

2017 Galveston County Fair & Rodeo, Inc.
12th Annual Seafood Cook-off
Superintendent: Lew Benham (713) 898-9743
Chairperson: Brad Dillon (409) 770-7493

LOCATION: Galveston County Fairgrounds, Jack Brooks Park, Hwy 6

ENTRY FEE: ALL EVENTS - \$160.00 per team, per spot NON-REFUNDABLE
Entry in Gumbo Category is Mandatory. One entry in each division per spot.
ENTRIES MUST BE PAID BY March 8th, 2017

CHECK-IN: Thursday, April 20th, 2017, from 12:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.
Friday, April 21st, 2017, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

JUDGING: 6:30 p.m. GRILLED SHRIMP DIVISION --- Friday, April 21th, 2017
11:15 a.m. FISH DIVISION --- Saturday, April 22th, 2017
1:30 p.m. CRAB CAKE DIVISION --- Saturday, April 22th, 2017
3:45 p.m. GUMBO DIVISION --- Saturday, April 22th, 2017

AWARDS: TROPHIES & PRIZE MONEY WILL BE AWARDED AS FOLLOWS:

1st through 5th Place in all divisions will receive Trophies & Prize Money

1 st Place	\$ 600.00
2 nd Place	\$ 300.00
3 rd Place	\$ 200.00
4 th Place	\$ 150.00
5 th Place	\$ 75.00

There will be an overall trophy and \$500.00 given to the best overall cooking team.

CHIEF COOK'S MEETING: SUNDAY, April 9th, 2017, 1:00 P.M.

ATTENDANCE MANDATORY

ALL SEAFOOD ENTRIES MUST BE PAID BY March 8th, 2017 – NO ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED AT THE CHIEF COOKS MEETING.

NEW FOR 2017

1. There will be a \$100 fee PER SPOT assessed to you entry fee for next year for any NON-BIO DEGRADABLE MATERIAL LEFT BEHIND. This includes hay, wood, pallets, lumber, decorations, fences, etc. If you fail to pay this fee you be DISQUALIFIED from this year's event and banned from all future Galveston County Fair & Rodeo Cook-offs.
2. DO NOT DUMP GRAY WATER ON THE GROUND. All Gray water must be collected in a holding tank, dumped into a storm drain or dumped outside the fence. Do not dump gray water into an open ditch.
3. Teams who win prize money MUST collect their prize money from the FAIR OFFICE no more than 30 days after the close of the Fair. Any uncollected prize money will be forfeited back to the Galveston County Fair & Rodeo after that time. ALL PRIZE MONEY WILL BE DISTRIBUTED BY THE FAIR OFFICE.
4. In the event of inclement weather, the Cook-Off Committee reserves the right to alter the drive-in rules at its own discretion.
5. If food distribution companies need to deliver to your spot, they must deliver between the hours of 8 AM and 9 AM on Friday April 21st ONLY. Chief Cooks must be present for their deliveries. All trucks must be out of the cook-off area before 9:30 AM.
6. Port-o-cans must be placed so that they are easily VISIBLE AND ACCESIBLE from a road / alley way. Port-o-cans that are inside tents must somehow be made visible for servicing. YOU MUST NOTIFY THE COOK-OFF COMMITTEE BY 8:00 AM EACH DAY IF YOUR PORT-O-CAN IS NOT SERVICED.
7. DRONES ARE NOT ALLOWED ANYWHERE ON THE FAIRGROUNDS

