

Jackson County's Best Backyard Barbecue Cookoff Saturday, September 26, 2020

You could be the next barbecue champion at the annual Depot Days Festival! Teams will be judged in the Boston Butt category and the Ribs category. This year's competition will also include the optional "Anything Goes" division! The cookoff will be held in the Merchants & Planters Bank parking lot. Please consider entering this fun competition. It could win you cash in each division and the title of Jackson County's Best Backyard Barbecue!

ALL TEAMS MUST ADHERE TO THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH DIRECTIVES WHICH INCLUDES: Any team members handling/cooking food must do so while wearing a mask and gloves. No sampling to the public allowed this year due to COVID concerns. For questions, call the Newport Area Chamber of Commerce at 870-523-3618.

Official Rules & Regulations

- 1) Teams may cook with any type of wood and/or charcoal. Other flammables (propane, compressed or liquid gas, etc.) may be used within the cooker only to start the initial fire. No type of flammable may be used within the cooker once the meat has been placed there. Flammables may be used outside and away from the cooker to make additional coals. Electrical devices may be used within the cooker or as long as they do not directly generate heat. Approved devices include rotisseries and fans, however, electricity will not be provided. Electric smokers, holding ovens and any other devices with heat producing electric coals are not allowed.
- 2) The Backyard Barbecue Championship Cookoff categories are Boston Butt, Baby Back Ribs and the optional Anything Goes division.
- 3) Each contestant competing shall supply all of his/her own cooking ingredients, individual cooking devices, utensils, preparation tables, etc. A regulation cooking area is provided. All contestants **MUST** adhere to all electrical, fire and other city, county, state and federal codes. A fire extinguisher must be in each cooking area.
- 4) Each contestant must check in at the Barbecue Headquarters. Setup begins at 7 a.m. on Saturday, September 26. All teams must be set up by 9 a.m. You may pick up your Boston Butt and Rack of Ribs on Friday, September 25 from 5 to 6 p.m. (NOTE DIFFERENT HOUR THAN LAST YEAR) or on Saturday, September 26 from 6 to 8 a.m. in front of Merchants & Planters Bank, 120 Hazel Street in Newport.
- 5) Each team may have as many assistants as are necessary. Contestants and assistants must comply with all applicable rules and regulations of the Arkansas State Health Department.
- 6) No live animals (dogs, pigs, etc.) are allowed in the cooking area. Violation will result in disqualification.
- 7) Each contestant must cook enough to give out samples to all judges. If you run out of barbecue before the judging is completed, you will be disqualified.
- 8) Judging of the Backyard Barbecue Championship Cookoff entries will occur on Saturday, September 26. Judging for butts and ribs will be based on three categories: flavor, tenderness and doneness.
- 9) Judging for Baby Back Rib Division will begin at 3 p.m. The optional Anything Goes Division will be judged at 3:30 p.m. This can include anything cooked on site on the grill other than butts and ribs. Boston Butt judging will begin at 4 p.m.
- 10) It is the responsibility of each contestant to see that the contest area is kept clean. All fires must be put out and all equipment, garbage, etc., removed from the site. Any site not properly cleaned will result in disqualification from future participation.
- 11) Cooking in pits is not allowed.
- 12) Fees are \$50 per team entry, which includes both divisions. Add \$10 to also enter the "Anything Goes" category. All checks should be made payable to Depot Days. No refunds will be made once you have been accepted into the contest whether you appear or not.
- 13) Contestants are not permitted to sell barbecue.
- 14) All meat submitted for judging in the ribs and butt divisions must be provided by Depot Days.
- 15) Vehicles must be moved out of the cooking area by 9 a.m.
- 16) *Decisions of the Barbecue Committee Chairman and judges are final.*