



Compete in a live cooking challenge at the California State Fair. Individual professional chefs will use a mystery ingredient to prepare a 3-course meal in front of a live fair audience and a panel of qualified Judges in the Cooking Theatre. Represent your restaurant or business. Space is limited, apply today!

APPLICATIONS DUE: Applications are accepted on a first-come-first-served basis

DATE/TIMES: **Qualifying Rounds: Friday, July 19, 2024**

Qualifying Round 1: 11am-1pm

Qualifying Round 2: 2pm-4pm

Qualifying Round 3: 6pm-8pm

Final Round: Saturday, July 22: 6pm-8pm

LOCATION: Cooking Theatre, Save Mart California's Kitchen, Building B

QUALIFICATIONS: Any currently-employed or self-employed professional chef in the restaurant or catering industry.

AWARDS: **Final Round**

Champion +\$200 cash & State Fair **Golden Bear Trophy**

2nd Place +\$150 cash & State Fair Rosette

3rd Place +\$100 cash & State Fair Rosette

Qualifying Rounds

1st Place \$100 cash & State Fair Ribbon

2nd Place \$75 cash & State Fair Ribbon

3rd Place \$50 cash & State Fair Ribbon

AVAILABLE EQUIPMENT:

- Induction range & oven, microwave, sink and electrical outlet.
- Tools and small appliances typically found in a home kitchen are available.
- Teams are encouraged to bring their own knives or any specialty equipment needed.

AVAILABLE INGREDIENTS:

- A mystery ingredient will be provided and MUST be featured in 1 or more dishes.
- The pantry is stocked with a variety of common ingredients for cooking and baking.
- Teams may not bring any outside food or spices into the competition.

JUDGING CRITERIA

- 30% **Taste:** Complimentary courses, seasoning, flavor, temperature/doneness
- 25% **Presentation:** portion size, harmonious use of garnish, color, slicing/placement
- 20% **Skill Level:** Difficulty of dish, cooking & knife skills, use of ingredients, creativity
- 15% **Use of Mystery Ingredient:** Prominence in meal, good use of ingredient
- 10% **Work Habits & Showmanship:** Food safety and sanitation, organization of work area, professional and courteous, communication with MC and Judges during competition

Significant Points Deductions:

- Mystery ingredient not featured in any dish (-30 points)
- Food not safe to eat (undercooked) (-20 points per item)
- Less than 3 courses presented (-20 points per absent course)

CHALLENGE FORMAT:

1. Arrive **30 minutes prior** to your start time to be fitted for a microphone and to sort out any last-minute details.
2. **Start Time:** The MC will introduce the challenge, competitors and Judges. The mystery ingredient will be revealed, then the MC will start the competition.
3. **5 minutes:** to “shop” for food from the kitchen pantry. Chefs may access pantry behind throughout the competition.
4. **5 minutes:** to prep and set up kitchens: preheat ovens, boil water, organize equipment, etc. No cooking or food prep is allowed at this time.
5. **50 minutes:** to cook and plate your meal, which is immediately presented to Judges upon completion.
6. **Judges Evaluate** the dishes behind the scenes while teams clear down kitchens and fair staff distribute any remaining food as samples (Fair staff will also help clean).
7. **Judges Announce the Winners** and ribbons will be presented.

ADDITIONAL RULES & REGULATIONS:

- **Contestants may not be inebriated, and no alcoholic beverages may be consumed** either in front or back of the set; however, it may be used as an ingredient. Failure to follow this rule may lead to disqualification and prizes will be forfeit.
- Kitchens will be assigned randomly before each round begins.
- No open flame is allowed, including torches and lighters (CA Fire Marshall Regulations).
- “3 Courses” consists of an appetizer, main dish and a dessert.
- Teams will present one plate of each course to Judges, but please prepare enough food for roughly 4 standard servings so that food will be available for fair guests to sample.
- Only participating chef may be backstage (space limitations and food safety). For fairness, no “Sous Chefs” will be allowed.
- Chefs are encouraged to wear their restaurant/company chef jackets, hats, apparel, etc.
- Restaurants may send flyers, giveaways, gift certificates, etc. with their participating chefs for promotional purposes. No stickers are allowed.
- Each participant will receive 1 Admission Credential and 1 parking pass to enter the Fair the day of the Challenge. 2 additional admission credentials will be given to each participant for guests.

CONTACT: Michelle Johnson, Program Coordinator
916.263.3189
mejohanson@calexpo.com



PROFESSIONAL CHEF COOKING CHALLENGE

APPLICATION DUE DATE: Accepted on a first-come, first-served basis

SUBMIT TO: Michelle Johnson
P.O. Box 15649
Sacramento, CA 95852

email: mejohnson@calexpo.com
phone: 916.263.3189
fax: 916.263.7903

Contact Name	
Professional Title	
Phone Number	Cell phone Number <i>(for day of challenge)</i>
Mailing Address	
City	State, Zip Code
Email Address	

Restaurant/Business Represented (and Chef name, if different than Contact Name)
Website

Preferred Preliminary Round on Friday, July 19, 2024:

- 11am-1pm
- 2pm-3pm
- 6pm-8pm

I hereby certify that all of the information submitted with my application to compete in the Professional Chef Cooking Challenge is true and correct.