8. Cook-off teams participating in both the Seafood and BBQ Cook-offs can remain setup in their BBQ spots for the entire span from check in on Thursday, April 20th at 10 AM through check-out on Sunday, April 30th at 8 AM if entry is fully paid (all BBQ spots) for both events. Some restrictions may apply. If you are going to leave items set-up in your spot all week, you are responsible to check (i.e. tie down, take down, secure) your items in the event of inclement weather so that it does not tear up yours or your neighbors stuff.
9. There will be a Chief Cooks meeting on Sunday, April 9th, 2017, 1:00 p.m. at the Galveston County Fairgrounds. Attendance by at least 1 team member is MANDATORY. **Failure to attend this meeting will result in a \$25 handling fee per SPOT.**
10. The rules will be explained at the Chief Cooks meeting. Any questions that you may have will be addressed at this meeting. Armbands and vehicle passes will be distributed to the chief cooks at this time.
11. If a Cook-off Team does not occupy the paid Cook-off spot(s) for 2 consecutive years, the team forfeits the spot(s) back to GCF&R.
12. Team Names on the Entry Form at the time of payment will be the official name of the team and WILL NOT change for the 2017 BBQ Cook-off, NO EXCEPTIONS.
13. Cook-off spot(s) for both events will be the previously assigned 2016 BBQ Cook-off Spot(s).
14. Seafood only Cook-off Spot(s) may no longer be the previously assigned 2016 Seafood Cook-off Spot(s); based on availability. Seafood only spots will be assigned into open spots at the Chief Cooks Meeting.
15. If you cooked in just the Seafood Cook-off in 2016, this does not mean you automatically get a BBQ Cook-off spot. The BBQ cook-off still has a waiting list.
16. If a Seafood Cook-off Team normally purchases multiple spots and the same number of spots is no longer available a refund will be given.
17. Cook-off teams must purchase all of their BBQ Cook-off Spots if they want to participate in both events and stay set up. Seafood entry is \$160 per spot.
18. Cook-off teams who don't want to buy the same number of spots for both events must tear down and move out on Sunday, April 23rd, 2017.
19. Raffles for Alcohol of any kind is forbidden. NO EXCEPTIONS
20. Unattended vehicles that block the alley or roadway will be TOWED without notice.
21. All Teams having Private Entertainment (i.e. D.J.'s, Bands, Karaoke, etc.) must read and complete Attachment "A" of the rules. **Bands must have their equipment within the gates before 6:00 PM the night they are scheduled to perform. ALL BAND MEMBERS MUST HAVE A PAID ENTRY INTO THE FAIRGROUNDS.**
22. All Teams having Private Security must read and complete Attachment "B" of the rules.
23. All teams renting a tent must read and complete Attachment "C" of the rules.
24. No tents will be set in any cook-off spots without the Chief Cook or representative being physically onsite during the tent placement to assure proper location. Phone calls to the Chief Cook or representative to determine proper location will not be allowed. If a tent is improperly placed it is the team's responsibility to have the tent placed in the appropriate spot. NO EXCEPTIONS.
25. No vehicles will be allowed to park in the designated Vendor/Sponsor and Committee Reserved parking areas at any time. This area is located directly outside the West Cook-off Gate. All vehicles parked in these areas are subject to tow without notice.
26. The Cook-off Committee will place the Cook-off Teams reserved port-a-cans in the teams spot within the space only. It is the Cook-off Teams responsibility to move the port-a-can to the desired area for your spot.
27. **The cut-off time for reserving port-o-cans is Monday, April 17th, 2017, NO EXCEPTIONS.**
28. Cook-off Teams are responsible for providing their own trash cans and bags.
29. Any Cook-off Team who has had previous incidents involving personal injury or inappropriate behavior will not be invited to participate in future events.
30. Any Cook-off Team requiring assistance with unloading, moving, or placing equipment (i.e., air conditioners, generators, refrigeration units, trailers, etc.) must request assistance by signing up on the Equipment Movement list located at the Cook-off Committee Building. Equipment will be moved on a first come, first served basis only per the placement on the list. Equipment will not be moved if this process is not followed.
31. A team will consist of a Chief Cook and up to four (4) assistants. All Team Member must be 21 or older.
32. ALL participants will be required to sign and return an Indemnity Form. **Please make certain all team members have signed the Indemnity Form before the Chief Cook's meeting on April 9th, 2017 or you will not be allowed to participate.**
33. Participants may not enter the contest area before 12:00 p.m., Thursday April, 20th, 2017.
34. Check-in will be from 12:00 until 5:00 p.m. Thursday, April 20th, 2017 at the EAST Gate, from 12:00 until 2:00 p.m. at the WEST Gate, and Friday, April 21st from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., EAST GATE ONLY. All participants must be set up before 5:00 p.m., Friday, April 21st, 2017.
35. All teams on the West side (spots 1-110) of the cook-off area will be required to enter the cook-off through the commercial exhibit gate (West gate). If you are in these spots please line up on the Concrete Road on the West side of the fairgrounds, follow the designated signs. If you are in this section you will be given a PINK vehicle pass, which is only good for the commercial exhibit gate (West gate). If you are in the other areas of the cook-off you will be given a PURPLE, vehicle pass, which is only good at the cook-off gate (East gate). This pass must be displayed on the dash of your vehicle. Any vehicle without a pass will be towed from the cook-off area.

