

2012

**TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF FIRST RESPONDERS  
CHARITY WILD GAME COOK-OFF**

**"FIRST TO SHOW...LAST TO GO"**

**SANCTIONED BY THE INTERNATIONAL BARBEQUE COOKERS ASSOCIATION (IBCA)**



**COOK-OFF RULES**



**1. Cook-Off Dates and Location**

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Friday, April 13, 2012 and Saturday, April 14, 2012

Sam Houston Race Park - Main Parking Lot off Beltway 8  
7575 N. Sam Houston Parkway West  
Houston, TX 77064

**2. Entry Forms**

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Contact Joe Matthews at 281-841-0766, e-mail [jmatthews@tafr.org](mailto:jmatthews@tafr.org), [www.tafr.org](http://www.tafr.org).

**3. Entry Fee**

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Each Cook-off Team will pay a fee of \$150.00 for each 40' X 40' space. Make check or money order payable to the **Texas Association of First Responders**. You may also use PayPal online.

**4. Important Dates**

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March 23, 2012      Entry form priority date. Entries will be accepted after this date until move-in day. You must complete move-in by 4:00pm Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. Teams from 2011 will be given the same spots if entry form and fee is received by this date. New Team entries will be assigned priority in the order they are received with fee paid.

March 28, 2012      Cook Team meeting at 7:00pm, Sam Houston Race Park. You will receive your ID badges, wrist bands, admission tickets and parking passes. You will also be able to purchase cook-off merchandise, portable toilets and ask questions.

**5. Submittals of Entry Form**

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Please mail your entry form with payment to:  
**Texas Association of First Responders Charity Wild Game Cook-Off**  
12620 FM 1960 West  
Suite A4 – Box 255  
Houston, Texas 77065

## **6. Set-Up for Cooking Teams**

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- April 11, 2012            The facility is available on Wednesday for set up of professionally installed tents and large pits only. No tent stakes are allowed...water barrels only!
- April 12, 2012            Team set-up on Thursday and overnight camping is allowed. The TAFR Fire and Safety Committee will begin Team Booth Inspections at 10:00am until 6:00pm., to assist with Harris County Fire Marshal Office compliance.
- April 13, 2012            Team set-ups must be completed by 4:00pm and vehicles removed from the aisles and fire lanes of the fenced cook-off area. Any vehicles not removed by this time will be towed and placed in a designated area in the Cook-off parking lot. Harris County Fire Marshal Inspections will begin at 10:00am.
- April 14, 2012            Teams must keep their Team space open and occupied until 10:00pm to keep the public interested. The Cook-off does not end after the awards are presented.
- April 15, 2012            Team move-out is allowed beginning at 6:00am. **Due to safety concerns, no exceptions allowed before this time.**

## **7. Cooks Meeting**

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- April 13, 2012            Chief Cooks meeting is to be held at 5:00 pm under the Cook-off judging tent.

## **8. Admission to the Cook-Off**

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Chief Cooks and Assistant Cooks will be given daily color coded wristbands for admittance to and from the entrance gates.

Friday, April 13, 2012

### **Private Team Sponsor and Guest**

Gates will open at 5:00 p.m. All guests who enter will require a pre-paid or complimentary ticket. Law Enforcement Officers, Fire Fighters and EMS will be admitted free with proper credentials, and must accompany all other guest tickets purchased at gate on Friday.

Saturday, April 14, 2012

### **Gates will open to the General Public at 10:00 a.m.**

Gates open at 10:00 a.m. All guests who enter will require an admission fee of \$5.00 for adults, unless a person has a pre-paid or complimentary ticket. Children under 12 years old will be admitted free.

## **9. Clean-Up/Tear Down/Move -Out**

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April 15, 2012

Sunday is move-out day beginning at 6:00am, and must be completed the same day. All Teams are responsible for tear down and clean up of their cooking spaces and areas. Tents must be removed from the cook-off area no later than 12:00 noon on Monday, April 16, 2012. All coals/embers must be extinguished before disposal! Do not leave ashes behind when you move out.

