



Trinity Lake Fest Awesome Appetizer Cookoff Information Sheet

Tentative Rules: May 28, 2011

Registration Deadline: July 9, 2011

This fun and friendly cookoff competition gives North Trinity Lake supporters a chance to showcase their talents and win a prize and/or cash, while helping to raise needed money for the North Trinity Lake charities.

General Information

- This cookoff is for amateur cooks only. "Professional" is defined as deriving 75% or more of one's income from cooking, food preparation, recipe development and/or food writing.
- As a fundraising event, the public can buy a tasting "kit" containing 8 tickets to taste cookoff appetizers. A sample is typically just 1-2 "bites" (similar to Costco food samples and typically fit in a 2oz cup). You can check the Fest website www.TrinityLakeFest.com for sample size examples.
- Each contestant must provide 3 full servings of their dish for judging and at least 120 Crowd samples.
- The Lake Fest cookoff committee will supply the 2oz cups and spoons for sampling and 6" plates for judging.

Registration

- All appetizer entries must be pre-registered by July 9, 2011.
- No more than two entries per person.
- The cookoff is limited to 25 contestants
- Entry fee \$10 tax-deductible and includes a Fest commemorative wine glass when you check-in.
- Contestants must be at least 12 of age by July 23, 2011. Contestants under 18 must have written parent/guardian consent and be accompanied by an adult.

Awards Categories

Judges' Choice: The top three contestants receive cash prizes. Ribbons will be awarded to 4th, 5th, and 6th place.

- 1st place - \$150 and a Cookoff apron
- 2nd place - \$100
- 3rd place - \$75

People's Choice Award: This is a fun, fundraising part of the cookoff. The People's Choice winner is the contestant receiving the most votes from the event attendees. You can receive votes in two ways:

- Each tasting kit purchaser receives 3 voting tokens to vote for their favorite appetizer
- Extra "Crowd Favorite" vote tokens can be purchased by tasting kit holders for \$2.00/ticket

The proceeds from the sale of extra voting tokens are split 50/50—half going to the winner and half to the Trinity Lake Revitalization Alliance. Contestants are encouraged to engage with the public, family, and friends to gather more vote tickets.

Showmanship Award: The winner is the contestant with the best costume and decorated workspace. First place is a Cookoff apron.

Cookoff Schedule

Please see the Program page on the Fest website: www.TrinityLakeFest.com for the current event schedule

Officials Rules

General

- Cooks may use propane or butane burners or barbecues. Your cooking area must be managed in a fire-safe manner since you will be cooking around trees and grass.
- Contestants are responsible for supplying all ingredients, heating and cooling devices, ice, serving utensils, etc. All vendors must be self-supporting. **No electric hookup is available.**
- Crowd sampling is controlled by tickets. Cookoff contestants **MUST** collect a token from a spectator requesting a sample. Please remember... **this is a fundraiser and all Fest attendees should all have the opportunity to taste appetizers.**
- Keep hot foods hot and cold foods cold. Cold holding temperature must be 40 deg. F or less. Hot food must maintain a minimum temperature of 140 deg. F
- All appetizer dishes must be prepared in a sanitary manner. Please bring a means to clean your hands. You must wear gloves when preparing and serving your dish. The Lake Fest committee will supply you with plenty of gloves.
- Smoking is prohibited in the cooking area.
- Each team will be allocated a 6 foot table and will share a 10' x 10' booth with another cookoff contestant.



Appetizers

- Contestants must prepare three (3) "Judge ready" appetizer plates and at least 120 crowd tasting samples for Fest attendees (300 guests x 8 tickets / 20 contestants). Left over samples can be given away after Crowd Favorite Voting has ended.
- "Judge ready" plates are to be assembled on-site. Judge samples can include garnish. The Cookoff committee will supply 6" plates for presenting your entry.

Judging / Criteria

- The decision of the judges is final.
- The Trinity Lake Fest committee reserves the right to change or modify these rules at any time. Any changes will be communicated to all entrants.

Judges' Choice Award:

- Two teams of three (3) judges will be used to judge the entries for the First Place Prize and runner-ups.
- Contestants draw their judging team assignment at sign-in.
- To ensure confidentiality and impartiality during the judging process, each contestant will be randomly assigned an entry number. The Cookoff Committee will control numbering and sample collection to ensure anonymity.
- The two judging teams together select the Judges' Choice winners based on the individual team criteria score. Appetizers will be judged by the following criteria. All entries are scored on a scale of 1 through 10 in each of the judging criteria, with 10 being the best. If there is a tie, the Taste score is used to break the tie. If there is still a tie, the Appeal score will be used next as the tie breaker. The Texture score will be used as the last tie breaker. Total possible points are **forty**.

1. **Overall Appeal:** The overall impression—creativity and effort put forth for the complete entry (10 pts)
2. **Taste:** Overall palate appeal. Good flavor combination: seasoning, spices and herbs balanced. (10 pts)
3. **Texture:** Cooked just right (not overcooked/ undercooked), volume; tender, moist, or crunchy as appropriate (10 pts)
4. **Appearance and Presentation:** Visually appealing, pleasing aroma, appropriate garnish. (10 pts)

Showmanship Award: Will be judged by the following criteria. The three (3) judges for this category are selected randomly from the public present at judging time. Total possible points are **twenty**.

1. **Dress:** Creativity, depicts Fest theme (20 pts)
2. **Workspace/table decorations:** Creativity, use of color, depicts Fest theme (20 pts)