

# SouthArk Outdoor Expo Rib Cook-off Rules

Sponsored by Withrow Family

September 7, 2024

For More Information, [www.southarkexpo.com](http://www.southarkexpo.com), [foundation@southark.edu](mailto:foundation@southark.edu)

**Date:** Saturday, September 7, 2024

**Park Grill:** Friday, September 6, 2024, 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. First come, first served. Cookers will set up on South Washington Ave, between E. Locust & Pony Sts., next to El Dorado Printing (332 S. Washington) east of El Dorado Conference Center. If there is an overflow of grills, they will be placed on E. Locust St., east of S. Washington.

**Location:** East of the El Dorado Conference Center, 311 South West Ave., El Dorado, AR. "Cookers' Headquarters" tent is located on S. Washington St. and W. Locust Sts.

**GOOGLE THIS ADDRESS TO PARK GRILLS:**

**332 S. Washington St., El Dorado, AR @ El Dorado Printing**

**Cook time:** Saturday, September 7, 2024 -- 7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

## CASH PRIZES AND TROPHIES

### Best Ribs

**1st** \$2000 & Trophy  
**2nd** \$1000 & Trophy  
**3rd** \$750 & Trophy  
**4th** \$500 & Trophy  
**5th** \$250 & Trophy  
**6th** \$125 & Trophy

### Cooker's Choice

**1st** \$1000 & Trophy  
**2nd** \$500 & Trophy  
**3rd** \$250 & Trophy

### Best Rig Construction

**1st** \$250 & Trophy  
**2nd** \$100 & Trophy  
**3rd** \$50 & Trophy

### Best Team Spirit

**1st** \$250 & Trophy  
**2nd** \$100 & Trophy  
**3rd** \$50 & Trophy

## SCHEDULE

### Friday, September 6

8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Park your grill

### Saturday, September 7

- 6:30 a.m.** Complete Setup – No vehicles in cookers' area after 6:30 a.m. Park at corner of Pony St. and S. Washington near El Dorado Printing (332 S. Washington, El Dorado) and unload from there.
- 7:00 a.m.** Pick up ribs at the "Cooker Headquarters" tent, E. Locust at S. Washington Sts.
- 10:00 a.m.** Judging for Best Team Spirit
- 11:00 p.m.** **Pick up aluminum containers for the Cooker's Choice and competitive rib entries at "Cookers' Headquarters" tent.**
- 11:00 – 12:00 p.m.** Judging for Best Rig Construction
- 12:00 – 12:15 p.m.** Place Cooker's Choice entries in the aluminum containers and deliver to the east entrance of El Dorado Conference Center (Entry will be disqualified after 12:15 p.m.).
- 12:15 p.m.** **Pick up styrofoam clam shell containers for non-competitive ribs at the "Cookers' Headquarters" tent.**
- 1:00 – 1:15 p.m.** Place competition ribs in the aluminum containers and deliver to the east entrance of El Dorado Conference Center (Entry will be disqualified after 1:15 p.m.).
- 1:30 p.m.** Deliver non-competitive ribs for public sale at the Cookers' Headquarters tent.
- 3:30 p.m.** Awards Ceremony (must be present to win)

## SET-UP RULES

### Arriving on Friday

- Set-up cooking pit on Friday, September 6, 2024 between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Cookers will set up on S. Washington St. between Locust and Pony Sts., near El Dorado Printing (332 S. Washington St.). First come, first served.
- Security will be provided in the cooking area all day and overnight.
- Teams are responsible for providing canopy tents, tables, chairs, and other equipment needed in the cooking pit. *No stakes are to be driven into the street.*
- 110 electricity available. We discourage generators but if one is used, it must be **QUIET and not emit gas fumes**. Generator specs: maximum of 50 decibel level, 20-25amps, 120volts. **If it is not quiet, we will have to ask you to turn it off.**
- Bring your own extension cord, which must be secured to the ground to prevent tripping hazards.
- Limited 110 electrical outlets provided.

