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Belton to Host International Chili Society State Chili Cook-off

The city of Belton will host the State Chili Cook-off Championships for the International Chili Society (ISC) on April 17, 2010. Vickie Marnick of the ISC, informed the Event committee this week that the event has been upgraded to the State Level. The event will be held in downtown Belton, with the winner in the professional division advancing to the World Chili Cook-off.

James Bright of the Upstate Chili Cook-off Committee said, "This is awesome news! Serving as the State Championship will bring even more competitors to Belton and will certainly raise the profile of our first-year event."

The Chili Cook-off will have three divisions: professional, for those who wish to see how their chili "cooks up" against the best chili cooks in the nation and a chance for cash prizes. Community, which will be open to non-profit groups who will be able to use this event as a fund raiser/awareness (restaurants may also compete in this class) and a special competition of Fire Departments. "Anyone will be able to compete in the community division," said Bright. For a small fee, spectators will be able to purchase a wrist band enabling them to taste samples of the chili, all of which will be cooked on-site.

Process from this event will be given to Belton Interfaith Ministerial Association, Belton Area Museum Association, and the Belton Center for the Arts.

Those who wish more information concerning competing, sponsorships opportunities or vending may email the cook off staff at info@upstatechilicookoff.com. Those wishing to compete in the professional level may also go to the ISC web site at www.chilicookoff.com for more information.