

A close-up photograph of a person's hand wearing a black nitrile glove, holding a large, thick piece of smoked brisket. The meat is dark and charred on the outside, with a pinkish-red interior. The background is blurred, showing a kitchen or food preparation area.

2026 BBQ Austin Team Handbook

Version 10.13.25

**March 6-7, 2026
Austin, TX**

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We are Rodeo Austin, a not-for-profit that provides real experiences and gritty fun to raise millions for Texas kids. Since 1938, we've been a rodeo with a mission that has brought heritage and entertainment to our community.

As a nonprofit, we are proud to support educational programs in Texas while preserving our state's western heritage. With the help of our volunteers and donors, Rodeo Austin has donated millions of dollars to Texas students, and we continue to cultivate agricultural education in our community. Our mission to grow the next generation through scholarships and educational programs while preserving Texas's western heritage.

BBQ Austin is a BBQ competition hosted by Rodeo Austin, organized by a volunteer committee, and sanctioned by the Champions Barbecue Alliance (CBA). BBQ Austin is one of Rodeo Austin's largest fundraisers. Teams come from across the state to compete for the title of BBQ Austin Grand Champion and fundraise in support of Rodeo Austin. This year's event will be held in Austin, Texas at the Travis County Exposition Center on March 6-7, 2026.

BBQ Austin is an open-invitation cook-off; this cook-off is open to the public and we encourage the community to come out and visit one of the largest BBQ competitions in Texas.

BBQ Austin also offers Austin's largest carnival, pony rides, a petting zoo, and a Jr. Pit Master contest.

BBQ Austin competitors are encouraged to cook meat for public sampling to acquire donations for Rodeo Austin within their team space using the donation buckets provided by the BBQ Austin Committee. The funds collected at BBQ Austin contribute to the Rodeo Austin mission and the support of Texas Youth.

Please visit rodeoaustin.com/events/bbq-austin/ or see the contact information below for assistance in answering any questions you may have about BBQ Austin.

We look forward to seeing you at this year's competition!

BBQ AUSTIN CONTACT INFORMATION

General Inquires & Team Information

BBQ Austin Representative
bbqaustin@rodeoaustin.com
512-919-3013

BBQ Austin Committee Chair

Shayne Lockhart
bbqstfr@gmail.com

BBQ Austin Staff Contact

Alyssa Foreman
Alyssa@rodeoaustin.com
512-919-3001

THE REGISTRATION CHECKLIST

- ☐ Read the handbook.
- ☐ Team Registration completed.
- ☐ All Chief Cook Registrations submitted.
- ☐ RV Permits completed for each RV.
- ☐ All RV pump outs/water fills ordered for the respective RVs.
- ☐ Getting a tent? **Tent permit** and additional documents all submitted.
(Needed if tent is over 400 sq. ft. with sides / 700 sq. ft. without sides)
- ☐ **Public Tasting + Entertainment** form submitted.
- ☐ Any **portable restrooms/handwashing stations / grey water holding tanks** ordered.
- ☐ Any additional Ice tickets, fairgrounds entry, and parking passes ordered for family + friends.

TEAM REGISTRATION

TEAM REQUIREMENTS

- All registrations must be **paid in full** by **January 12th, 2026**.
- Each team consists of one (1) unique Chief Cook and up to two (2) Assistant Chief Cooks.
- Each Chief Cook is required to have their own BBQ pit and will be solely responsible for their space, team guests, and compliance with Rodeo Austin and BBQ Austin rules and regulations.
- The Chief Cook at the event must match the team's registration.
 - If there is a change in the Chief Cook who registered prior to the event, please email the BBQ Austin Representative at bbqaustin@rodeoaustin.com.

REGISTRATION OPTIONS

Teams are encouraged to register online at rodeoaustin.com/events/bbq-austin/. Registration will not be final and team spaces will not be assigned unless full payment has been received by Rodeo Austin. Spaces are assigned based on the size of the package purchased during registration and fundraising efforts. All mailed payments/documents must be received by the office by the registration deadline. Debit/credit card payments are subject to a credit card processing fee.