### Setting Up and Parking on Saturday

- Teams must have cooking pit **set-up by 6:30 a.m.** – NO Exceptions.
- After you set up your cooking pit on Saturday morning, vehicles must park outside of the cooking area. Park at El Dorado Printing parking lot on S. Washington at Pony St., or in surrounding lots along the perimeter of the conference center.
- **Unloading entry is only allowed at S. Washington and Pony St. No vehicles are allowed in the cooking area after 6:30 a.m. on Saturday.**

## Security/Safety

- El Dorado Police officers will provide security all day Friday, Friday overnight, and on Saturday. The El Dorado Fire Department will be present to handle any potential fire hazard during the event.

**Free Samples** - Cookers are welcome to give away free food samples of their choices.

**PLEASE DO NOT GIVE AWAY ANY TYPE OF RIBS. THE ONLY RIBS THAT WILL BE AT THE COOKOFF ARE THE HORMEL BRAND ST. LOUIS-STYLE PORK RIBS THAT COOKERS WILL RECEIVE.**

**Rib entries are not to be removed from the cooking area.**

**Any violation of this rule will result in immediate disqualification of the competition.**

**No ribs may be brought in from outside to use for competition or for give away to the public. Violation will result in disqualification.**

## RIB COMPETITION RULES

On Saturday, cookers shall report at **7:00 a.m.** to the Rib Headquarters tent on S. Washington at Pony St., to briefly discuss the rules and answer any questions. Bring your container in which to place your ribs to carry back to your cooking area. Racks of St. Louis-style pork ribs will be handed out. **Teams will be issued a minimum of six racks of ribs.**

Begin seasoning and cooking your ribs at any time after ribs have been received. Cookers provide all seasonings and “special” ingredients. Cookers may use any type of fuel designed for the grill or smoker.

Please handle food in a sanitary manner using cooking utensils or gloves. Bring your own gloves.

**Ribs are judged on: • Taste • Tenderness • Appearance**

**11:00 p.m.** – A member of each cooking team will go to the “Cookers’ Headquarters” tent and randomly select **ONE** judges’ aluminum container for ribs. This container will have two envelopes taped on the top of the box. Both envelopes contain the same number. Winners will be announced by this number. **DO NOT OPEN OR REMOVE** either envelope from the judges’ rib container. **Doing so will result in disqualification.** Both envelopes must be attached to the judges’ container at the turn-in location.

**1:00 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.** – To turn in your **competition ribs**, place one rib from EACH of the six racks of ribs you are cooking (totaling six separate ribs) in the judges’ aluminum container for ribs. Sauce is optional and must be served in a container provided at cooker headquarters. No garnishes are allowed. Deliver your container to the east entrance of El Dorado Conference Center, (look for the sign) between **1:00 p.m. and 1:15 p.m. to a rib cook-off representative.**

You must have **BOTH** of your envelopes at the turn-in location. One will be taken with your ribs and the other will be given back to you. Do not open your envelope until instructed to do so at the Awards Ceremony. Ribs turned in after 1:15 p.m. will be disqualified.

## **1:30 p.m. Turn in non-competition ribs at Rib Headquarters Tent**

**In order to account for all rib racks distributed, teams MUST turn in Styrofoam clamshell containers with the remaining cooked ribs. Otherwise, tickets for purchased ribs must be presented - one for each rack of ribs not turned in – please pay \$30 per rack for each rack that you will keep. Other ribs remain the property of Outdoor Expo. NO EXCEPTIONS!**

You may purchase ribs in advance at [Southarkexpo.com](http://Southarkexpo.com), click on “contests-ribs” until Thursday, September 5, at noon, or at the Rib Headquarters tent the day of the cookoff.

### **COOKER’S CHOICE COMPETITION RULES**

Entries will be judged on taste and appearance. Submit any food of your choosing--**except ribs**. Your entry must be cooked in your cooking area and on your cooking rig during the day of competition.

