

# World Champion “Hopkins County Stew” Contest

Saturday, October 28, 2017

## Rules and Regulations

1. All cooking teams: please be mindful and considerate of your neighbors. All sites **MUST** set up **5 feet off the sidewalk** to allow ample walking room. This should be plenty of room for everyone, so please do not invade someone else’s site. Also, please remember that this is a cooking contest, and pets are **NOT ALLOWED** at the cooking sites.
2. All 2016 Cooks will have the same site as in 2016, and they will be reserved until September 15<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00 p.m. at the Chamber office. As in the past, on September 18<sup>th</sup> all sites will be released to other contestants on a first-come, first-served basis. New participants may select their stew site on or after September 18.
3. At least one of the cooks on a cooking team must live or work in Hopkins County. The “cooking team” consists of up to two cooks and up to two helpers.
4. Cooking Team: **PLEASE ARRANGE FOR YOUR OWN SPONSOR.**  
Sponsors provide \$175.00 with the official entry form for one pot of stew (or two sponsors at \$87.50 each). Each cooking team will receive \$125.00 to purchase their ingredients. \$50.00 is retained by the Chamber of Commerce for contest expenses. We now accept Visa and MasterCard. The \$125.00 ingredient check may be picked up at the “Cooking Team” come-and-go reception, which will be held on **October 17<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** at the Southwest Dairy Museum. At least **ONE** person from each team must come to the reception. Checks will be distributed at that time. **First time stew cooks will attend a short informational meeting at 6:00 p.m. then receive their goody bags and checks.**
5. Stew **MUST BE** prepared on site. Meat may be cooked ahead of time, but everything else must be prepared on site. Stew will be judged on the original Hopkins County Stew recipe and flavor. If extra ingredients are added, there will be a deduction, but it will not eliminate the stew from winning. You may use condiments and spices as desired. The original Hopkins County recipe includes chicken (or beef), potatoes, tomatoes, corn, onions.
6. **COOKING TEAMS MUST USE USDA-APPROVED MEAT.** For uniformity and authenticity, the cooking team must use a large cast iron pot over a hardwood fire. Please do not use pine or other soft wood. Cooking teams furnish their own wood.
7. Cooking teams are allowed **ONE** vehicle on the campsite **UNTIL 6:30 AM** the day of the contest. At that time, **ALL** vehicles must be moved. Violators **WILL NOT** be judged if vehicles are not removed from the stew contest grounds by 6:30 AM. Each cooking team will receive **ONE** parking permit, so that one may vehicle may park in the swimming pool parking lot. **The small parking lot on League Street will be used for loading and unloading ONLY (20 Minutes).** There will be **NO** parking in the small League Street Lot. It will also be closed at 6:30 AM the day of the contest. Also, **NO CAMPERS may be parked along Buford Circle.**
8. Cooking teams must have a minimum of 10 gallons of finished stew available for sale. All stew becomes the property of the Hopkins County Chamber of Commerce to be sold.
9. Stew **MUST** be ready for judging at 10:45 AM. Cooking teams will supply **TWO** quarts of stew. The quart containers will be provided. One quart will be turned in at the judge’s tent at 10:45 AM for judging. The second quart will be held by the cooking team for potential sale of the top twelve winners. **AFTER** the winners in each category have been announced, quarts of stew will be for sale to the public at the service tents. When you run out of stew, please hang the “Out of Stew” sign, provided by the Chamber, over your empty pot. **In the event of rainy weather, a drive-thru will be available. The Chamber will collect your second quart only if it is raining.**
10. Cooking teams should serve **ONLY** ticketed customers. Tickets are \$5.00 each. **FRIENDS AND FAMILY DO NOT EAT FREE; cooking teams who violate this rule will be disqualified from judging.** Each team will be given two bowls for the cooks.
11. For health reasons, only the Styrofoam quarts, bowls, and plates which are provided with the purchase of a \$5.00 ticket may be used.
12. For health reasons, cooks must clean their pots. Do not use a dirty stew pot. Do not use non-food-safe materials to clean your stew pot, such as diesel or abrasive chemicals.

13. Each cooking team is responsible for and **required** to furnish a sign (approximately 18" X 24") recognizing their sponsor(s). A sponsor's logo or sign may be used as long as they meet the size requirements. **Nothing may be sold or distributed from a stew site except stew.**

14. Outline of Prizes:

1 <sup>st</sup> Place Chicken & Beef Stew	\$300.00 & Trophy	1 <sup>st</sup> Place Super Stew Chicken & Beef	\$500.00 & Trophy
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Chicken & Beef Stew	\$150.00 & Trophy	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Super Stew Chicken & Beef	\$250.00 & Trophy
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Chicken & Beef Stew	\$100.00 & Trophy	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Super Stew Chicken & Beef	\$100.00 & Trophy
Campsite/Costume	\$200.00 & Trophy	Super Campsite/Costume	\$250.00 & Trophy

15. The check for grocery reimbursement is in the Cook goody bags, which will be distributed at the come-and-go reception on October 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. If your check is not in the bag, it is because we have not received payment from your sponsor. If you do not plan to cash this check and use it for groceries, please return it to the Chamber. Turning in your check helps keep bookkeeping straight.