



2025 Brisket & Salsa Cook-Off

BRISKET COOK-OFF RULES: Contestants set-up on Friday, Sept. 26th no later than 6pm at the Krieg Athletic Complex (515 S. Pleasant Valley Road).

Each contestant will receive a judging container on Friday, Sept. 26th at check-in. At that time, your submission (uncooked brisket) will be inspected. Cooking can begin after check-in.

Each contestant will receive a two-part ticket, along with their judging container. One half of the ticket will be taped to the lid and the other half will be loose in the container. Do NOT remove the ticket from the lid. Take the loose ticket and keep it with you so you will know if your number is called as a winner.

All team members must be City Employees/Retirees. Each contestant must turn in 10 slices of brisket in their container. Containers must not be marked or decorated in any way. Entries will be picked up at 2:30pm.

BRISKET JUDGING: Briskets will be judged without sauce, but you may bring your sauce for serving later. Judging will be based on taste, texture, and appearance.

SALSA RULES: Participants must pick up salsa jar on Friday, Sept. 26th by 6:00pm.

Each contestant must turn in a pint of salsa. Salsa entries must be submitted by 2:00pm to Sonia Freeland in the Cook-Off area (near the Horseshoes and Washers tournament).

JUDGING & AWARDS: All entries will be collected and delivered to judges at 2:30pm Sept. 27th and judging will begin at 3:00pm. Judging will be based on aroma, taste, and appropriate heat level. Trophies will be awarded for first, second and third place for each category (brisket and salsa). In case of a tie, those briskets will be re-tasted and evaluated by the judges to determine the winner.

Questions? - Contact Sonia.Freeland@austintexas.gov