

The 2010 South Carolina State Chili Cook-off Championships of the International Chili Society (ICS) will be held in Belton on April 17, 2010. The event will be held in downtown Belton, with the winner in the professional division eligible to advance to the International Chili Society World Chili Cook-off.

The mission of the Upstate Chili Cook-off is to host an annual event for our community to raise awareness and support for our area. The idea of a Chili Cook-off started as a small proposal conceived by a few local concerned citizens who wanted to raise money for a neighborhood charity, Belton Interfaith Ministerial Association (BIMA) during a difficult financial time. The concept of helping one local charity quickly grew into a plan to help several charities that would involve as many people as possible.

Belton Interfaith Ministerial Association is a non-profit corporation with a 501C recognition from the IRS and the State of SC. BIMA is the cooperative effort of Belton area churches of various Christian denominations. BIMA serves the needy of the Belton community through the free distribution of food and clothing. Financial budgeting, information about existing Anderson County agencies and limited financial aide is also available.

Two other organizations that make Belton a special place to live, the Belton Area Museum Association (BAMA) and the Belton Center for the Arts have also been identified to benefit from this event.

The Belton Center for the Arts (BCA) is a community cultural arts center that is committed to engaging the community in the education, exhibition and exploration of the visual, performing and literary arts. By offering an open and inviting atmosphere, BCA encourages art appreciation for every discipline through a variety of cultural experiences. As well as promoting local artists by providing multiple exhibition opportunities, BCA also cultivates emerging artists of all ages and ability levels through educational classes in a variety of mediums.

The Belton Area Museum Association's purpose is to collect, exhibit, preserve, and interpret the artifacts, sites, antiquities, and genealogical, archival, cultural, and natural history of Belton, SC, Anderson, SC, and the State of South Carolina. BAMA also provides cultural enrichment, intellectual stimulation, learning opportunities and activities to increase the appreciation of the traditional, visual, and performing arts.

The fact that ICS sanctions this cook-off is the most significant difference between this cook-off and all others held in the area. ICS is one of the biggest sanctioning bodies of its type in the world. The ICS sanctions over 200 events yearly in the United States and Canada. Its top annual winner receives the title World Chili Champion. For more information about the ICS, please visit their web site at www.chilicookoff.com. All who wish to compete in the professional division must be members of the ICS, but membership is available at the time of event registration.

The Upstate Chili Cook-off will actually be three events in one. First, is the ICS **professional** state championship; second will be the **open** competition for any individual or organization (any non-profit, service group, church and local business); thirdly is the **firefighter** competition (open only to fire departments). Competition, entry fees and prizes are as follows:

1. **Professional Division**-----\$85.00 entry fee for non-ICS members this includes a \$50.00 Membership fee and \$35.00 entry fee.

1st place of this division will receive \$500; a custom-made trophy; a free entry to the World Chili Cook-off and a chance to win \$25,000 at the World Cook-off; and free entry into the 2011 South Carolina chili cook-off.

2nd place will receive \$250, a custom trophy, and free entry into the 2011 South Carolina chili cook-off

3rd place will receive \$100.00 and a custom trophy.

Other places may be awarded and prize money may be increase depending on the number of entries. The current prizes are based on 25 entries. Final prizes will be announced at the Cook's party.

2. **Open Competition**-----\$40.00 entry fee and is open to any non-profit group, service group, church, local business or individual. The winner of this division will be determined by "**Peoples Choice**" vote (attendees who purchase a \$5.00 ticket will be allowed to taste one-ounce samples of every chili entered in the open category and vote for the favorite). The team chili with the highest votes receives a custom trophy. Teams that enter in the open competition may sell items at their booths to raise funds for their cause, promote a product or to bring awareness to their cause or business. The only items that open competition competitors **may not sell are drinks**. Details and entry information are listed on the web site. Any group or person, who enters as an open competitor, must prepare at least seven (7) gallons of chili

3. **Firefighter Division** is open only to fire departments and will be judged using a "**People's Choice**" method to award the winner. The fire departments may use this as a fundraiser and to raise public awareness.

Professional Vendors

The City of Belton will eliminate vendor fees for this one day. Commercial vendors will pay a \$25 fee to the chili cook-off and may sell any items **except for drinks**.

The Event will kick off on Friday night April 16, 2009 at an **invitation only** party for the Professional ICS Cooks, Sponsors and Friends of the Cook-off. For more information concerning the Cook's Party and how you can meet (or be included among) the Best Chili Cooks in the Country for a fun evening please visit our web site www.chilicookoff.com .

SCHEDULE Please check our web site at www.chilicookoff.com for the final schedule.

Saturday, April 17, 2009

7:00 A.M. - 8:15 Setup and registration

All entry fees will be \$10 higher for anyone registering the day of the event

8:30 - 8:45 Cook's meeting (exhibit hall stairs of the Belton Depot)

9:00 Professional cooks may light the fires (start cooking)

9:00 Event will be open to the public

Wrist Bands will be sold for \$5.00 each. These bands entitle the holder to a one-ounce sample of every **Open Competition** chili and a vote for the "**People's Choice**" award

9:15 Judge's Meeting

1:00 - 1:10 Competition Chili Turn-in

1:30 - 2:45 Judging

3:00 Awards Ceremony

Throughout the day, there will be live entertainment.

As a community event the public can be part of the event by 1) attending the event, 2) as a competitor, and 3) families can become members of the Friends of the Cook Off. Memberships are available for as little as \$25.00 and include rewards noted below:

<u>Level</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Perks</u>
Jalapeno	\$25.00	Name Listed in the Program
Cayenne	\$50.00	2 Wrist Bands (tickets) Name listed in the Program

Serrano	\$75.00	4 Wrist bands (tickets) Name listed in the Program
Tabasco	\$100.00	4 Wrist bands (tickets) Name listed in the Program 2 Passes to the Cooks Party An entry into a drawing to be a Judge
Habanera	\$200.00	6 Wrist bands (tickets) Name listed in the Program 2 Passes to the Cooks Party An entry into a drawing to be a Judge

Business and Organizations can also be a part of this event through our Sponsorship Program:

<u>Level</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Perks</u>
Trophy	***\$100.00	1/16 th page in the Program 2 Wristbands (tickets)
Banner	***\$250.00	1/8 th page in program 5 Wrist Bands (tickets) 2 passes to the Cooks Party Link on Web Page to your Company's web site
Presenting	***\$500.00	Name listed on the back program 10 Wristbands (ticket) 4 passes to the Cooks Party Link on Web Page to your Company's web site May name a judge
Title Sponsor	***\$1000.00	Company name/log on all cook-off Literature Company link on home of web site 20 Wristbands (ticket) 6 passes to the Cooks Party Link on Web Page to your Company's web site May name a judge

*** Services that your Company can offer to the event maybe done in exchange for a

sponsorship***

Churches also have an opportunity to be part of this event

<u>Level</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Benefits</u>
Basic Church Sponsorship	\$50.00	Name in the Program Information Sheet in the Church Booth Booth in the community area for Fund Raiser
Extended Church Sponsorship	\$75.00	Name in the Program Information Sheet in the Church Booth Booth in the community area for Fund Raiser Link to church's web site

The Cook-off in Belton will not only be about those who will enter for a chance to cook the best pot of chili in South Carolina; this event is also very much about the City of Belton. We want to highlight our special community. We are home to good schools, wonderful churches, an art center, two museums, the Palmetto Tennis Tournament, deep history and southern charm ... and now we are the home to the South Carolina Chili Cook-off! For more information concerning the Cook-off, we encourage you to visit our web site @ www.upstatechilicookoff.com.