Checks should be mailed to:

Rodeo Austin
Attn: BBQ Austin Team Registration
9100 Decker Lake Road
Austin, Texas 78724

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- One (1) Entry into Chicken, Brisket, & Ribs Contests per Chief Cook
- Event Insurance Fee
- Health Department Permit Fee
- Custom BBQ Austin Apron (One (1) per Chief Cook)
- *Weekend Parking Passes in Reserved Team Parking Lot
- *Band passes **NEW!** (All band members will need an admission ticket to enter BBQ Austin)
- *Chief Cook Event Wristbands
- *Assistant Cook Event Wristbands

*Quantity varies based on space option selected

NEW!

2026 TEAM SPACE OPTIONS

Pick One	Package	Size	Cost	Chief Cooks (up to)	Assistant Cooks (up to)	Team Lot Weekend Parking Passes	In-Space RV Permits	RV Lot Permits	110Vs	30 Amps	50 Amps	Water Access?	Band Tickets
☐	A	800 sq. ft. (i.e. 20x40)	\$550	1	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	N	-
☐	B	1,600 sq. ft. (i.e. 40x40)	\$800	1	2	2	1	-	1	-	-	Y	-
☐	C	3,200 sq. ft. (i.e. 40x80)	\$1,750	2	4	4	1	1	2	-	1	Y	8
☐	D	6,400 sq. ft. (i.e. 80x80)	\$2,750	4	8	6	2	2	4	1	1	Y	16
☐	E	9,600 sq. ft. (i.e. 80x120)	\$4,000	6	12	8	4	2	6	2	2	Y	24
☐	F	14,400 sq. ft. (i.e. 120x120)	\$6,000	9	18	11	9	-	9	3	3	Y	32
☐	G	19,200 sq. ft. (i.e. 120x160)	\$7,750	12	24	14	12	-	12	3	3	Y	40
☐	CHAMP TEAM	800 sq. ft. (i.e. 20x40)	-	1	2	1	1	-	1	*OR	*OR	Y	-

(All space option costs include Event Insurance Fees & Health Department Fees. Spaces are subject to various orientations depending on overall layout.)

IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES

Important Dates

Important Information

December 15, 2025

January 12, 2026

January 30, 2026

February 16, 2026

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

NEW! Thursday, March 5, 2026

Friday March 6 &

Saturday 7, 2026

Sunday, March 8, 2026

- Last day to receive Regular Rate contest entries
- Deadline to register a team for BBQ Austin & purchase additional contest entries & RV permits
- Deadline to rent tents from Bright Event Rentals& turn in band/sampling information
- Team layout is published
- Team Load-In begins
- **MANDATORY CHIEF COOK MEETING @ 5:00 PM IN JUDGES TENT**
- **ALL VEHICLES MUST BE REMOVED FROM EVENT SPACE BY 9:00 PM**
- BBQ Austin 2026 Cook-Off
- Awards Ceremony
- Team Load-Out

TEAM SPACE INFORMATION

LOAD-IN

Tent set-up begins **Monday, March 2, 2026**. Tent companies must coordinate with Shayne Lockhart (bbqstfr@gmail.com), and a team representative must be present during installation.

Each team is allowed one vehicle during load-in hours per space with a 30-minute unloading window before moving to designated parking lot. **NO VEHICLES ALLOWED IN SPACE PAST 9:00 PM on Thursday, March 6th.**

- Load-in begins **Tuesday, March 3 at 8:00 AM – Thursday, March 5 at 9:00 PM**. Early load-in is not allowed.
- All teams must be on-site by **Thursday, March 6 at 9:00 PM**. All vehicles must be removed from the competition area. No vehicles permitted in space. Approved RVs only in the competition area.

UPON SITE ARRIVAL

- Know your team space number before arrival.
- Enter through **Gate 2 off Decker Lane** — public gates will not be open.
- Chief Cooks and/or team representatives will receive an onsite registration packet upon arrival at Gate 2.
- RVs must check in upon arrival to receive their RV tag. Tags must be properly displayed at all times.
- Confirm in advance if your RV will be parked in your team space or in the reserved RV lot.
- Unregistered RVs (not purchased during registration) will not be permitted on-site.
- A BBQ Austin representative will escort you to your designated team space upon arrival.

SPACE INSPECTION

All teams will receive a health inspection by Austin/Travis County Health Officials and a fire safety inspection by the Fire Marshal **no later than noon on Friday, March 6, 2026**.

LOAD-OUT

Load-out begins after the Awards Ceremony on **Sunday, March 8, 2026** and must be completed by **6:00 PM**. Gates will remain closed until the ceremony concludes.

