

Church Family Picnic

Friends & Family Day Theme:

This year's Friends & Family Day celebrates **America's 250th Anniversary (1776–2026)**.

Since cookies are already a beloved American tradition, you're invited to join the celebration by creating an Americana-inspired cookie or presentation if you'd like. While patriotic themes are encouraged for extra fun, they are completely optional and will not receive additional judging points.

Kids Cookie Contest Guidelines

Two Competition Divisions



Golden Spatula Challenge (Ages 7–9 & 10–12)

Independent Bakers – Trophy Competition

This division is for children who want to demonstrate their own baking abilities with little to no adult assistance. The goal is to recognize creativity, perseverance, and developing culinary skills.

The overall highest scoring baker will receive the **Golden Spatula Trophy** to display until next year's competition.



Ribbon Royalty Bake-Off (Ages 4–12)

Team Bakers – Ribbon Competition

This division is designed for children who want to learn alongside a parent, grandparent, or guardian. The emphasis is on participation, teamwork, and creating wonderful family memories while developing confidence in the kitchen.

Every participant will receive recognition for their hard work.

Golden Spatula Challenge Rules

Independent Bakers

Eligibility

- Ages 7–12
 - Two age groups:
 - Ages 7–9
 - Ages 10–12
-

Independence Rule

The child should complete as much of the project independently as safely possible.

This includes:

- Selecting the recipe
- Gathering ingredients
- Mixing
- Measuring
- Decorating
- Cleaning up

Parents may supervise for safety around ovens, knives, or other potentially dangerous equipment but should avoid performing the work for the child.

One Entry Per Contestant

Each child may enter one cookie recipe.

Quantity

Bring:

- At least one dozen finished cookies for display.
 - Five bite-sized judging samples.
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Recipe Packet Required

Each contestant should include:

- Printed recipe
- Picture of the finished cookies
- Short story (2–5 sentences)

Tell us why you chose this cookie recipe and what made it special to you. Share something you learned while baking, a challenge you overcame, or a favorite memory you made during the experience.

Explain:

- Why you chose this recipe
 - What you learned
 - What was most difficult
-

Cookie Presentation

Bring cookies neatly arranged on a disposable tray or plate.

Presentation should reflect:

- Cleanliness
- Organization
- Creativity
- Overall attractiveness

Expensive serving trays are not necessary.

Judging Samples

Five bite-sized samples should be prepared before arrival.

Each sample should contain a representative portion of the cookie.

Anonymous Judging

Each contestant will receive an entry number during check-in.

Judges will evaluate only entry numbers.

Names will remain hidden until judging is complete.

Challenge Cookie Bonus (+10 Points)

Contestants may earn ten bonus points by choosing a more advanced or uncommon cookie recipe.

Examples include:

- Biscotti
- Brown Butter Cookies
- Lemon Lavender Cookies
- Macarons
- Sandwich Cookies
- International recipes
- “Unique” flavor combinations

The judges will determine if a recipe qualifies.

Ribbon Royalty Bake-Off Rules

Parent & Child Team Division

Purpose

This division encourages learning, confidence, and family participation.

The focus is not perfection but growth.

Eligibility

Ages 4–12

Parent Participation Statement

Include a brief written description explaining who completed each step.

Example:

“I mixed the dough.”

“My grandmother helped with the oven.”

“I decorated the cookies.”

One Entry Per Child

One cookie recipe per participant.

Quantity

Bring:

- One dozen cookies
- Five bite-sized judging samples

Recipe Packet

Include:

- Printed recipe
 - Picture of finished cookies
 - Parent Participation Statement
-

Presentation

Bring cookies neatly arranged on a disposable serving tray.

Presentation points will consider:

- Neatness
 - Creativity
 - Organization
-

Cookie Contest Check-In

Drop-Off Time

2:30 PM – 2:45 PM

Judging begins promptly at 2:45 PM.

No late entries.

What To Bring

- ✓ One dozen cookies
- ✓ Five judging samples

- ✓ Printed recipe
 - ✓ Picture of finished cookies
 - ✓ Story or Parent Participation Statement
 - ✓ Title card
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Title Card

Use a folded 5x7 tent card.

Include:

- Cookie Name
- Child's First Name
- Age
- Short description

Please do not include your last name.

Judging Guidelines

Judges will evaluate each entry independently.

No discussion should occur until all score sheets have been completed.

Judges will score anonymously using contestant numbers only.

Scores from all judges will be averaged.

In the event of a tie, judges will conduct a final tasting to determine the winner.

Judge decisions are final.

Golden Spatula Judge Score Sheet

Contestant Number: _____

Cookie Name: _____

Judge #: _____

Category	Points
Flavor & Taste	/30
Texture & Consistency	/20
Appearance & Presentation	/15
Creativity & Originality	/15
Difficulty of Recipe	/10
Overall "Wow" Factor	/10

Total Score: _____ /100

Challenge Cookie Bonus (if applicable): +10

Grand Total: _____ /110

Favorite Thing

Helpful Suggestion

Judge Initials _____

Ribbon Royalty Judge Score Sheet

Contestant Number _____

Cookie Name _____

Judge #: _____

Category	Points
Taste	/25
Texture	/20
Child Participation	/20
Appearance & Presentation	/15
Creativity	/10
Overall Impression	/10

Total Score: _____ /100

Favorite Thing

Encouragement

Judge Initials _____

Special Awards

In addition to the overall winners, judges may present:

-  Golden Spatula Champion
-  First Place (Age 7–9)
-  First Place (Age 10–12)
-  Best Presentation
-  Most Creative Cookie
-  Best Flavor
-  Future Pastry Chef
-  Best Story Behind the Cookie
-  Best First-Time Baker
-  People's Choice Award (optional)

A Note to Parents

Our desire is to help children grow in confidence, perseverance, creativity, and character. While only a few awards can be presented, every child who participates has accomplished something

worth celebrating. Thank you for encouraging your child to focus on learning, doing their best, and enjoying the experience together. Judging is subjective, and every entry represents time, effort, and love. We believe every young baker leaves this contest a winner through the skills they have gained and the memories they have made.