

BEACH ASSEMBLY FAMILY & FRIENDS DAY 2026

America's 250th Celebration

Official Sandwich Competition Rules & Guidelines

PURPOSE

Celebrate America's 250th Anniversary by sharing one of America's favorite foods—the sandwich! Whether it's a treasured family recipe or a creative new masterpiece, this competition is designed to celebrate great food, fellowship, creativity, hospitality, and American tradition while bringing our church family together.

ELIGIBILITY

- The contest is open to all Family & Friends Day attendees.
 - Each contestant may enter **one (1) sandwich**.
 - Each contestant may have **one (1) assistant** to help with preparation, portioning, and serving. However, only the registered contestant will be recognized as the official Sandwich Chef and receive any awards.
 - Participation requires contestants to provide:
 - An official Judges Presentation Tray.
 - A minimum of **30 tasting samples** (40 recommended) for the People's Choice Competition.
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THEME

America 250 – Celebrating Our Nation

Sandwiches have long been part of American history and culture, making them the perfect food to celebrate our nation's 250th Anniversary.

Contestants are encouraged to incorporate an **Americano flair** through:

- Patriotic presentation
- American-inspired ingredients
- Regional American recipes
- Military or historical inspiration
- Family traditions
- Americana decorations
- Creative sandwich names
- Meaningful storytelling

Americano Bonus

Judges may award **up to 5 Bonus Points** for exceptional American creativity and theme integration.

Maximum Possible Score: **105 Points**

CONTESTANT CHECK-IN

Contestants should check in with the Competition Coordinator between **10:00–10:30 a.m.**

At check-in, contestants will receive:

- Official Contestant Number
 - People's Choice Voting Jar
 - Number Display Card
 - Judges Tray Label
 - Assigned Competition Space
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CONTEST LOCATION & SETUP

Contestants may begin setting up at **10:00 a.m.**

The Sandwich Competition will take place in the **Brown Competition Area** (former Grill-Off location).

Contestants are responsible for bringing everything needed to operate their competition space, including:

- Coolers
- Ice
- Serving trays
- Dessert plates for judges
- Serving utensils
- Cutting boards
- Disposable gloves
- Sanitizing supplies
- Paper towels
- Trash bags
- Storage totes or containers
- Tables (if desired)
- Specialty cooking equipment
- Personal generator or battery-operated appliances if needed

No electrical outlets will be provided.

Contestants are responsible for storing all trash generated during the event. At the conclusion of the competition, each preparation area must be completely cleaned, all trash removed, and the area restored to its original condition. Please leave your space looking as good as—or better than—when you arrived.

FOOD SAFETY & SANITATION

Food safety is a top priority.

Contestants are responsible for maintaining all ingredients at safe serving temperatures throughout the event.

Examples include:

- Keeping meats refrigerated
- Keeping cheeses cold
- Properly storing eggs
- Keeping mayonnaise and other perishable ingredients properly chilled
- Using coolers with adequate ice
- Protecting food from direct sunlight
- Preventing cross-contamination

Contestants should:

- Wash hands frequently.
- Wear disposable gloves when handling ready-to-eat foods.
- Change gloves after touching raw meat, phones, money, or unsanitary surfaces.
- Use clean utensils and cutting boards.
- Keep work areas neat and sanitary.

Contest coordinators reserve the right to disqualify any contestant whose food handling practices create an unsafe serving environment.

APPROVED FOOD SOURCES

All meats, cheeses, breads, produce, and ingredients must be commercially purchased from a grocery store, market, or approved retailer.

Home-canned, home-preserved, or foods prepared in unlicensed home kitchens are not permitted.

PREPARATION

Sandwiches must be assembled on-site during the competition.

Contestants may complete reasonable ingredient preparation beforehand, including:

- Washing produce
- Cooking meats
- Slicing vegetables
- Preparing sauces

Final sandwich assembly and presentation must occur during the competition.

Once judging begins, only the registered contestant and one approved assistant may prepare, portion, or serve the sandwich.

JUDGES PRESENTATION

Each contestant must prepare **one Judges Presentation Tray**.

The tray should include:

- Four identical tasting portions (one for each judge)
- Portions approximately one-quarter of a sandwich or an equivalent tasting size
- Each portion served on an individual dessert plate
- Attractive tray presentation
- Clearly visible contestant number displayed upright using a place-card holder or stand

Presentation extends beyond the sandwich itself. The Judges Presentation Tray is considered part of the Creativity and Presentation score.

Judges will sample **hot sandwiches first**, followed by **cold sandwiches**, allowing every sandwich to be experienced at its intended serving temperature.

Submission Deadline: 12:00 p.m.

Late entries may not be judged.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE SAMPLES

Each contestant must prepare a **minimum of 30 tasting samples**, with **40 samples recommended** to ensure every guest has an opportunity to participate.

Suggested serving sizes include:

- Quarter sandwich pieces
- Slider portions
- Two- to three-bite samples

Contestants are responsible for:

- Cutting all samples

- Displaying samples attractively
- Maintaining cleanliness during serving

Samples should not be distributed before the official tasting begins.

People's Choice samples must be ready no later than 12:30 p.m.