## **10. Team Rules and Regulations**

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- A. **All Teams must represent an officially recognized Law Enforcement agency or Fire Department, and the Team Coordinator must be employed, retired or active reserve law enforcement agency or paid/volunteer Emergency Fire Fighter/EMS.** Each team must prominently display a sign which recognizes their law enforcement or fire fighter/ems affiliation on the aisle near their main team booth entrance.
- B. Team Members are to consist of one (1) Chief Cook and four (4) Assistant Cooks. Each Team will be provided ID Badges to designate the Chief Cook and Assistant Cooks. The ID Badges will **NOT** allow admittance to and from the entrance gates. Daily color coded wristbands must be worn comfortably but snug, so as not to be removed, at all times by the Chief Cook and Assistant Cooks for admittance to and from the entrance gates.
- C. Teams will be provided ten (10) complimentary tickets for each 40' X 40' space rented. (Note: Additional tickets may be purchased at time Entry Form is submitted or at the cook's meeting at a price of five dollars each
- D. **No cars or trucks will be allowed in the aisles and fire lanes of the fenced cook-off area after 4:00pm on Friday.** All cars or trucks not secured in the Team's designated cook-off space shall be parked in the designated parking lot. After 4:00pm., Team supplies will be moved by shuttle provided by the Texas Association of First Responders.
- E. Due to the amount of space available for each Team...Travel Trailers, Campers, and Motor Homes must fit neatly within the 40'x 40' space. Each Team will be allowed one travel trailer, camper, or motor home in their assigned space. The living quarters must be self-contained. All other travel trailers, campers, and motor homes must be parked on the designated parking lot. **Pits must be arranged in the Team space in such a manner that the public cannot walk by and touch or lean on a hot pit.**
- F. No machines that produce ice will be allowed in any space of the cooking Teams. Iceboxes that store and keep ice and food product will be allowed.
- G. Teams may use their own electrical generators used to run appliances and campers. Generators will **not** be allowed to operate under tents. All generators must be muffled, grounded, and in excellent working condition. If not, the Team will be instructed to turn it off and not allow it to be used during the duration of the cook off. No fuel shall be stored under covered area. Fuel storage must meet the Harris County Fire Code.
- H. Portable restroom facilities can be ordered at the Cook's meeting on March 28th for private use in the Team's space.
- I. Any pet brought on premise must be restrained by a leash at all times or contained within the confines of the Team's space and out of public reach or contact.
- J. **Team golf carts, four wheelers, mopeds, bicycles, gators or motorized recreational vehicles of any type will be allowed only under special conditions.** Segways will not be allowed. All vehicles and authorized drivers must be pre-registered with the Texas Association of First Responders prior to their admittance into the Cook-off area. A list of the person/persons allowed to operate the vehicle must have a valid Texas Driver's License and provide proof of liability insurance. At that time, you will be issued a permit to display on the vehicle during the duration of the Cook-off. This permit must be displayed at all times, or you will be asked to remove the vehicle from the cook-off area. All safety features of the vehicle must be utilized, and the

Manufacturer's recommended safety practices must be followed at all times. Persons that are simply "hanging on the side" will be asked to refrain from this activity, or risk removal of the vehicle from the cook-off area.

- K.** Teams will be allowed to hire a band for use in their space for the enjoyment of Team members and guests. Teams must lower sound levels of the music by 1:00 a.m. on both Friday and Saturday nights so it is not considered a nuisance to neighboring Teams. A Texas Association of First Responders Official will be present to act as a moderator if a conflict arises over noise levels. No one will be asked to leave the Team booth or cook-off area on Friday and Saturday nights unless it is determined to be necessary by both Security Officers and Texas Association of First Responders Officials due to an individual's conduct. Once a person leaves the cook-off area for the parking area, you will be asked to proceed to your car and leave. No loitering will be allowed in the parking areas. **Please read paragraph on Page 7, Section 15, Line D.**
- L.** **All Teams must comply with the current Harris County Fire Marshal's Office rules and regulations, and must complete a compliance checklist provided by the Texas Association of First Responders Fire and Safety Committee in advance of the Harris County Fire Marshal's Office on-site Inspection on Friday, April 13, 2012. Noncompliance may cause the HCFMO to shut your Team space down until corrections are made.**