Important Reminders:

- No late load-out is permitted.
- Teams may not stay overnight on Sunday.
- Your space must be left clean and in its original condition.
- Any leftover items, debris, or trash will result in a \$500 fine.

ELECTRICAL

BBQ Austin provides power equipment for team spaces. While these units may have multiple outlets, only designated outlets may be used for safety and proper power distribution.

Setup Tips:

- Bring a 100–150 ft. extension cord (minimum) — all cords must be 12-3 gauge with ground.
- A 30-amp power adapter is recommended.

If More Power Is Needed:

- Teams may bring a personal generator, which must be properly grounded and will be inspected by the Fire Marshal.
- BBQ Austin does not provide fuel, service, or maintenance.
- Vent generator exhaust upward for safety and airflow.
- Each generator must have a dedicated fire extinguisher on site.

GREASE & ASH DISPOSAL

To keep the event clean, safe, and environmentally responsible, please follow these guidelines:

Grease:

- Collect used cooking oils and fats in a secure container provided by your team and take them to the designated grease receptacles. **Do not** pour grease into trash bins, sewers, or portable toilets. Improper disposal may result in removal from the event.

Hot Coals:

- **Never** place hot coals on the ground or in trash cans. Once cooled, transfer them to the ash bins located in the designated disposal area for safe handling.

TRASH INFORMATION

Each team space will include a few trash bins. Teams are responsible for:

- Monitoring and replacing trash bags as they fill.
- Supplying their own 55-gallon industrial trash bags.
- Placing full bags at the front of your tent for pickup.

OPEN FIRES

For safety reasons, social fires, open fires, and ground pits are **strictly prohibited** anywhere on the event grounds.

WATER STATIONS

Teams in packages B through G will have access to designated water trees for use throughout the event. In addition, limited community water fill stations will be available to all teams. To make the most of these resources, please bring your own containers and/or hoses to transport water to your area. However, hoses may not be run directly from the communal water stations to your team space. To ensure fair access for all, please limit your use of the community water faucets to 10 minutes at a time. As part of health and safety requirements, each team must have a bucket of water or another approved sterilizing agent located in their cooking area. *Please note that water will not be delivered to individual team spaces.

ICE TICKETS

Ice is available for purchase at \$8.00 per 20 lb. bag. Ice tickets are required for all purchases. It's highly recommended to order ice tickets in advance during registration. Additional tickets may be purchased onsite from the BBQ Austin Bank during the event.

- No outside ice trucks are permitted on the BBQ Austin grounds.

PORTABLES, HANDWASHING & GREY WATER RENTALS

All standard and ADA restrooms, handwashing stations, and grey water tanks must be rented through BBQ Austin's approved vendor. Outside rentals are not permitted.

- Grey water must be disposed of in the designated tanks only. Dumping elsewhere will result in disqualification.
- Units will be placed in your team space before Load-In. You may move them, but keep them accessible and uncluttered for servicing. Units not easily accessible to the service trucks will not be serviced.
- Service takes place **3:00 AM–10:00 AM Thursday through Sunday**. Inaccessible units (gated, blocked, locked, etc.) will not be serviced.

- 100 People = 3 Portables
- 150 People = 4 Portables
- 250 People = 6 Portables
- 500 People = 7 Portables
- 1,000 People = 12 Portables

PERSONAL TENT INFO

Teams may bring and set up personal pop-up or easy-up canopies up to 100 sq. ft. without using a commercial tent company.

- No staking or digging is allowed anywhere on the event grounds (grass or pavement).
- It's recommended to weigh down all sides of your canopy for stability.
- Any damage to the ground in your team space will be the team's responsibility, and necessary repairs will be determined by BBQ Austin.
- All tents and canopies must be flame-retardant. Keep the certificate or documentation validating flame retardancy inside the tent at all times for inspection.

TENTS

The Travis County Fire Marshal requires a temporary permit for:

- Tents over 400 sq. ft. with sides
- Tents over 700 sq. ft. without sides

If your tent does not exceed these sizes, a permit is not required. The permit fee is \$240 and is due at registration. **Inspections will take place before noon on Friday, March 6, 2026.** Teams will not be allowed to operate without a permit. If renting a tent, all tents and canopies must be flame-retardant. Keep the flame-retardancy certificate inside the tent at all times for inspection. BBQ Austin partners with Bright Event Rentals for rental needs.

