

California
STATE★FAIR

**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 the 2025 California Junior Chef Cooking Challenge. If selected, our young theme designer will receive tickets to the fair and an opportunity to be an official State Fair Judge!

THEME IDEA DEADLINE: Saturday, June 1, 2025

HOW TO ENTER: Email your full name, phone number, age, mailing address, contest round title, and a short description to CAKitchen@caexpo.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 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 22, 2025 - 3 rounds starting at 6pm

WINNERS

One winner will be selected. Youth creator of the selected round idea will receive:

- 2 admission and 1 parking credential for the 2025 CA State Fair
- An Invitation be a Judge for the round of their own creation: score the onstage preparation, presentation and taste, and an official California State Fair Judge's ribbon badge and apron