**11:00 p.m.** – A member of each cooking team will go to the “Cookers’ Headquarters” tent and randomly select ONE judges’ aluminum container for Cooker’s Choice. This container will have two envelopes taped on the top of the box. Both envelopes contain the same number. Winners will be announced by this number. **DO NOT OPEN OR REMOVE** either envelope from the judges’ Cooker’s Choice container. **Doing so will result in disqualification.** Both envelopes must be attached to the judges' Cooker’s Choice container at the turn in location.

**12:00 p.m. to 12:15 p.m.** – To turn in your Cooker’s Choice entry, place three (3) servings in the judges’ aluminum container for Cooker’s Choice. Deliver your container to the east entrance of El Dorado Conference Center, look for sign, between **12:00 p.m. and 12:15 p.m.** to a Cooker’s Choice cook-off representative. You must have **BOTH** of your envelopes at the turn in location. One will be taken with your entry and the other will be given back to you. A Cooker’s Choice entry turned in after 12:15 p.m. will be disqualified.

Cooker’s Choice entries are not to be removed from the cooking area. Any violation of this rule will result in immediate disqualification of the competition.

***There will be 9 judges for ribs and 3 judges for Cooker’s Choice. This is a double blind contest.*** Judges will not know the identity of cooking teams and entries will be scored by number only; the identifying number of the cooking teams will not be known until the Awards Ceremony.

***DON'T OPEN YOUR ENVELOPES AND DON'T LOSE THEM!!!!!!***

**3:30 p.m.** – Bring your Best Ribs and Cooker's Choice envelopes to the Awards Ceremony at the main stage at **3:30 p.m.** You will be told when you may open your envelope(s).

**Opening an envelope prior to being notified  
will result in disqualification.**

**TEAMS MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN!**

**BEST TEAM SPIRIT COMPETITION RULES**

The Best Team Spirit award will be judged on cooks' enthusiasm, staging of the cooking area (rig set-up, streamers, banners, flags, signs, etc.). Although not mandatory, you may include costumes, skits, and/or songs.

**10:00 a.m.** – Staff will post a “Best Team Spirit” sign on your tent at approximately 9:00 a.m. – please check that you have one in FRONT of your tent so the judges can find you. At approximately 11:00 a.m., judges will announce their presence at each cooking pit.

**3:30 p.m.** – Winners will be announced at the Awards Ceremony at the main stage.

**BEST RIG CONSTRUCTION COMPETITION RULES**

Best Rig Construction will be judged on cleanliness of rig, design, construction, and effectiveness/ease of use.

Staff will post a “Best Rig Construction” sign on your tent at approximately 9:00 a.m. – please check that you have one in FRONT of your tent so the judges can find you.

**11:00 p.m.** - At approximately 11:00 p.m., judges will announce their presence at each cooking pit.

**TEAMS MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN.**

## COOKING FOR THE PUBLIC - PROCEDURES

All racks of cooked ribs will be sold to the public. **Put only one (1) COMPLETE rack of ribs per container.** We do ask that each rack of ribs turned in for sale be cut in half to fit into each container provided. Please deliver all non-competition ribs to the "Cooker's Headquarters" at 1:30 p.m.

**12:15 p.m.** – At 1:00 p.m., the Styrofoam clam shell containers for public sale may be picked up at the “Cookers’ Headquarters” tent, S. Washington and W. Locust St.

**1:30 p.m.** – Be sure to deliver **ALL** remaining ribs for public sale in the provided containers to the “Cookers’ Headquarters” tent.

In order to account for all rib racks distributed, teams **MUST** turn in containers with the remaining cooked ribs. Otherwise, tickets must be presented - one for each rack of ribs not turned in – please pay \$30 prior to the event for each rack that you will keep. Other ribs remain the property of Outdoor Expo. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

If you purchase tickets for your ribs in advance, make sure to turn in your tickets or receipt, if you paid online, to the “Cookers’ Headquarters. Teams are expected to account for all ribs issued either by turning in cooked ribs or ticket(s). **NO EXCEPTIONS.**