## **12. Harris County Fire Marshal's Office Rules & Regulations**

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1. All LP-Gas appliances shall be disconnected upon entering Sam Houston Race Park property and at check-in
2. Licensed LP-Gas Person shall perform all connections for LP-Gas appliances. (Provided by Texas Association of First Responders)
3. Container size does not exceed 60 lb. or (2) 30 lb. cylinders manifolded together.
4. Storage of spare LPG cylinders shall be in approved locations and away from the public and shall not exceed the amount needed for one day.
5. Inspection sticker on appliances. (UL listed, nothing homemade)
6. Protective barriers to keep public at least 3 feet away from LP-Gas and cooking surfaces (this includes electric and charcoal cooking).
7. LP-Gas cylinders are secured to prevent tipping over. (This can be in milk cartons or by buckets filled with water or secured to the tent posts)
8. Fire Extinguishers with a minimum rating of 2-A, 10-B:C with a current date tag on the unit. Booths exceeding 20 feet in length have two extinguishers as indicated above. Extinguishers shall be in all booths that are involved in cooking or using a heating device (LP, electric, charcoal) **"Type K" extinguisher for deep frying.**
9. Booths must have adequate egress. Example 2 feet between booths.
10. Booth covering and decorations shall be constructed of flame retardant materials or be treated with an approved material.
11. Combustible materials such as hay or straw shall not be used. Trash and rubbish shall not be allowed to accumulate.
12. All charcoal or wood will be started with an electrical starter designed for this purpose. No liquid starters will be permitted. (Quick-starting charcoal is recommended)
13. A metal pan must be provided and constructed of a minimum of 18 gauge sheet metal and be placed under the fire box of bar-b-que pits to catch live coals which may fall onto the ground. The dimensions of the pan shall be such that it will provide complete coverage beneath any opening under the pit firebox.
- 14. Team owned and operated generators/power plants must be grounded by the use of a copper ground rod as required by the National Electrical Code.**

### **13. Services provided by Texas Association of First Responders**

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- A. **Public Restroom Facilities** – Public restroom facilities will be supplied by the Texas Association of First Responders at designated areas of the cook-off site.
- B. **Electricity** - If available, Teams will be provided one 20 amp electrical circuit per space. The electrical service is not to be used to run excessive equipment such as travel trailers, campers, and /or motor homes. It is recommended that you bring your own power plant (properly grounded) for additional Team needs.
- C. **Ice** – Ice will be available for purchase from the Texas Association of First Responders. Texas Association of First Responders will deliver ice to each Team space upon the next delivery time scheduled. Any ice required outside of the scheduled delivery times can be picked up at the designated ice pick up site. Ice cannot be brought into the cook-off area after the gates open to the public on Friday for the duration of the cook-off and must be purchased from the Texas Association of First Responders.

Friday, April 13th - Delivery Schedule – 9:00a.m, 11:00a.m, 1:00p.m, 3:00p.m, 5:00p.m, 7:00p.m, 9:00p.m, and 11:00p.m.

Saturday, April 14th - Delivery Schedule – 8:00a.m, 10:00a.m, 12:00p.m, 2:00p.m, 4:00p.m, 6:00p.m, 8:00p.m, and 10:00p.m.

- D. **Trash Pickup** – Trash pick-up will be provided on a schedule as follows. Please do not pack trash bags excessively full. Any bags that break will be left for the Team to promptly re-bag for pick-up. All bagged trash should be placed outside the Team space for pick up.

Friday, April 13th – 12:00 noon, 2:00p.m, 4:00p.m, 6:00p.m, 8:00p.m, and 10:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 14th - 8:00a.m, 10:00a.m, 12:00p.m, 2:00p.m, 4:00p.m, 6:00p.m, 8:00p.m, and 10:00 p.m.

- E. **Water** – Water will be available on the site. No hoses may be left connected to water outlets.

### **14. IBCA Cook-Off**

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- A. IBCA Cook-off rules shall apply with the following exceptions for safety concerns. Please refer to the IBCA brochure for cook-off rules, or access their website @ [www.ibcabbq.org](http://www.ibcabbq.org).
- B. Gas or electricity cannot be used to complete cooking.
- C. Since cook-off grounds are on asphalt paving, open fire ground pits shall not be allowed.

#### **A. Meat Submittals**

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- A. Team Entries of Wild Game, Seafood, Brisket, Pork Spare Ribs and Chicken may be submitted. In order for the Grand Champion to be qualified for the American Royal Invitational BBQ in Kansas City, MO and the lottery for the Jack Daniels’s Invitational, Lynchburg, TN, there must be at least 50 entries in the three basic categories (Brisket, Pork Spare Ribs and Chicken). In order to qualify for the National BBQ Championship, Meridian, TX - the event must have at least 10 teams participating and the top 3 places in each of the basic categories will be invited. Wild Game and Seafood are not recognized as a category.

