cook-Off Chairman
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