36. Arm Bands will be given to the Chief Cook and assistants (maximum of 5 arm bands) at the Chief Cooks meeting or at check-in. These arm bands will be your ticket to enter the Fairgrounds. The arm bands must be fastened to your wrist before entry will be allowed. Starting Thursday at 12 p.m. April 20th, 2017, if you are without your armband, you will be required to pay admission. Please do not try to pass the arm bands, as this will be grounds for immediate disqualification.
37. Extra Seafood cook-off arm-bands will be \$30.00 each. This will allow the wearer entry to the fair on Friday, April 21st and Saturday, April 22nd, 2017.
38. All teams parking campers (travel trailers) outside of YOUR cook-off spot must park them in the designated camper parking area only. Contact the fair office to reserve your spot. If your camper is found to be parked in any area other than a designated spot it will be towed.
39. When the EXIT gates close on Friday, April 21st, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. no further vehicle traffic will be allowed in the contest area until Sunday morning, April 23rd, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. Driving in the cook-off area after the gates close is prohibited and such action will result in disqualification from all events. All vehicles on the cook-off grounds after the gates close must be within their own cook-off spot and cannot be moved until gates open on Sunday morning, April 23rd, 2017.
40. Check out on Saturday evening after the awards is not allowed. Check out is Sunday morning, April 23rd, 2017. NO vehicles, pits, trailers, generators, tents, etc. will be moved from check in until check out on Sunday morning. There will be no movement of ANY vehicles until that time.
41. All persons without armbands will be required to leave the fairgrounds at 2:00 a.m. All persons with armbands MUST be in their own spots. All loud music will be turned off at this time.
42. The Cook-off Committee will provide one (1) approximate 30 x 30 foot space for each cook-off spot, area permitting, for the cook-off. Props, trailers, motor homes, tents (including stakes), coverings, or any other equipment must not exceed the boundaries of the space provided. Spaces are not always back to back or perfectly square. Map is not drawn to scale.
43. Participants must supply all needed equipment and supplies. Cook-off Committee will provide space only.
44. An official cook-off clock will be at the Cook-Off Committee Office.
 - a. **On Friday, April 21st, 2017**
 - i. All Grilled Shrimp Division samples will be requested at 6:15 p.m. and shall be delivered to the designated Cook-off area by 6:30 p.m.
 - b. **On Saturday, April 22nd, 2017**
 - i. All Fish Division samples will be requested at 11:00 a.m. and shall be delivered to the designated Cook-off area by 11:15 a.m.
 - ii. All Crab Cake Division samples will be requested at 1:15 p.m. and shall be delivered to the designated Cook-off area by 1:30 p.m.
 - iii. All Gumbo Division samples will be requested at 3:30 p.m. and shall be delivered to the designated Cook-off area by 3:45 p.m.
45. Judging in all categories may be in two (2) phases depending on the amount of entries.
46. **GRILLED SHRIMP DIVISION – Entry Optional: HEADLESS, BACON WRAPPED, STUFFING ALLOWED, NO SKEWERS OR TOOTHPICKS IN THE CONTAINER. THE SHRIMP IS NOT THE STUFFING (I.E. NO STUFFED JALAPENOS WITH SHRIMP INSIDE)**
47. **FISH DIVISION – Entry Optional: MUST BE Grilled, Baked, Broiled, etc. (NO FRYING) MUST BE 75% OR MORE FISH. LIGHTLY SAUCED IS OK. NO SHELLS (CLAM, MOLLUSK, OYSTER, ETC) NO SHRIMP BIGGER THAN 30ct.**
48. **CRAB CAKE DIVISION – Entry Optional: NO SAUCE ALLOWED. CRAB CAKE MAY BE PAN FRIED – NO DEEP FRYING. NO STUFFED CRAB. NO SHELLS, CLAWS, LEGS, ETC. NO LUMP CRAB MEAT OR ANY KIND OF TOPPING ON CRAB CAKES.**
49. **GUMBO DIVISION – Entry Mandatory: MUST BE 75% SEAFOOD, (NO RICE OR PASTA ALLOWED), 2 Gallons Recommended. Each team must participate in the GUMBO division.**
50. A minimum of 7 samples must be placed in the container for the preliminary divisions. A minimum of 12 samples must be placed in the container for the final divisions
51. Judging for All Divisions will be on the following:
 - a.) Appearance, b.) Aroma, c.) Taste, d.) After Taste, and e.) Tenderness
52. Garnish will not be allowed in any divisions. Do not put onions, peppers, etc. on top of the any sample. Sauce and stuffing permitted in the FISH Division. Bacon and stuffing permitted in the GRILLED SHRIMP Division. No tartar sauce, cocktail sauce, lemons or any other condiment etc. and nothing poured on top which was not cooked with the sample; no foil inside and no markings on the outside. **GREEN LEAF lettuce ONLY (no red tip or spinach) can be used to line the bottom of the container in the Grilled Shrimp, Fish and Crab Cake Divisions (NO lettuce allowed in the Gumbo cup). If using crab in any division only the crab meat can be used (NO whole bodies, legs, claws, etc. can be placed in the container).**
53. Judging Times:
 - Grilled Shrimp Division Judging will begin at 6:30 p.m., Friday, April 21th, 2017
 - Fish Division Judging will begin at 11:15 a.m., Saturday, April 22th, 2017
 - Crab Cake Division Judging will begin at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, April 22th, 2017.

