

California
STATE★FAIR

BBQ Competition



One Meat Rib Competition Official Sanctioned Event of the Kansas City Barbeque Society

Get ready for a fiery showdown at the California State Fair BBQ Competition! Grill masters from across the state will ignite their barbeques and battle it out for the title of 2025 BBQ Champion. Join us for a smokin' hot event filled with mouthwatering barbeque and a whole lot of flame-kissed fun! KCBS membership is not required. Space is limited, apply today!

- APPLICATIONS:** Applications accepted on a first-come-first-served basis. Preference given for People's Choice Judging participants. Due no later than June 30, 2025.
- ENTRY FEE:** \$150 per team, due with application
- DATES:** Evening Load In: Friday, July 11, 2025
Competition & Judging: **Saturday, July 12, 2025**
- LOCATION:** Barbequing & People's Choice Judging at the CA State Fair Farm.
Awards Presented at the Cooking Theatre, Building B.
Cal Expo, 1600 Exposition Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95815
- 2025 FORMAT:** Competitors will prepare a minimum of 6 bone-in pork ribs to be judged by a team of qualified KCBS Judges (Official Judging,) and 12 racks of bone-in pork ribs, provided to teams by T-Bones Meat Shop of Auburn, CA, for People's Choice Judging by fair guests.
- AWARDS:**
- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Champion..... | \$300 & State Fair Golden Bear Trophy |
| 2 nd Place..... | \$200 & State Fair Rosette |
| 3 rd Place..... | \$150 & State Fair Rosette |
| 4 th Place..... | \$100 & State Fair Rosette |
| 5 th Place..... | \$75 & State Fair Rosette |
| People's Choice Award.... | \$175 & State Fair Rosette |
- All awards come with one CA State Fair BBQ Apron



Thank you to our
partners!



TEAMS MUST PROVIDE:

- Bone in pork ribs for Official Judging, with the capacity to cook an additional 12 or more racks of ribs for People's Choice judging.
- KCBS-allowable garnishes
- BBQ, Tools, and wood, wood pellets or charcoal fuel
- Food Prep facilities - enclosed tent, non-porous food prep surface, 3-sink ware washing, handwashing, floor tarp, etc.
- Fire Extinguisher
- Easy-Ups, Tables (covered), chairs, etc.

CAL EXPO WILL PROVIDE TO EACH TEAM:

- Max 10 Admission, 3 Parking & 2 Delivery Credentials
- Upon Request: 1 service pass for Friday evening move in
- Competition turn-in containers and People's Choice disposable containers

JUDGING CRITERIA

All entries will be judged by official KCBS Judges based on **Appearance** and **Taste & Tenderness**, using a weighted judging system, according to the [KCBS Judging Procedures](#).

COMPETITION SCHEDULE

Friday, July 11, 2025

8pm-9:30pm Early Team Equipment Move In & Meat Inspection Begins
(service pass required)

Saturday, July 12, 2025

6:00 am Team Move In Begins
6:30 am Meat Inspection Begins
8:00 am Vehicles Must Be Off Fairgrounds
8:30 am Cooks' Meeting
10:00 am Public Fairgrounds Gates Open for the Day
12:00 pm People's Choice Judging Begins
3:00 pm People's Choice Judging Ends
3:30 pm Turn in for Judges (Bldg. B, Cooking Theatre)
6:00 pm Awards Ceremony (Bldg. B, Cooking Theatre)
8:00 pm Team Load Out Using Vehicles May Begin
9:30 pm Equipment Must Be Off Grounds

COMPETITION RULES & REGULATIONS

This competition will adhere to the rules laid out in the following documents, published by the Kansas City Barbeque Society (KCBS):

[KCBS Official Rules & Regulations](#)

[KCBS Judging Procedures](#)

Teams will also find this document helpful: [KCBS Tips for New Teams](#)

Teams Each team shall consist of a Team Captain and up to 9 additional participants (assistant cooks). Teams are encouraged to utilize their restaurant/company/team tents, signs, apparel, etc. Only participants listed on the submitted Megan's Law Form may be inside of designated cooking areas, or within 3 feet of any active cooking device. (Liability and food safety).

