

Food Challenge Contest Contest Memo

Date: Thursday, November 2, 2023

Schedule: Will be released after registration closes
Heat 1 will begin at 9:00 a.m.

Location: Hopkins County Regional Civic Center
1200 Houston Street, Sulphur Springs, TX 75482

***Due to space limitations, parents will not be allowed in the building.
We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.***

Schedule. A final schedule will be distributed/posted following the registration deadline. The Awards Program for each heat will be conducted as soon as judging and tabulation are complete. More specific times will be sent to the Agents and 4-H Contestants after entries are received.

Registration. Each participating member is required to register on 4HOnline and pay the \$15.00 registration fee. Registration will open on **October 4, 2023**, and close at midnight **October 18, 2023**.

Please make sure each team member uses the **exact same team name** when registering. County offices, please double-check and correct any team naming issues at your level before certifying.

Participation. Contestants must be active 4-H members enrolled in a Texas 4-H and Youth Development County program in District IV. Contestants must also be academically eligible (according to UIL rules) to compete on the day of the contest.

Age. Age divisions are determined by a participant's grade as of September 1st of the current 4-H year. Age divisions for this contest are: *(Note: the MIXED age division was eliminated in 2016-2017.)*

- Junior (3rd, 4th, & 5th grades)
- Intermediate (6th, 7th, & 8th grades)
- Senior (9th, 10th, 11th, & 12th grades)

Teams Per County. Each county may enter up to 4 teams in each age division. The 1st place senior team from each food category will advance to state. Teams advancing to state will not automatically be assigned to the same food category as they were in at district.

Members per team. Teams must have at least three members but no more than four. Teams **MAY NOT** include members in different age divisions. Each county may enter a maximum of four Junior, four Intermediate, and four Senior teams.

Food Categories. There will be four food categories in each age division: Appetizer, Main Dish, Side Dish, and Healthy Dessert. Teams will be randomly assigned to a category and heat. Heat assignment information will be distributed to Agents and emailed to 4-H contestants through 4HOnline.

Attire. Each team will have the option of wearing coordinated clothing or aprons. They must also wear closed toe shoes. No electronic devices or jewelry (except for medically required) is allowed in contest. This includes cell phones, smart watches, or other communication devices.

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Hair Restraint: Each team member must wear a hat, hair net and/or other type of hair restraint during the food preparation part of the competition. Examples of acceptable hair restraints include hairnets, bandana with hair completely pulled back, Chef hat with hair restrained inside, or cap with hair completely tucked inside.

Contest References & Forms. Please refer to the Texas 4-H website Food & Nutrition Project page for contest reference materials, forms, additional rules, and scorecard.

Resource Materials Provided at Contest. Resource materials will be provided for each team at the contest. These include MyPlate Mini-Poster, Fight Bac - Fight Food Borne Bacteria Brochure, Know Your Nutrients, and Food Safety Fact Sheet. No other resource materials will be allowed. Teams may not use their personal copies of the resources during the contest.

Supply Box. Each team must supply their own equipment for the challenge. Teams may bring only the supplies listed in the supply box section. Supply boxes may be checked by contest officials as teams check in for the contest using a standard or randomized process. Any extra equipment will be removed from the team's supply box.

Boxes must be completely closed, and all equipment should remain inside the box until the start of the contest. Supply boxes are limited to the following dimensions: 40" x 24" X 40". If the box is on wheels, the height of the wheels is not included in the dimensions. The contest committee may measure boxes to determine compliance. **Teams with non-compliant boxes may be disqualified.**

Bowls (up to 4, any size)	Measuring Spoons (1 set)
Calculator	Non-Cooking Spray
Can Opener	Note Cards (1 pkg. – no larger than 5 x 7)
Colander	Paper Towels (1 roll)
Cookie Cutters (up to 2) *NEW*	Pancake Turner (up to 2)
Cutting Boards (up to 4)	Pencils (no limit)
Disposable Tasting Spoons (no limit)	Plastic Box & Trash Bags for Dirty Equipment
Dry Measuring Cups (1 set)	Pot With Lid
Electric Skillet	Potato Masher
Extension Cord (multiple outlet strip style)	Potato Peeler
First Aid Kit	Sanitizing Wipes (1 container)
Food Thermometer	Serving Dishes (1 plate/platter; 1 bowl; 1 utensil)
Fork	Skewers (1 set)
Gloves	Skillet with Lid
Grater	Spatulas (up to 2)
Hand Sanitizer	Stirring Spoon
Hot Pads (up to 5)	Storage Bags (1 box)
Kitchen Shears (1 pair)	Tongs (up to 2)
Kitchen Timer	Toothpicks
Knives (up to 6)	Whisk
Liquid Measuring Cup	Two Single-Burner Hot Plates or One Double-Burner Plate (electric only!)
Manual Pencil Sharpener	

NEW: An EMPTY tub for dirty dishes may be placed on top of the supply box.

NEW: Items added to the list of allowable items in the supply box/ include:

- Cookie Cutters (up to 2)
- Flour (up to 1 lb.) **or** Cornstarch (up to 1 lb.)

NEW: The beverage cup has been removed as an allowable item from the supply list.

Please make sure all knives are properly and safely packed in the box, so contestants and officials are not injured. Dish cleaning/washing facilities are **NOT** available. Plan your supply boxes for each team accordingly. Restrooms are off limits for dish/utensil washing. After each heat, burners will be moved to a central table to allow for cooling. Please make sure all burners are clearly labeled with a county, club, or individual's name.

