



GRILLS & GUITARS



SATURDAY
Sept. 6, 2025
BIG CATZ BBQ
221 E. MAIN,
KNOXVILLE

PLEASE PRINT

Organization/Business Name _____

Contact Name _____

Address _____

(Street) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

Phone Number _____

Email _____

BBQ CONTEST

Please refer to enclosed Rules and Guidelines.

Team Name _____

☐ I am applying to participate in the Grills & Guitars Rib Cookoff Competition. **(\$150 Entry Fee)**

INFORMATION

- A single vendor space is about 20' x 20', the size of two parking spaces. BBQ vendors must be able to provide public tastings throughout the event, 5:00pm-7:00pm. You may stay after competition concludes until the band ends.
- You must provide your own power.
- Each team will receive 4 wristbands for the event. Additional team members will need to have arm bands purchased at \$10.00 each.

PRESENTATION & LOGISTICS

☐ Grill/Smoker ☐ Canopy/Tent ☐ Truck ☐ Other _____

There will be one water station available, but every competitor is responsible for their own hand-washing station. Contestants must have a canopy covering the food prep area. Canopy/tents must be tied down with weights. **Contestants must have an individual 3 bay sink and hand washing station.** All other health department food handling and safety requirements: (plastic gloves, hair nets, fire extinguisher, etc.) must be met.

SETUP/BREAKDOWN(CONTEST)

Contestants may arrive as early as 8am for inspection. All vehicles need to be removed from the event area to the parking lot and booth set-up must be complete by 9:30am. The People's Choice Competition will be from 5:00pm-7:00pm. All trash must be removed within 90 minutes concluding the event.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT CERTIFICATION

Preparing food outside requires specific preparation and storage procedures. Health Department staff may inspect booths during the set-up period to ensure standards are met. Big Catz BBQ will provide a copy of a health certificate on location at the event. All contestants must follow Knox County Health Department policies and have a 3 bay sink along with a hand washing station. For more information or to obtain a certificate application, please contact:

Knox County Health Department
1361 W. Fremont Street
Galesburg, IL 61401
309-344-2224

COOKING

COMPETITION

RULES AND GUIDELINES



Big Catz BBQ and G&M Distributors are proud to host Grills & Guitars, providing you the opportunity to compete in a friendly competition. This is a fun event and we ask that all contestants strictly abide by the rules and guidelines to ensure fairness and fun for everyone.

COMPETITION ENTRY FEE IS \$150

Ribs will be judged by a panel of judges. There will also be a People's Choice category judged by a sample tasting process. A total of **\$700 in CASH prizes** will be presented to the winners. Contest prizes are as follows:

- 1st place in Ribs.....\$300, Trophy and bragging rights!
- 2nd place in Ribs.....\$200 and Trophy
- 3rd place in Ribs.....\$100 and Trophy
- Peoples Choice winner.....\$100 and Trophy

MEAT WILL BE PROVIDED RAW AND BE COOKED ONSITE

All Ribs for the competition will be provided upon arrival uncooked, unmarinated, on ice and in its original packaging. Cooking equipment will be inspected upon arrival to the event area. Once inspected, cooking preparations may begin. All contestants must be checked in by 9:30am. **Outside alcohol is prohibited.**

TIME LINE FOR THE DAY

8:00am - 9:30am - Set up, meat check and start cooking! (contestants must be checked in by 9:00am).

10:00am - Booth set up complete. Vehicles must be removed from event area. MANDATORY team captain meeting.

2:00pm - Event will open to the public.

4:30pm - Rib turn in time.

5:00pm – 7:00 pm People's Choice; be prepared with your item.

8:45pm (Band's first break) - Awards will be announced.

- Each team will receive a 12 pack of Nasty Beast Hard Tea to enjoy. This is a Nasty Beast Hard Tea sponsored event.
- Teams will be given a pre-numbered container in which to submit their entries. ONLY use provided containers. DO NOT write on containers or leave any markings. Number should be face up upon turn-in.
- Each entry must have at least 6 servings in the container.
- This is a BLIND judging. Judges will not know who submitted the entries. Ribs will be judged on TASTE, TENDERNESS and APPEARANCE. Scoring is done from 1 to 5 in each category. Points are tallied for final score.
- BBQ sauce is allowed on entries. Garnish in boxes is not allowed.
- Entries must be turned in on time as stated above. Late entries will not be judged.

DISQUALIFICATION MAY OCCUR if the rules and guidelines are not followed or if meat is not fully cooked.

Please submit complete form, payment and attached information by August 16th to:

Big Catz BBQ
221 E Main St.
Knoxville, IL 61448