Gumbo Division Judging will begin at 3:45 p.m., Saturday, April 22th, 2017.

54. There will be no inspections of any division. Pre-cooked, salted, or pre-marinated Fish or Shrimp is not allowed. Entries in ALL Divisions must be cooked on the Cook-off grounds.
55. A fire extinguisher will be required in each team area. Each team will be inspected for a fire extinguisher. If your team does not have a fire extinguisher by 8:00 p.m. Friday, you will be subject to disqualification.
56. *NO FRYING* will be allowed for ANY Division. Electric, Gas, or Wood Burning grills may be used. **FIRES CANNOT BE SELF SUSTAINING.** All pits may be inspected by the Cook-off Committee at any time.
57. Holes or dug pits are not permitted. **A GREASE PAN IS REQUIRED BENEATH ALL PITS**
58. The Chief Cook will be responsible for the conduct of the team and guests. Excessive use of alcoholic beverages will be considered grounds for disqualification.
59. All personal alcoholic beverages must remain in the cook-off area. Failure to comply with this regulation will result in disqualification! Alcoholic beverages and ice may be brought in until check-in closes on Friday, April 21th, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. After that time, these items must be purchased from the Galveston County Fair & Rodeo, Inc. **NO GLASS CONTAINERS ARE ALLOWED IN THE PARK! ANYONE GIVING ALCOHOL TO MINORS (UNDER 21) WILL BE PROSECUTED TO THE FULLEST EXTENT ON THE LAW! YOU MAY BE HELD CRIMINALLY OR CIVILLY LIABLE FOR OVERSERVING ALCOHOL TO YOUR TEAM MEMBERS AND/OR GUESTS.**
60. No food or beverages may be given to the general public. Only individuals who are invited guests of a team may be served food prepared by that team. All personal alcoholic beverages must remain in the cook-off area.
61. It is the responsibility of each team to see that the contest area is kept clean and the area is cleaned and policed after the contest. Any space left in disarray or with loose or bundled trash (this includes hay) will disqualify the team from future participation. If any oil product is used do not dispose of the substance within the cook-off area. Trash receptacles may be placed throughout the cook-off area for each team's use.
62. Protests of any team, equipment, or sample (any division) must be turned into the Cook-off Committee no later than one (1) hour prior to judging of that division with the \$100.00 non-refundable fee.
63. No dogs are allowed on the fairgrounds except those aiding the Handicapped.
64. **Firearms**, Open or Concealed, are prohibited on the Galveston County Fairgrounds by cook-off team members during the Cook-off Event. Anyone found possessing Firearms, Open or Concealed during the Cook-off will be **DISQUALIFIED** from this year's event and banned from all future Galveston County Fair & Rodeo Cook-offs.