Official Judging An entry consists of a minimum of 6 pork ribs which include the bone. Country-style ribs are prohibited. Sauce and garnish are optional. Ribs are prepared for presentation to Judges using provided container and optional garnish (see [KCBS Official Rules & Regulations](#) pamphlet, rule 13 for allowable garnishes). First through fifth place awards are determined by Official KCBS Judges using KCBS Judging Criteria. Entries may be delivered up to 5 minutes ahead of turn in time. A late turn-in MAY be accepted and evaluated, but will not be considered for any awards, prizes or KCBS points.

People's Choice Judging For each team participating in the People's Choice Judging, 12 racks of ribs will be provided by T-Bones Meat Shop of Auburn, CA. These ribs are served (not sold) directly to fair guest judges by a team representative at your cook site. The People's Choice Award is determined by popular vote by fair guests. BBQ teams and their guests may not vote. Campaigning to fair guests throughout the day must be done at cook site only, and is encouraged! No bribes.

Cooking Area Teams will be assigned cook sites upon team check in at The California State Fair Farm, in a space appropriate to the size and type of their cooking setup. BBQs, props, tents, equipment and all cooking of product shall be contained within the team's assigned cooking space. No overnight camping is permitted at cook sites.

Equipment & Safety Contestants must bring all their own equipment.

- Fires shall be of wood, wood pellets or charcoal only. Electrical accessories such as spits, augers, or forced draft are permitted. Fires shall not be built on the ground.
- All tents, canopies or temporary membrane structures require weights/sandbags which are NOT provided by CA State Fair. A California State Fire Marshal tag shall be permanently fixed to the top and each sidewall.
- All teams are required to have a have an up-to-date, 5LB, multi-purpose fire extinguisher at their booth.
- "Quiet" generators are encouraged, if needed. CA State Fair may be able to provide electricity upon request. Please indicate need on application.
- Vehicles can be used to unload and load equipment but are not allowed in BBQ area between 8am and 8pm. Parking is not in close proximity to BBQ site. (7-minute walk, or use shuttle of 20-minute intervals)

Food Safety is the responsibility of the Team Captain. The team's cooking space must be clean and orderly during and after the contest.

Participation in the People's Choice judging, any food sampling and/or Concession Sales require adherence to the Sacramento County Environmental Health Division requirements.

Teams participating in any distribution of food to the fair going public MUST supply a valid certificate from the Sacramento County Environmental Health Division. Acceptable certifications:

- **Temporary Food Facility (TFF)** obtained through Cal Expo (\$245)
- **Multi-Event Permit (MEP)** best option for teams participating in 3+ Sac County events
- **Mobile Food Facility (MFF)**

Food Safety Requirements:

- Food prep: all trimming, seasoning and portioning must be done inside a fully enclosed tent with netting, which includes a ware-washing station and a bucket of sanitizing solution (100ppm chlorine). Limited on-site prep space is available, first-come-first-served.

- Each grill site must supply and maintain an easily accessible hand washing station (water-dispensing container, hand soap, water catch basin, paper towels).
- Raw meat must be held at 40° F and below.
- After cooking, all meat must be held at 140° F or above OR cooked meat shall be cooled as follows: Within 2 hours from 140° F to 70° F and within 4 hours from 70° F to 40° F or less.
- Meat that is cooked, properly cooled, and later reheated for hot holding and serving shall be reheated so that all parts of the food reach a temperature of at least 165° F for a minimum of 15 seconds.
- No hot holding on the grill unless food is stored in a container with lid and under direct heat.
- No use of any tobacco products while handling meat.
- Shirt with sleeves and closed toed shoes are required to be worn.
- Long hair must be pulled back, under a hat or in a hair net.

Sales - Hot Food (Concession Sales) or Packaged Products (Commercial Sales)

Requirements to sell:

- Sellers License (for all taxable sales, must be posted in the Booth)
- The ability to issue receipts (handwritten, emailed or printed)
- You are required to fill out a record of sales at the end of each day.
- Provide your own cash box or point of sales system such as a [Square Reader](#). Wi-Fi is available for this purpose, upon request.
- For taxable goods, you must charge the City of Sacramento sales tax for all taxable sales (8.75% as of 4/22/25).
- **Hot Food Sales (Concessions Sales):** \$300 sellers fee required. Includes any hot and/or ready-to-eat food.
- **Packaged Products Only (Commercial Sales):** \$150 sellers fee required. Includes commercially packaged food meant to be taken home to enjoy/use such as spices, rubs, sauces, etc. Cottage Industry Operators welcome.
- **Beverage Sales:** are prohibited. (There is an existing vendor in The Farm)
- **Insurance** *If you do not have a liability insurance policy, please contact the CA State Fair Coordinator. We may be able to help.*

Prior to your use of the premises, you must furnish the California State Fair with an original insurance certificate that shows general liability insurance with minimum coverage of \$1,000,000, combined single limit for the full term of the Agreement. The insurance certificate must also provide the following special endorsements exactly as specified. No variation or alteration of the endorsements will be acceptable.

