
OLD SMOKEY COOK-OFF 2026

BAYOU VISTA, TEXAS

Saturday, October 17, 2026

CONTESTANT RULES & INFORMATION

ENTRY FEES	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	REGISTER & PAY AT	CONTACT
\$150 per team Jackpot Ribeye: \$25 Kids Q: \$20 per contestant	Wednesday, October 14, 2026	Bayou Vista City Hall	Philip Sukal 409-549-4815

CONTESTANT INFORMATION

Setup begins at **7:00 AM** on Saturday, October 17, 2026.

Registration closes at the end of business on **Wednesday, October 14, 2026**. Entries are accepted at Bayou Vista City Hall in the order received. No entries will be accepted after the deadline.

COMPETITION CATEGORIES

- Chicken Wings (*wings and drumettes only*)
- Beef Fajitas
- Bacon Open
- Jackpot Ribeye (*separate \$25 entry*)
- Kids Q — *Junior Division (ages 6–10) and Senior Division (ages 11–15)*

CHIEF COOK'S MEETING — MANDATORY

Thursday, October 15, 2026 • 6:00 PM

Bayou Vista City Park

Spot assignments will be distributed, event rules reviewed, and questions answered.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. No electric or gas fires will be allowed for any division. Fires must be fueled by wood, charcoal, or wood products only.
2. Attendance at the Chief Cook's Meeting is mandatory.
3. Spot locations will be assigned by the Cook-Off Committee. Rules will be reviewed, and questions will be addressed at the Chief Cook's Meeting.
4. Pre-marinating of meat is permitted.
5. All team members must be 18 years of age or older. Kids Q contestants are exempt from this requirement.
6. Each team will be provided one (1) approximately 10' × 15' cooking space, area permitting. Spaces may vary in shape and location.
7. Check-out will begin after the awards ceremony. No vehicle movement will be allowed until that time.
8. The Chief Cook is responsible for the conduct of all team members and guests. Excessive consumption of alcoholic beverages may result in disqualification.

9. Firearms and concealed handguns are prohibited within the cook-off area during the event.
10. All contest entries must be cooked on an Old Smokey grill. Teams may use multiple Old Smokey grills if desired.
11. No garnish, decorations, markers, or identifying items are allowed in turn-in containers.
12. Chicken entries must consist of wings and/or drumettes only.
13. Bacon Open entries must be wrapped in bacon. Any protein may be used; however, the entry must be completely wrapped in bacon. No garnish is allowed.
14. Turn-in containers must contain a minimum of ten (10) samples, except for Jackpot Ribeye and Kids Q, which require one (1) item per entry.
15. Every team must have a fire extinguisher onsite.
16. No grease drippings are permitted from cookers. Drip pans must be used when necessary.
17. Teams must prepare and cook food in a sanitary manner. Cooking areas are subject to inspection by the Cook-Off Committee and/or county and state health inspectors. Unsanitary conditions may result in disqualification.
18. Jackpot Ribeye is a separate \$25 entry, in addition to the team entry fee. Entries must consist of one (1) ribeye steak cooked on an Old Smokey grill and presented in the approved turn-in container.
19. The Cook-Off Committee reserves the right to interpret rules and settle all disputes. All decisions are final.

KIDS Q

Kids Q is a separate youth division open to contestants ages 6 through 15. Entry is **\$20 per contestant**. Age is determined as of the day of the event.

DIVISIONS

- **Junior Division** — ages 6 through 10. **Limited to ten (10) contestants.**
- **Senior Division** — ages 11 through 15. **Limited to ten (10) contestants.**

Each division is capped separately. Entries are accepted in the order received; a division closes when it reaches ten contestants or at the October 14 registration deadline, whichever comes first.

KIDS Q RULES

1. All Kids Q contestants will cook pork chops supplied by the Cook-Off Committee. No substitute protein is permitted.
2. Each contestant will receive two (2) pork chops at check-in on the morning of the event. Meat will be held on ice until distributed.
3. Each contestant must turn in one (1) whole pork chop in the numbered container provided.
4. Contestants supply their own seasoning, rub, and sauce. Pre-marinating is permitted.
5. All entries must be cooked on an Old Smokey grill.
6. An adult may light, tend, and manage the fire. All seasoning, cooking, and turn-in must be performed by the contestant.
7. A parent or guardian must be present in the cooking area at all times.
8. No garnish, decorations, markers, or identifying items are allowed in turn-in containers.
9. Kids Q entries are judged separately by division. Kids Q results do not count toward Grand Champion.

JUDGING

Judging will be conducted using a **Double-Blind Judging System**. Each team will receive numbered turn-in containers. Teams must retain their matching numbered ticket and present it to claim any prize.

Entries are scored on **appearance, aroma, taste, and tenderness / texture**. The judges' decisions are final.

TURN-IN TIMES

Contest entries must be delivered to the designated turn-in location during the following times:

CATEGORY	TURN-IN WINDOW
Bacon Open	12:00 PM - 12:15 PM
Chicken Wings	1:30 PM - 1:45 PM
Kids Q <i>(both divisions)</i>	2:30 PM - 2:45 PM
Beef Fajitas	3:15 PM - 3:30 PM
Jackpot Ribeye	4:00 PM - 4:15 PM

The official event clock maintained by the Cook-Off Committee shall be the official time source.

AWARDS

Awards will be presented at approximately **5:00 PM** at the main stage.

CHICKEN WINGS

- 1st Place
- 2nd Place
- 3rd Place

BEEF FAJITAS

- 1st Place
- 2nd Place
- 3rd Place

BACON OPEN

- 1st Place
- 2nd Place
- 3rd Place

JACKPOT RIBEYE

- 1st Place Jackpot Winner

KIDS Q — JUNIOR

- 1st Place
- 2nd Place
- 3rd Place

KIDS Q — SENIOR

- 1st Place
- 2nd Place
- 3rd Place

POINTS

Trophies are awarded to **1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place** in each category. For purposes of determining the Grand Champion, judges will score placements through 5th Place.

Points are awarded in the Chicken Wings, Beef Fajitas, and Bacon Open categories only. Jackpot Ribeye and Kids Q do not earn points.

GRAND CHAMPION

The team with the highest total points from the Chicken Wings, Beef Fajitas, and Bacon Open categories will be crowned the **2026 Old Smokey Cook-Off Grand Champion** and awarded the Grand Champion Trophy. In the event of a tie, the team with the higher Chicken Wings placement wins. Jackpot Ribeye and Kids Q results do not count toward Grand Champion.