TEAM SPACE RULES & REGULATIONS

ADMISSIONS/EVENT SECURITY

BBQ Austin provides security on the contest grounds from Tuesday through Sunday, during both open and closed hours.

While security will be present, BBQ Austin cannot guarantee the safety of team spaces, property, or guests and is not liable for any damage or incidents beyond its control.

If any security issues arise, call the phone number provided in your team information packet upon arrival.

TEAM SECURITY

Teams may provide their own staff to help manage entry to their space; however, all team security must be unarmed and hired or supplied by the team.

- Armed guards are not permitted, and no weapons are allowed anywhere on the event grounds.

BEVERAGES/ALCOHOL

- Teams, guests, and individuals may bring beverages onto the property **only until 9:00 PM on Thursday**. After this time, **no outside beverages may be brought in**.
- Teams may not sell or require donations for alcoholic beverages, but they may encourage voluntary contributions to donation buckets.
- Any team serving alcohol must use a sufficient number of TABC-certified bartenders and provide food while alcohol is being served.
- Excessive alcohol use may result in disqualification.
- No one under 21 may be served alcohol under any circumstances. Violations may result in arrest and penalties from BBQ Austin.
- BBQ Austin is a licensed venue; only beverages served on-site are permitted on the grounds.

EVENT ACCESSIBILITY

ADA parking is available in the General Public Parking lot. No additional ADA transportation, personal care, push service, or wheelchair rentals are provided.

Most event grounds are paved, but some team and public areas include grass or uneven terrain. We strive to make the event as accessible as possible, though certain areas may be harder to navigate.

PROHIBITED ACTIONS

Bag checks will be conducted at all public gates during operating hours. Teams are not permitted to bring items through public entrances and must use Gate 2 for any restocking. Shoes and shirts must be worn, and clothing with political or discriminatory content is not allowed.

- Unmanned aerial vehicles, aircraft, and drones are strictly prohibited.
- Any activities that disturb neighboring teams, including flashing lights, excessive noise, blocking walkways, or restricting access, will not be tolerated.
- Quiet hours are from Midnight to 8:00 AM.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

The following items and activities are not permitted anywhere on the event grounds:

- Firearms, explosives, or weapons of any kind (including concealed carry)
- Illegal substances
- Drones, quadcopters, or other flying objects
- Live animals or pets
- Transportation equipment other than vehicles
- Obscene or inappropriate music
- Golf carts, Gators, motorized coolers
- Glass Bottles
- 3- or 4-wheelers, motorcycles, bicycles
- Rickshaws, skateboards, rollerblades
- Scooters (manual or electric), Segway's, hoverboards

DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD/GOODS/SERVICES

Teams may not distribute goods or services to the general public. This includes items such as team merchandise, informational materials, pamphlets, or marketing content.

Food sales are not permitted. This is a donation-only event, and teams are encouraged to collect voluntary donations for any food or drinks they provide. All funds collected directly support the mission of Rodeo Austin.

SIGNAGE/MARKETING/SPONSORSHIP

Teams are asked not to display promotional signage or decorations within their space. Handing out marketing materials, literature, or branded items to the public is not permitted. If your team is interested in selling products or promoting a brand, you may explore becoming an approved vendor through BBQ Austin. For more information, refer to the *Rodeo Austin Marketing Guidelines on page 24*.

TEAM SPONSORS

BBQ Austin understands and supports the importance of team sponsorships. To respect our event partnerships, teams may recognize their sponsors in the following ways:

- If a team sponsor conflicts with an exclusive event sponsor, signage may be displayed inside the team space but not visible to the public (for example, inside the tent).
- All other sponsor signage may be displayed within the team space and can be visible to the public as long as it remains inside your designated area.

EMERGENCY

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY, DIAL [512-919-3050](tel:512-919-3050)

- There will be Medical and Law Enforcement onsite 24/7.
- If someone in your tent is having an emergency, clear the area, call for help and remain calm.
- If you call for help, have a representative from your team go out to the alley and watch for emergency personnel to help direct them as quickly as possible.

VEHICLES/PARKING/ADMISSION

BRINGING AN RV?

