



Montana BBQ Cook-Off
Rules & Guidelines
June 13, 2026
Set Up June 12, 2026
www.montanabbqcookoff.com



- The Montana BBQ Cook-Off is sponsored by the Absarokee Area Merchants Association (AAMA). This event adheres to the rules of the KCBS and the local Health Department. The interpretation of their rules, and of those contained in this document, are at the discretion of the Montana BBQ Cook-Off and KCBS representatives at the contest. Rules and times are subject to change, and the Montana BBQ Cook-Off reserves the right to make additional rules and regulations as situations warrant. If rules and times change, contestants will be properly notified. If you need clarification, please contact the Event Coordinator Danelle DeSaveur at 406.328.6822
- A team consists of one chief cook and one or two assistants, and all necessary helpers. In order to qualify as an official team and be eligible for payment, the Montana BBQ Cook-Off must have a completed entry form, W-9/W-8BEN tax document, and all applicable entry fees.
- Team placement will be determined by the Montana BBQ Cook-Off based on the registration order of official teams, with main street preference given to teams who are vending. Please be specific on the amount of space you will need for your trailer, tent, etc., as space is limited and will be assigned before you arrive. Set up is on Friday, June 12th and must be completed before 6:00 pm. Those wishing to set up before June 12th, must make prior arrangements. Vehicles must be removed by 7:00 am on the day of competition, and no vehicles will be allowed to enter or exit the cook-off area between 7:00 am and when the event ends at 6:00 pm.
- For safety purposes, teams are required to have a fire extinguisher. Additionally, no sidewalks may be blocked during the event, and any extension cords used must not cross public pathways to safeguard against accidents.
- No Animals of any kind are permitted in the team's space in accordance with KCBS rules and state law.
- Quiet Hours are 11:30 pm Friday to 7:00 am Saturday.
- Any nudity, lewdness, or any form of vulgarity will not be allowed. No pyrotechnics or explosives are allowed.
- Teams must supply their own cooking utensils, equipment, BBQ, coolers, tables, chairs, shade or rain protection, and anything else required to compete or vend. If limited electricity was purchased you must provide your own extension cords. Quiet generators are permitted with prior approval of the event coordinator.

- All meats must be from a USDA approved source, and properly stored in a cooler prior to use. All meat will be inspected by a KCBS representative on the day before the contest. The following meat holding conditions must be met:

After cooking meat must be held 140 degrees or above.

Cooked food shall be cooled:

Within 2 hours from 140 degrees F to 70 degrees F and

Within 4 hours from 70 degrees F to 41 degrees F or less

Food that is cooked, cooled, and reheated for hot holding shall be reheated so that all parts of the food reach a temperature of at least 165 degrees F for 15 seconds.

- The sale of beverages is not allowed. Teams that don't have the interest or ability to vend are asked to consider a tax deductible donation of cooked meat to one of the nonprofit groups who are vending at the event.
- All contest entries will be turned in at a designated location and will be judged and scored based on taste, tenderness, and appearance. The turn-in order will be: Chicken 12:00 pm, Pork Ribs 12:30 pm, Pork 1:00 pm, Beef Brisket 1:30 pm, and the Open category at 2:00 pm. The Open category is the only category to have no specific requirements or rules. Winners will be announced at 4:00 pm, and public vending will be from 1:00 pm until 6:00 pm.
- Teams are responsible for cleaning up their area and disposing of their garbage in the bins on Grove Street, just east of Touch of Country restaurant. No vehicles will be allowed into the area until the barriers are officially moved, and all displays must be removed so the main street clear for traffic by 7:00 pm on the day of the contest.
- The Absarokee Area Merchants Association and its members will not be held responsible for theft or damage to equipment, or bodily injury of any kind, or any loss or damages as a result of the given space being unattended during the event.