



COOK TEAM INSTRUCTIONS

The following guidelines apply to the Roux Fest Gumbo Cookoff powered by Lagcoe, which will take place on February 27, 2025, at the Blackham Coliseum. The competition will feature four categories:

- **Seafood** (First, Second, and Third Place)
- **Meat** (First, Second, and Third Place)
- **Showmanship** (First, Second, and Third place)
- **People's Choice** (1 Award – King/Queen of the Roux)
- **Restaurants** (First, Second, and Third Place)
- **Desserts** (First, Second, and Third Place)

Lagcoe will provide:

- Arena area space
- Electrical service (maximum 20 amps); please bring heavy-duty extension cords.
- City water is available at the venue, located directly outside the cook space of the coliseum.
- 2 folding tables (6ft) and 2 chairs at the booth space inside the coliseum. For additional tables & chairs at your own cost, please contact Marty Thibodeaux at Party Central (337) 261-3378 x 101 prior to the event. Alternatively, if an extra table is required for supplies, you may bring your own.
- A fire extinguisher to be returned to the Registration trailer after cooking is done.
- Three cook team tickets provided during cook team registration on the day of the event.

1. Guidelines for your cook team:

- **Wood and/or charcoal burning fires WILL NOT BE ALLOWED under the Blackham Coliseum roof!**
- Wood and/or charcoal burning pits are encouraged and allowed but must be located outside the building's roofline. Plan accordingly for transferring food from your remote pit area to your booth.
- **ALL COOKING WILL TAKE PLACE OUTSIDE, WHILE SERVING WILL BE CONDUCTED INSIDE THE BLACKHAM COLISEUM.**
- **All cook teams using an open flame outside the coliseum will be provided a fire extinguisher that MUST remain on-site while cooking.**
- **GUMBO MUST BE PREPARED ON SITE.**
- Cook teams should provide their own tables for cooking outside.

- Each team should bring refreshments and snacks for team members during setup (after 5:00 PM, an open bar will provide beer, wine, and soft drinks.)
- Fryers are permitted outside for cooking, but please inform us in advance if planning to use an electric fryer. If cooking oil is used, the team must remove the oil from the premises.
- Food warming using sterno chafing fuel is acceptable.
- Remember to bring serving dishes, warming plates, utensils, chafing dishes, crock pots, rice cookers, steam tables, tablecloths, etc. Electricity will be provided; bring extension cords, but **be aware of electrical amperage limitations!**
- **Propane is not allowed inside the venue.**
- Cook team tickets allow for 1 Chef and up to 2 Sous-Chefs. Additional tickets can be purchased at Lagcoe, online, or at the door (if available).
- This is a cooking contest, and the food should be cooked by team personnel, not a hired chef.
- Cook teams should provide their own food sample cups, bowls, spoons, forks, napkins, etc., for the attendees.
- Each team should plan to provide at least **150-250 samplings** (not full meals). Anticipated event attendance is between 1,000 – 1,500 people.
- Each team must bring their own ingredients and prepare the gumbo from scratch. Lagcoe recommends preparing samples by the event start time, but cooking may continue during the event.
- The food served to attendees must be similar to the dish served to the judges.
- **Food judging time starts at 4:00 – 5:00 PM. You'll be notified by a runner before the judges visit your booth.** Be innovative and creative with food sample presentations to the judges; prepare a serving for each one (3-4 judges).
- Select a team theme and decorate your booth. Please note: **No mulch is allowed in your decoration. Tents are allowed inside the coliseum, but tent stakes are not permitted due to cement flooring.**
- Showmanship judging will begin at **4 PM**
- Music, DJ's, or bands are not allowed in your booth; Lagcoe will provide music.

2. Move in time

- For outside the Coliseum, rental tents, and company tents only: 6:00 AM – Noon on Thursday, February 27, 2025
- Tents are permitted inside the coliseum for decoration purposes only, based on the selected tent space. **Due to the cement flooring, tent stakes are not permitted.** Alternative methods like drums filled with water are required.
- On Thursday, February 27, 2025, at 6:00 AM, move in cooking supplies and set up for cooking.
- **Mandatory Team Meeting: There will be a compulsory safety meeting before the cooking begins. Please ensure your Chef or Sous Chefs from your team attend the meeting once they register and begin setting up on Thursday, February 27th**

3. Move Out

- After completing the cooking, teams can collect their belongings outside the Blackham Coliseum between noon and 10 PM. Inside the Blackham Coliseum, collection hours are from 8 PM to 10 PM.
- **INSIDE THE BLACKHAM COLISEUM DO NOT BREAK-DOWN UNTIL AFTER 8:00 PM ON THURSDAY!**
- Security will not be provided Thursday night. Do not leave valuable possessions on the grounds of the Blackham Coliseum or secure anything that will be picked up on Friday morning.

4. Tickets:

- All participants and attendees must wear WRISTBANDS. Show your ticket at the gate to receive a hand stamp. Individuals under the age of 21 will be identified with a RED wristband.
- The UL Police Dept. requires all served individuals to have a hand stamp. Special wristbands will be provided for those under 21. Please DO NOT serve alcohol to anyone under the age of 21.

5. Alcohol

- The UL Police will oversee security for the event.
 - Unacceptable behavior or language will result in immediate ejection from the event.
 - A stamped hand is mandatory for alcohol service, so please be vigilant. Minors will be identified by a distinctive RED wristband. Police officers will issue a warning for booths caught serving minors, and they reserve the right to close down booths for repeated violations.
 - Glass beer bottles are not permitted.
 - Drinking games are prohibited.
6. No pets are allowed, except for registered service dogs. Service dogs must be accompanied by their respective paperwork, which should be presented at the registration table.
7. Voting for the People's Choice award will be conducted via the web using kiosk machines. Voters must present their Gumbo Cookoff doubloons received at the entrance to cast their vote. No doubloons, no vote will be allowed. **People's Choice voting will end at 7:30PM.**
8. Contact Lagcoe, for any special venue needs or request.
Lagcoe, (337) 235-4055, info@lagcoe.com



Thursday, February 27, 2025
Blackham Coliseum
Lafayette, Louisiana

COOK TEAM SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

6:00 AM - Noon	Set-up
Mandatory Safety Meeting before you set up	
8:00 AM	Cooking Begins
4:00 PM – 5:00PM Judging	
5:00 PM	Doors Open to the Public
5:05 PM	Flag Ceremony
5:10 PM	Invocation & National Anthem
5:15 PM	Lagcoe Chairman
5:20 PM	Entertainment
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM	People’s Choice Voting
7:45 PM	Awards Presentation
8:00 PM	Closing
8:00 PM – 10 PM	Break Down