"The State of California, California Exposition & State Fair, its agents, officers, directors, and employees, are included as additional insured insofar as the operations under this contract are concerned."

Event Address: Cal Expo Fairgrounds, 1600 Exposition Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95815

The California Exposition & State Fair is not responsible for loss or damage to your property. The parties agree that the Agreement does not convey, demise or let any interest of the California State Fair in any real property, and occupancy of premises by Exhibitor/Concessionaire, the acceptance of rent or commission by the California Exposition & State Fair during the term of, or under any holdover under, this Agreement shall not confer on Exhibitor/Concessionaire any title, interest, or right in real property against the California Exposition & State Fair as to "premises."

Clean Up All fires must be put out, and all equipment removed from site. All cooking grease, hot ash and/or coals and pellets must be placed in provided, labeled cans. It is imperative that clean-

up be thorough. Any team's assigned cooking space left in disarray or with loose trash, other than at trash containers, may disqualify the team from future participation.

Parking

Vehicles are not permitted on the fairgrounds or at the Farm from 8am-8pm on competition day. Participants will park in Cal Expo Lot Z, which is an 8-minute walk away from the BBQ Competition area. A shuttle is available and runs every 20 minutes.

Promotion & Giveaways Teams may distribute samples, flyers, giveaways, etc. from their cook site location only. No stickers are allowed. Any food product samples must be free.

Minimum Requirements for Sampling:

- Samples must be monitored at all times.
- Fair guests may not grab any food or utensils from a collective container.
- Food on toothpicks may be placed spread out on platters. If a guest touches any food that they do not eat, it must be disposed of immediately.
- Fair guests may dip items into sauces/oil themselves, as long as there is no double dipping. If such contamination occurs, the dish must be immediately washed and fresh product replaced.
- A hand washing station must be available and utilized by the person handing out samples which includes a water dispensing container containing warm water, a basin to catch dirty water, hand soap, and paper towels. Gloves are encouraged but not required if hands are properly washed.
- Closed-toe shoes are required.
- Long hair must be tied back or under a hat.
- Hand samples only to adults. Adults can hand samples to kids. (Allergies!)

The main idea is that no one touches anything that will go into anyone's mouth other than their own.

Cal Expo employees are under obligation to make sure that these standards are met by all of our guest Participants, or we face being shut down for the day, or for good.

Security Teams moving in on Friday evening must contain and secure any equipment left on the fairgrounds overnight. A roaming security guard will be present in the general area from 8pm until 6am. No cook-site camping is allowed. Cal Expo has an RV park; if interested call 916-263-3187. Other than overnight, it is recommended that a team member stay with their equipment at all times.

The California Exposition & State Fair is not responsible for loss or damage to your property. The parties agree that the Agreement does not convey, demise or let any interest of the California State Fair in any real property, and occupancy of premises by Exhibitor/Concessionaire, the acceptance of rent or commission by the California Exposition & State Fair during the term of, or under any holdover under, this Agreement shall not confer on Exhibitor/Concessionaire any title, interest, or right in real property against the California Exposition & State Fair as to "premises."

Teams & Conduct A cook team is responsible jointly and individually for its head cook, its team members, and its guests. Failure to follow rules may lead to disqualification and prizes will be forfeit.

Participants may NOT:

- **be inebriated, and no alcoholic beverages may be visibly consumed.** However, it may be used as an ingredient.
- serve alcoholic beverages to the general public.
- use illegal controlled substances.
- use foul, abusive, or unacceptable language or language causing disturbance.
- wear lewd or offensive fashion choices.

- use this event as an opportunity to promote religious or political agendas, just BBQ.
- make excessive noise including, but not limited to, that generated from speakers, radios, CD players or TVs. Public address systems or amplifying equipment are not allowed.
- engage in poor sportsmanship such as theft, dishonesty, cheating, use of prohibited meats, or any act of moral turpitude.