- B. Teams that do not desire to participate in the Brisket, Pork Spare Ribs and Chicken categories may compete in the Open Wild Game/Seafood categories and be eligible for awards in those two categories only.
- C. **Wild Game Meat Submittals** - Wild Game may be submitted for judging and must be submitted and inspected before cooking. Wild game is defined as any animal regulated by the Texas Parks and Wildlife, any similar state agency, and/or any federal agency and to include white tail deer, mule deer, elk, dove, quail, duck, goose, alligator, antelope, javelina, squirrel, pheasant, Rio grande turkey, eastern turkey, rabbit, and/or hare. Wild game must be harvested during a regulated hunting season. Wild game may also include any wild game raised on any game management ranch in the state of Texas and can be any species of African Plains animal and/or game such as axis or fallow deer.
- D. **Fish and/or Seafood Submittals** – Fish and/or Seafood may be submitted for judging and must be submitted and inspected before cooking. Fish and/or Seafood is designated as any game regulated by the Texas Parks and Wildlife, any similar state agency, and/or any federal agency and to include bass, catfish, crappie, or any fish taken off the coast of Texas, crawfish, and/or shrimp and may have a “seafood” topping or dressing.
- E. **Brisket, Pork Spare Ribs and Chicken Submittals** – IBCA rules apply.

## **B. Judging Process**

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- A. Meat turn-in times will be announced at the Cook Team meeting on Wednesday, March 28th.
- B. The judging will be conducted on Saturday, April 14th.
- C. The number of rounds of judging will be determined by the number of teams participating in each category. Quantities will be announced at the cook’s meeting. Each team will be required to furnish one team member to judge the preliminary round (**BUT NOT THE FINALS.**) No Head Cooks will be allowed to judge.
- D. Competition entry trays will be available at the Cook-off Judging Area under the judging tent. Competition trays must be picked up and signed for only by the Chief Cook. Identifying tickets and matching numbers will be attached to the trays.
- E. Each Team is responsible for turning in their entries to IBCA cook-off officials at the Cook-off Judging Area. Teams may have multiple spaces and each additional space will be allowed one set of turn-ins, but will require a separate entry form, Chief Cook and pit per each space.

## **C. Awards**

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### **TAFR Wild Game Cook-off Grand Champion Award**

(one trophy) (Based on Wild Game and Seafood Entries-Wild Game is the Tie-Breaker)

### **TAFR Wild Game Cook-off Reserve Grand Champion Award**

(one trophy) (Based on Wild Game and Seafood Entries-Wild Game is the Tie-Breaker)

### **IBCA Grand Champion Award**

(one trophy) (Brisket is the first Tie-Breaker, followed by Ribs then Chicken)

**IBCA Reserve Grand Champion Award**

(one trophy) (Brisket is the first Tie-Breaker, followed by Ribs then Chicken)

**Champion Wild Game, Fish/Seafood, Brisket, Pork Spare Ribs and Chicken Awards**

First Place (one trophy)  
Second Place (one trophy)  
3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Place (one trophy)  
6 thru 10<sup>th</sup> Place (one plaque each)

**Outstanding Display Awards**

First Place (one trophy only)  
Second Place (one trophy only)  
Third Place (one trophy only)  
(4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> places (one plaque each)

**The “ First to Show...Last to Go” Hospitality Award**

For the Team that exhibits the most Team Spirit and Hospitality towards the General Public this Cook-off is famous for!

One Place Only (one trophy only)

**15. General Information**

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A. Texas Association of First Responders, Inc. and their representatives shall not be responsible or liable for any theft or damage to any participant’s equipment or supplies.

B. The Texas Association of First Responders, Inc. and their representatives reserve the right to delete, amend, modify, or add rules and/or regulations as situations warrant. All decisions of the President or General Chairman of the Wild Game Cook-off shall be final.

C. Consumption of alcohol by minors is illegal and will not be permitted on Sam Houston Race Park property. Individuals of teams caught making alcohol available to minors will be excluded from this and all future competitions.

**D. In case Texas Association of First Responders secures Entertainment for Saturday night, all Teams will be required to turn off their music at a designated time as not to conflict with the Entertainment. An announcement will be made at the Cook’s Meeting on March 28th on whether there will or will not be Entertainment.**