- You are encouraged to fill your water tank before arriving on-site.
- All RVs must have a completed RV form prior to arrival, whether parked in your team space or the designated RV lot.
- **Onsite RV permits will not be available for purchase.**
- RV services (tank dumping and water filling) must be scheduled and paid for by January 12, 2026.
- If renting an RV, ensure the delivery person has your information and a team representative is present to accept delivery.
- RVs cannot be removed until after the Awards Ceremony on Sunday, March 8, 2026.
- The Travis County Fire Marshal requires a 10 ft. distance between pull-behinds and other structures, and a 20 ft. distance between drivable RVs and structures.

BAND ADMISSION & PARKING

Band vehicles may enter through **Gate 2** and will be directed to the designated unloading area. BBQ Austin volunteers will assist with unloading and escorting bands into the event area. Vehicles will remain parked in the band lot while on-site.

- Each band or sound crew member must have a band ticket, included in the team packet, via email or available for pickup at the Rodeo Austin office. Teams are responsible for ensuring all members are properly ticketed.
- Music, bands, and sound equipment **must be set up by 8:00 PM on days of the event.**
- Anyone in the vehicle who is not part of the band must have a valid ticket or wristband and walk to the team space. The load-in/out process is reserved for band members only.

DISCOUNTED TICKETS FOR TEAMS

Teams may purchase *discounted* parking and single-entry tickets during registration:

- **Adults:** \$8
- **Children** (ages 3–12): \$5
- **Parking:** \$15

Tickets are required for entry starting at 11:00 AM on Friday, March 6, 2026.

All tickets are non-refundable and non-transferable and may not be resold.

TICKETS & TEAM SPACES

If your team creates a ticket or invitation for entry into your specific space, it must include the following disclaimer:

“THIS IS NOT AN ENTRY TICKET INTO BBQ AUSTIN GROUNDS.”

Preferred wording:

“This ticket/invitation/wristband grants access only to Space #___ / Team ___ and is not valid for entry into BBQ Austin grounds.”

CONTEST INFORMATION

CHAMPIONS BARBECUE ALLIANCE

BBQ Austin follows all Champions Barbecue Alliance (CBA) regulations and requirements unless otherwise noted in this handbook. For a complete list of CBA rules, visit www.cbabbq.com.

CHIEF COOK MEETING

The Chief Cook Meeting will take place at 5:00 PM on Thursday, March 5, 2026.

NEW!

During this meeting, the BBQ Austin Committee Leadership and CBA Event Representatives will review contest rules, turn-in times, and product quantities. They will also answer any questions you have about turn-ins. Attendance is mandatory for all Chief Cooks or an appointed representative. At this time, Chief Cooks will also pick up competition containers, receive their assigned QR code, pick up space # required by Fire Marshal, aprons, and tip jar QR codes for fundraising.

BBQ PITS

Any commercial or homemade pit or smoker, trailered or untrailered, may be used if it is typically designed for competitive barbecue.

- Pits may use gas or electricity only to ignite wood or wood products, not for cooking.
- They must be of permanent design with separate cooking chambers and heat sources (no shared heat).
- Pellet smokers and electrical accessories (such as spits, augers, or forced drafts) are permitted.
- Heat lamps, proofing cabinets, or electrical heating/holding devices are not allowed.
- Sous vide, boiling, or frying of competition meat is prohibited.

COOKED ONSITE

Each team must provide its own pit(s) and use them exclusively within their assigned cooking site. All preparation and cooking of competition meats (except pre-trimming) must occur on-site and within the designated competition time frame.

Once a team and their CBA meats arrive at BBQ Austin, the meats may not be removed from the competition grounds.

Pre-trimming is allowed and meats may be removed from store packaging for this purpose.

CBA SCORING - QR CODES

Each turn-in tray will have a taped QR code affixed to the top, scanned at pickup, and assigned to your team.

Teams are responsible for the care of their trays.

- Damaged trays with the QR code still attached will be replaced by a CBA representative.
- Lost trays will not be replaced, and the team will receive a score of zero in that category.

A 10-minute window before category turn-in will be enforced. No late entries will be accepted.