I hereby certify that I have read the competition information and rules, and I will accept and comply with rules as written, and accept the decision of the Judges as final.

I hereby certify that if selected as the first place winner of my preliminary round that I will be available to compete in the final round on Saturday, July 20, 2024, from 6pm-8pm.

Signature _____ Date: _____

CALIFORNIA EXPOSITION AND STATE FAIR

California's Kitchen 2024 Letter of Understanding

This Letter of Understanding is between CALIFORNIA EXPOSITION AND STATE FAIR, hereafter referred to as "Cal Expo" and _____ hereinafter referred to as "Demonstrator".
(Demonstrator's full name)

Under this agreement, Demonstrator will participate as a competitor in the **Professional Chef Challenge Preliminaries** in the Cooking Theatre, Building B, Cal Expo, 1600 Exposition Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95815 on the following Date(s) and Time(s):

- Friday, July 19, 2024, _____
(Round Time)
- Demonstrator agrees to appear on Saturday, July 20, 2024 from 6:00pm-8:00pm, should they win their Qualifying Round.

Demonstrator will provide all of the following for the above stated demonstration:

1. Contractor agrees to arrive for check-in at the backstage area of the classroom 30 minutes before the start of their demonstration(s).
2. Contractor will adhere to all food safety standards, which are enforced by the Sacramento County Environmental Health Division.
3. Copies of any distributed materials to be handed out during the fair. Submit to the Program Coordinator.
4. A completed Megan's Law compliance form listing all individuals associated with the activities outlined in this agreement who will be backstage or interacting with fair guests.

Cal Expo will provide all of the following for the above stated demonstration:

- 1) Credentials for Fair entry, parking and any delivery appointments for above dates.
- 2) Mystery ingredient, basic pantry ingredients, tools, and demonstration kitchen.

Demonstrator and all participants agree to indemnify, defend and save harmless the State of California, California Exposition & State Fair, its officers, agents and employees from any and all claims and losses accruing or resulting to any and all contractors, subcontractors, suppliers, laborers, and any other person, firm or corporation furnishing or supplying work services, materials, or supplies in connection with the performance of this Agreement, and from any and all claims and losses accruing or resulting to any person, firm or corporation who may be injured or damaged by the Demonstrator and/or the Demonstrator's paid or volunteer assistants in the performance of this Agreement.

Signature: _____
Demonstrator

Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Signature: _____

Contracts Manager
California Exposition & State Fair

Date: _____

Cal Expo Fairgrounds
1600 Exposition Blvd.
Sacramento, CA 95815


Mailing Address:
ATTN: CA Kitchen
P.O. Box 15649
Sacramento, CA 95852

CONTACT: Michelle Johnson
mejohanson@calexpo.com
916-263-3189

**CALIFORNIA EXPOSITION & STATE FAIR
MEGAN'S LAW FORM**

Cal Expo Contact Person:
Michelle Johnson, Programs
916.263.3189

One of the fundamental responsibilities of the California Exposition & State Fair (Cal Expo) is to protect the public. In 1998, Cal Expo implemented a policy requiring that all persons conducting business with, employed by, or volunteering at Cal Expo shall provide the necessary personal information to enable their names to be searched through the Department of Justice's Megan's Law files. This file consists of records of individuals convicted of specific sex offenses who are required by Penal Code Section 290 to register as sex offenders.

Multiple Applicant Information				
THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED LEGIBLY, WITH ALL INFORMATION REQUESTED, OR IT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. SUBMIT TO THE CAL EXPO PERSONNEL OFFICE PRIOR TO THE EVENT				
COMPANY/ORGANIZATION/APPLICANTS NAME SUBMITTING:			PRODUCT/SERVICE PROVIDED:	
			Cooking Demonstration(s)	
REPRESENTATIVE FULL NAME			PHONE NUMBER	
TYPE OF BUSINESS/GROUP/POSITION (CHECK ONE):				
CONTRACTOR CONSULTANT CONCESSIONAIRE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXHIBITOR TENANT VOLUNTEER OTHER:				
PRINT CLEARLY. ALL ITEMS MUST BE COMPLETELY FILLED OUT AND LEGIBLE.				
BY SIGNING BELOW, I CERTIFY THAT THIS IS AN ACCURATE LISTING OF ALL PERSONS SCHEDULED TO WORK/VOLUNTEER FOR LISTED ORGANIZATION WITH CAL EXPO. FAILURE TO COMPLY WILL BE CAUSE FOR REJECTION OF THE ENTIRE APPLICATION.				
REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE:			DATE:	
			____/____/____	
APPLICANT FULL NAME			DATE	
DATE OF BIRTH:	ZIP CODE:	DRIVER'S LICENSE/ID #:	ISSUING STATE:	PHONE NUMBER:
APPLICANT FULL NAME			DATE	
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