GROWN-MAN CHILI CONTEST

OFFICIAL RULES & REGULATIONS

Saturday, January 23, 2027 | 3:00 PM
West Lawn UMC Community Center | Open to men ages 18 and older

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1. Registration & Participation

- **Registration deadline:** Sunday, January 17, 2027, or when all 12 spots are filled.
- Advance registration is required and free. Entry is limited to the **first 12 registered contestants**.
- Each contestant may enter one chili.
- All chili must be homemade; commercially prepared canned or restaurant-prepared chili is not permitted.

2. Chili Requirements

Beef only

- All entries must be **red, beef-based chili**. Ground, diced, shredded, brisket, chuck roast, and other cuts or combinations of beef are permitted.
- No other meats, including pork, bacon, chicken, turkey, venison, or other game meats, are permitted. Vegetarian and meatless entries are not allowed.

Ingredients & preparation

- Both tomato-based and traditional Texas-style red chili are permitted.
- Beans are optional; any variety may be used.
- Contestants may use their preferred peppers, vegetables, spices, and seasonings.
- Pasta and rice are not permitted.
- Contestants must provide a complete ingredient list, including potential allergens.

3. Quantity & Equipment

- Bring at least **1 gallon of chili**; **1½–2 gallons are encouraged**.
- Contestants provide their own **slow cookers and serving ladles**. The church provides toppings, sampling cups, and spoons.
- Chili must arrive fully heated and ready to serve. Slow cookers are for maintaining serving temperatures, not reheating cold chili.
- All chili must be prepared, transported, and maintained at safe food-serving temperatures.

Help feed our mission team!

Contestants are encouraged to donate a container of chili for the Men's Mission Trip to North Carolina (February 28–March 5, 2027). The church provides freezer-safe containers and coordinates safe cooling and storage. **Donated chili must be reserved before it is served to attendees.**

4. Heat & Spice Levels

- During registration, classify your chili as **Mild, Medium, or Hot**. The heat level will be displayed at your serving station.
- All heat levels are welcome, but **heat itself will not earn extra points or awards**. Judges emphasize flavor, seasoning, and balance.

5. Judging & Voting

A panel of **three official judges** will evaluate each entry based on:

- **Flavor & Balance:** Overall taste, seasoning, depth of flavor, and how well ingredients complement one another.
- **Texture & Consistency:** Appropriate thickness, meat tenderness, and mouthfeel.
- **Aroma & Appearance:** Appealing aroma, color, and presentation.

We're looking for the best-tasting chili, not the hottest chili!

- Official judging uses numbered samples without toppings or garnishes.
- All attendees may sample the chili and cast **one vote** for their favorite in the People's Choice Award competition.

6. Check-In & Serving

Contestant check-in: 2:00–2:45 PM on event day

- Arrive with chili ready for judging and serving; each contestant will receive a numbered serving station.
- Volunteers will help serve chili during the event; toppings and garnishes will be available separately.
- Contestants are welcome to enjoy the Pinewood Derby and other activities.

7. Awards & Prizes

- **Chili Champion:** First place, official judging
- **Runner-Up:** Second place, official judging
- **People's Choice Award:** Favorite chili, selected by attendees

Prizes may include gift cards to local stores and restaurants and certificates waiving registration fees for:

- Men's Mission Trip to North Carolina — February 28–March 5, 2027
- Summer Mission Trip to North Carolina — July 25–August 1, 2027
- Men's Retreat at Pocono Plateau — October 1–3, 2027