California Junior Chef Cooking Challenge

Design-a-Round Contest
You be the Judge!

California Youth, ages 10-17, are invited to design a contest theme for 1 of 3 rounds of the 2024 California Junior Chef Cooking Challenge. If selected, our young theme designers will receive tickets to the fair and an opportunity to be an official State Fair Judge!

THEME IDEA DEADLINE: Saturday, June 1, 2024
HOW TO ENTER: Email your full name, phone number, age, mailing address, contest round title, and a short description to CAKitchen@calexpo.com (ages 10-17 only!)

THEME PARAMETERS
Contest Themes should:
- highlight any aspect of California –agriculture products, culture, history, geography, etc.
- be challenging enough to inspire creativity.
- be simple enough to prepare in under 45 minutes, but be complex enough to take at least 20 minutes to prepare, using only simple home cooking appliances and tools
- Be fun! - Use a pun in the title, foods popular with youth, color, variety

Contest Description:
Aspiring Junior Chefs and their Grown-Up Sous Chefs are invited to participate in a live cooking challenge at the California State Fair. This competition spotlights the creative culinary talent of California's youth. Grown-Up Sous Chefs provide guidance and mentoring and act only as an assistant during the on-stage cooking and judging. Junior Chefs plan a recipe ahead of time for 1 of 3 themed rounds, and then prepare their dishes onstage in the Cooking Theatre in front of a live fair audience and a panel of qualified Judges.
Event Date: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 – 3 rounds starting at 12pm, 3pm, & 6pm

WINNERS
Up to 3 winners will be selected. Youth creators of selected round ideas will receive:
- 2 admission and 1 parking credential for the 2024 CA State Fair
- An Invitation be 1 of 3 Judges for the round of their own creation: score the onstage preparation, presentation and taste
- An official California State Fair Judge's ribbon badge and apron