Megan's Law Form is required of all individuals participating as demonstrators, competitors and exhibitors at the California State Fair. Names are checked against the California Sexual Offenders Registry.

Credentials Each team will receive (1) Admission Credential per team member (up to 10), and up to (3) parking passes to enter the Fair the day of the competition. Additional credentials will be provided to facilitate Friday evening load in, if requested ahead of time.

CONTACT

CA State Fair Coordinators & Paperwork Wranglers:

Michelle Johnson, (916)263-3189, mejohanson@calexpo.com

Regina Mancha, (916)263-3189, rmancha@calexpo.com



BBQ Competition

BBQ Team Application

APPLICATION DUE DATE: **No later than June 15, 2025**
first-come, first-served
preference given for People's Choice participants

SUBMIT TO: Michelle Johnson email: mejohnson@calexpo.com
1600 Exposition Blvd phone: 916.263.3189
Sacramento, CA 95815 fax: 916.263.7903

Contact Name of Team Chief Cook & Professional Title	
KCBS Member Number (optional)	
Phone Number	Cell phone Number <i>(for day of competition)</i>
Mailing Address	
City	State, Zip Code
Email Address	

Team Name
Total Number of Team Members (includes Team Captain)
Restaurant/Business Represented <i>(if any)</i>

Cooking Device Type, Size & Fuel Type
--

Space Request *contains tent & all grilling equipment*

- ☐ 10 feet x 15 feet
- ☐ Special Space Size Request: _____
- ☐ 110v electric connection (bring 3-prong extension cables & power strips)

Do you have the cooking device and team capacity to produce/cook an additional 12 racks of ribs to participate in People's Choice Judging?

- ☐ No ☐ Yes

Will You Be Conducting Sales?

Insurance certificate and seller's fee required, if approved.

- ☐ Commercial Sales (packaged or non-food items, \$150 seller's fee)
Brand & Type of Products: _____
- ☐ Concession Sales (hot/prepared food, ready-to-eat, \$300 sellers fee)
Brand & Type of Products: _____
- ☐ Send me info about obtaining an insurance policy through the Fair for \$150

What kind of Sacramento County Environmental Health Department Certificate will you submit? (required to participate in People's Choice Judging and/or sell food items to the public)

- ☐ Please acquire a Temporary Food Facility (TFF), Sacramento County Permit on my behalf (\$245)
- ☐ Multi-Event Vendor, Sacramento County (MEV)
- ☐ Mobile Food Facility (MFF)
- ☐ None (Competition Judging Only. Team may not participate in People's Choice Judging, or supply/sell any food items to the public.

REQUIRED: ENCLOSE ENTRY FEE OF \$150

Entry Fee payment will not be processed until team is approved for participation. Team Captain will be contacted to confirm requests with additional charges (if required), and receive an invoice.

If approved, \$50 of the entry fee is non-refundable in the event of a cancellation by the team.

CHECKS: payable to "California State Fair."

VISA or MASTERCARD: call Michelle at 916-263-3189 (3% service charge applies).

I hereby certify that all of the information submitted with my application to compete in the 2025 California State Fair BBQ Competition is true and correct. I have read the competition information and rules, and I will accept and comply with rules as written, and accept the decision of the KCBS Judges as final.

Team Captain Signature _____ Date: _____

WHAT'S NEXT!?

The CA State Fair will follow up to confirm your reservation, discuss any options you have selected, and provide an invoice, if applicable. In the meantime, it is time to gather your:

- Team's Megan's Law Information
- Health Department Certificate
- Seller's Permit (if applicable, for taxable sales)
- Insurance Certificate (if applicable, for all sales)


Megan's Law Forms are Due June 30, 2025



CALIFORNIA EXPOSITION & STATE FAIR
MEGAN'S LAW
(MULTIPLE APPLICANT)

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.

Requesting Department Information		
NAME	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL
Michelle Johnson	916-263-3189	mejohanson@calexpo.com
DEPARTMENT REQUESTING INFORMATION		DATE OF REQUEST
BBQ Competition, Programs – Dept. 420		

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:		
			Exhibitor, BBQ Team		
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:		
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DATE OF BIRTH:	ZIP CODE:	DIVER'S LICENSE/ID #:	ISSUING STATE:	PHONE NUMBER:	
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Team Name: _____

BBQ Competition, Programs – Dept. 420, continued

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