Pantry Ingredients. Each team may include in their equipment box the following “pantry” ingredients which they may use when preparing their dish if desired. There is no requirement to use these items, nor is it mandatory that teams include these in their supply box.

- Salt
- Pepper
- Oils (up to 17 oz.)
- 2 cans vegetables and/or fruit (up to 16 oz.) – *team choice*
- Rice (white or brown) or pasta (up to 16 oz.) – *team choice*
- Flour (up to 1 lb.) **or** cornstarch (up to 1 lb.) ***NEW***
- 1 jar chicken bouillon
- 1 medium onion

Texas 4-H Food Challenge Rules of Play

1. General guidelines, resources and instructions will be provided prior to the start of the contest to assist teams.
2. No electronic devices or jewelry (except for medically required) is allowed in contest. This includes cell phones, smart watches, or other communication devices.
3. Each team will be directed to a cooking/preparation station. Contest categories will be revealed at the preparation station.
4. Each team will be assigned to a contest category and a key ingredient will be provided (ingredient amounts, recipe, nor instructions will be provided at the station). The key ingredient will be representative of one of the following categories: Appetizer, Main Dish, Side Dish, Healthy Dessert.

Teams will have access to a “grocery store” of additional ingredients which can be “purchased” and combined with the team’s “key” ingredient to create an original recipe/dish during the contest. The “grocery store” will include items commonly found in grocery stores such as produce, canned goods, crackers, dairy products, etc.

Teams must “purchase” & use at least two additional items from the “grocery store”. Teams will receive a pricing sheet for “grocery store” items at their station.

5. **Preparation.** Each team will create an entire dish/recipe (not a full meal) using the provided key ingredient and grocery store items. Dishes/recipes created should include two or more servings. Teams should present the entire dish/recipe to the judges and communicate during their

presentation what an individual serving size should be. Teams will be responsible for determining the number of servings their dish provides. Teams should not create side or multiple dishes with their ingredients/grocery store items.

- a. Teams are challenged to be creative and develop an original recipe with the ingredients provided.
 - b. Teams will determine the exact amount of each ingredient used based on their original recipe.
 - c. The key ingredient and/or grocery store ingredients selected should be used to garnish the dish.
 - d. Note cards may be used to write down the recipe that the team creates, along with notes related to nutrition, food safety, and cost analysis. Teams should be exact on ingredients used, preparation steps, cooking time, temperature, etc.
 - e. Each team will have 40 minutes to prepare the dish, plan a presentation, and clean up the preparation area. A 20-minute warning, 10-minute warning, 5-minute warning, and -minute warning will be given. **NO** talking is allowed after the 40 minutes is up.
 - f. After the 40-minute preparation time is up:
 - The team's area **MUST** be clean, and all the supplies and extra food items must be in their supply box (*except hot burners, see Supply Box*).
 - No talking and no writing will be allowed among any team members. Team members caught talking and/or writing will receive a warning. The second time, the team will be disqualified and asked to leave the contest facility.
 - Team members should not have pens or pencils in their possession while waiting to give their presentation.
6. **Food and Equipment Safety.** A safe and sanitary working environment must be maintained during the contest. Each station will have food and kitchen safety resources. Teams should follow the steps listed to ensure proper food and equipment safety is followed. Judges will be scoring teams on food and equipment safety during the preparation phase of the contest. Teams should also discuss safety steps used during the presentation phase of the contest.
- Gloves. Gloves do not have to be worn throughout the contest; however, there should always be a barrier between your hand and any food touched. A barrier includes gloves and/or cooking utensil. When wearing gloves, they must be changed between handling raw meats/seafood; handling cooked items; and ready to eat items or raw vegetables to prevent cross contamination.*
7. **Presentation.** Following the preparation phase of the contest, each team will give a 5-minute presentation to a panel of judges. A majority of team members should participate in the presentation.
- To earn maximum points, teams must use these 5 minutes to address the following areas of the presentation scorecard: Knowledge of MyPlate, Nutrition Knowledge, Food Preparation, Safety Concerns, and Serving Size.
 - At the end of 5 minutes, time will be called – additional time will not be allowed.

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- Judges will be allowed 3 minutes to ask questions; however, judges will not ask questions related to what teams should have covered during the presentation. Judge's questions will be related to general nutrition, health, chronic disease prevention or others relevant to food and nutrition.

Cost Analysis: Team will not be required to analyze the cost of the recipe, nor will this be included in the presentation or scoring of the contest.

Awards. Will be presented at the conclusion of each Heat, outside in front of the Civic Center, so parents may watch.

The top two high scoring food challenge teams in each age division from each heat will be recognized with awards during the awards program. In the senior age division, the 1st place team from each food category will qualify for state.

Team Spirit Awards. Team Spirit awards be awarded in each heat in each age division. The Team Spirit award will be given based on teamwork, enthusiasm, and professional appearance. Team Spirit judges will be different than presentation judges. Team Spirit will be evaluated during preparation.

Participants with Disabilities. If you need any type of accommodation to participate in this program or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact [Denita Young at djyoung@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Denita.Young@ag.tamu.edu) at least 2 weeks prior to the program or note such needs when registering on 4-HOnline.

Food Allergies. Contestants with food allergies must note their specific allergy at the time of registering on 4-HOnline.