65. Participants will not be permitted to bring any wheeled transportation, i.e. Golf Carts, Three Wheelers, Four Wheelers, Motorcycles, Bicycles, etc. into the contest area at any time.
66. All generators and sound systems must be turned OFF during announcements of rules, at judging time, and while winners are being announced.
67. All sound system speakers must be turned into your cook-off spot and not turned outward. Galveston County Fair & Rodeo, Inc. will not be responsible for theft, damage, or accidents.
68. The Cook-off Superintendent and/or Cook-off Committee Members can inspect any cook-off area at any time, with or without cause, to determine rule compliance.
69. The Cook-off Committee reserves the right to make additional rules as the situations warrant.
70. **ALL DECISIONS OF THE COOK-OFF COMMITTEE AND THE JUDGES ARE FINAL.**

2017 GCF&R SEAFOOD COOK-OFF SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sunday, April 9th, 2017

1:00 p.m. Chief Cooks Meeting to review rules

Thursday, April 20th, 2017

12:00 p.m. EAST and WEST Gates OPEN for cooker check-in and set-up
2:00 p.m. WEST IN Gate CLOSED
5:00 p.m. EAST IN Gate CLOSED
6:00 p.m. EXIT Gate CLOSED, no further traffic in Cook-Off area

Friday, April 21st, 2017

10:00 a.m. EAST Gate OPEN for cooker check-in and set-up
4:00 p.m. Chief Cooks meeting and Container Pick-up
4:00 p.m. EAST Gate CLOSED, Check-in CLOSED
5:00 p.m. EXIT Gate CLOSED, no further traffic in Cook-Off area
5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. FIRE EXTINGUISHER INSPECTION
6:15 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Grilled Shrimp Division Turn-in
7:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Grilled Shrimp Division Second Cut Numbers Called
7:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. Grilled Shrimp Division Second Cut Turn-in

Saturday, April 22nd, 2017

2:00 a.m. until 8:00 a.m. All Persons without armbands must leave the park.
10:00 a.m. Chief Cooks meeting and Container Pick-up
11:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. FISH Division Turn-in
12:00 p.m. to 12:15 p.m. FISH Division Second Cut Numbers Called
12:15 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. FISH Division Second Cut Turn-in
1:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. CRAB CAKE Division Turn-in
2:15 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. CRAB CAKE Second Cut Numbers Called
2:30 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. CRAB CAKE Second Cut Turn-in
3:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. GUMBO Division Turn-in
4:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. GUMBO Second Cut Numbers Called
4:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. GUMBO Second Cut Turn-in
6:30 p.m. **AWARDS PRESENTATION**

Sunday, April 23rd, 2017

2:00 a.m. until 8:00 a.m. All Persons without armbands must leave the park
8:00 a.m. Gates Open for check-out & clean-up