REQUIRED DISPLAY SHEET

Each contestant must provide **one (1) 8½" × 11" display sheet**.

Everything must fit on **one side of one page** so guests can easily read and photograph it without turning pages.

The display sheet should include:

- Contestant Number
- Sandwich Name
- The Story behind the sandwich
- Why it represents America or the America 250 theme
- Complete recipe
- Common allergens (if applicable)

Guests are encouraged to photograph the page so they can recreate the sandwich at home.

ALLERGY NOTICE

Contestants should identify common allergens on their display sheet whenever applicable.

Common allergens may include:

- Wheat
- Dairy
- Eggs
- Peanuts
- Tree Nuts
- Soy
- Fish
- Shellfish

- Sesame

Guests sample at their own discretion.

OFFICIAL JUDGING CRITERIA

Flavor & Overall Taste – 40 Points

Judges will evaluate:

- Overall deliciousness
- Ingredient harmony
- Proper seasoning
- Freshness
- Flavor balance
- Memorable taste
- Whether they would gladly eat it again

This is the most important scoring category.

Texture & Ingredient Balance – 20 Points

Judges will consider:

- Bread-to-filling ratio
- Moisture balance
- Crunch versus softness
- Meat, cheese, vegetable, and sauce proportions
- Overall bite consistency

Every bite should feel balanced and intentional.

Creativity & Originality – 15 Points

Judges will evaluate:

- Original sandwich concept
- Creative ingredients
- Unique flavor combinations
- Memorable sandwich name
- Presentation tray creativity
- Theme integration
- Visual creativity
- Innovative preparation

Creativity should enhance the sandwich rather than distract from it.

Presentation & Visual Appeal – 15 Points

Judges will evaluate:

- First impression
- Attractive appearance
- Neat construction
- Professional plating
- Color
- Overall visual impact
- Cleanliness
- Appetite appeal

People eat with their eyes first.

Craftsmanship & Execution – 10 Points

Judges will evaluate:

- Sandwich construction
 - Stability
 - Even cuts
 - Consistency
 - Proper preparation
 - Professional execution
 - Overall attention to detail
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Americano Theme Bonus – Up to 5 Points

Bonus points may be awarded for:

- Patriotic presentation
- American ingredients
- Regional recipes
- Historical inspiration
- Military tribute
- Family heritage
- Americana decorations
- Creative storytelling

Maximum Possible Score: **105 Points**

PEOPLE'S CHOICE VOTING

Each church guest will receive **one (1) People's Choice voting ticket**.

Each contestant must provide **one clearly labeled voting jar or container**, which will be placed beside their tasting samples.

Guests will:

1. Sample as many sandwiches as they wish.
2. Select their favorite.
3. Place their single voting ticket into that contestant's jar.

Voting closes promptly at **1:45 p.m.**

All tickets will then be counted.

The contestant receiving the **greatest number of votes** will be awarded the **People's Choice Champion**.

TIMELINE

10:00 a.m. – Contestant setup begins

10:00–10:30 a.m. – Contestant check-in

12:00 p.m. – Judges Presentation Trays due

12:30 p.m. – People's Choice tasting begins

1:45 p.m. – People's Choice voting closes

2:00 p.m. – Awards announced in the Cafeteria

If a contestant is participating in another Family & Friends Day activity, they will also receive a text message notifying them of the results.

WEATHER

The competition will proceed rain or shine unless church leadership determines weather conditions make the event unsafe.

TIE BREAKERS

Judges' Competition

If two contestants finish with the same overall score:

1. Highest Flavor & Overall Taste score wins.
2. If still tied, highest Creativity & Originality score wins.
3. If still tied, the Head Judge will determine the winner.

People's Choice

If two contestants receive the same number of votes:

1. Voting jars will be recounted.
 2. If still tied, the contestant with the higher overall Judges' score will be declared the winner.
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CLEAN-UP

Each contestant is responsible for:

- Removing all food
- Disposing of trash properly
- Removing decorations
- Taking home all equipment
- Cleaning preparation tables
- Leaving the competition area neat and clean

Please leave your area looking as good as—or better than—when you arrived.

PHOTOGRAPHY

By entering the competition, contestants grant Beach Assembly permission to photograph their sandwich, display materials, preparation area, and presentation for future church publications, social media, and promotional materials.

JUDGES' DECISIONS

All judges' decisions are final.

SPORTSMANSHIP

This competition exists to celebrate fellowship, creativity, hospitality, and community.

Contestants are expected to:

- Demonstrate Christ-like attitudes.
- Encourage fellow competitors.
- Treat judges, volunteers, and guests with kindness and respect.
- Accept results graciously.

Above all, our goal is to glorify God, celebrate our church family, enjoy friendly competition, and create lasting memories together as we celebrate **America's 250th Anniversary.** 

One recommendation

The only change I would make is to **rename “Craftsmanship & Execution” to “Technique & Execution.”** Most people immediately understand what “technique” means, whereas “craftsmanship” can sound more abstract. The scoring categories would then read:

- Flavor & Overall Taste – 40
- Texture & Ingredient Balance – 20
- Creativity & Originality – 15
- Presentation & Visual Appeal – 15
- **Technique & Execution – 10**
- Americano Theme Bonus – Up to 5