CONTEST TURN-IN TIMES

A 10 minute window before category turn-in time will be recognized and enforced. **No late entries will be accepted.*

FRIDAY - March 6, 2026

- 5:00 PM - BBQ Sauce
- 7:00 PM - David Kitchen's Jackpot

SATURDAY - March 7, 2026

- 9:30 AM - Bloody Mary
- 11:30 AM - Beans
- 12:30 PM - Jr. Pit Master
- 1:30 PM - Chicken
- 3:30 PM - Ribs
- 5:30 PM - Brisket

TEAM DISQUALIFICATIONS

Failure to comply with CBA rules may result in disqualification of the team. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Use of foul, abusive, or unacceptable language by a head cook, team members, or guests.
- Failure to follow event or city regulations.
- Failure to comply with any state, city, county, or CBA COVID-19 guidelines.

CONTEST COOKING & AWARDS

- Each sample is evaluated on its own merit, not compared to other samples.
- The samples will be scored by judges on the basis of presentation, taste, and texture.
- The highest score in each meat category will be awarded category winner.
- The highest overall combined score for Brisket, Ribs, and Chicken is awarded the BBQ Austin Grand Champion.
- All garnishes and condiments are prohibited (beans are the only exception).
- Sauces and/or other liquids may not be added to the tray prior to placing the product in.
- Meats may be cooked with sauces and/or other liquids, but once the cooking is complete, sauces and/or liquids may not be added once the protein has been placed in the tray.
- Foreign items (toothpicks, pins, string, etc.) found in entry will result in disqualification.
- Entries not cooked to USDA safe minimum internal temperatures could also cause disqualification.
- Each tray will include one sheet of foil placed unfolded under the contents of the tray.
- After the tray has been turned in, any tray found to be in violation of CBA rules will be disqualified at the discretion of the CBA Event Representative.
 - The CBA Event Representative will have the ultimate decision in disqualifying said tray.

JUDGING

- All entries will be judged on **PRESENTATION, TASTE, and TEXTURE.**
- The scoring system values will range from Excellent being the best score to Poor being the worst score.
- The weighting factors for the point system are as follows:
 - Presentation - **18%** (.72)
 - Taste - **46.5%** (1.86)
 - Texture - **35.5%** (1.42)
- Single Round Judging - CBA Event Representative will allocate a recommended amount of 10 entries to a table with six (6) approved judges. The lowest score out of the 6 judges will be dropped. The remaining 5 scores will be used to determine category placement.
 - Once all CBA categories and BBQ Austin categories are scored, those scores will be added together to determine overall placement.

CONTEST COOKING & AWARDS

**Please Note: Winners of contests that are awarded monetary winnings must fill out a W-9 and pick up their check.*

CHICKEN CONTEST

***REQUIRED CONTEST - 1 ENTRY PER CHIEF COOK ALLOWED**

- Chief Cooks will provide their own chicken.
- Chickens may be cooked however you choose, as long as they are cooked on the pit.
- Need enough for 6 judges.
- Tray may not contain shredded or pulled Chicken.
- No garnish allowed.
- Foil provided by CBA must be placed unfolded at the bottom of the tray.
- Cornish game hens are not allowed and will be disqualified.

BRISKET CONTEST

***REQUIRED CONTEST - 1 ENTRY PER CHIEF COOK ALLOWED**

- Chief Cooks will provide their own brisket.
 - Only one (1) meat will be judged per contestant.
- Pre-cooked, pre-salted, or pre-marinated meat is not allowed.
 - All prep work and cooking (other than trimming) must be done onsite at BBQ Austin.
- Brisket slices and/or burnt ends only.
- Need enough for 6 judges.
- No garnish allowed.
- Foil provided by CBA must be placed unfolded at the bottom of the tray.

(Helpful hint: Place the slices and/or burnt ends parallel to the hinge of tray lid, working your way forward).

RIB CONTEST

***REQUIRED CONTEST - 1 ENTRY PER CHIEF COOK ALLOWED**

- Chief Cooks will provide their own ribs.
- Ribs must be bone-in, individually cut.
- Only Pork Spare ribs, St. Louis cut or Baby Back ribs are allowed.
- Need enough for 6 judges.
- No garnish allowed.
- Foil provided by CBA must be placed unfolded at the bottom of the tray.

(Helpful hint: Place the ribs parallel to the hinge of the tray lid working your way forward until the bottom is filled. Start a top row placing the ribs parallel until the required amount is in the tray with the meat side up and bones pointing the same direction.)

BEAN CONTEST

- Beans will be started at the cooking site from dry pinto beans.
- Cooks may cook with condiments (this contest is the only exception for condiments).
- When the beans are turned in, nothing is to be included in the bean cup larger than the bean.
 - If something is found by the judges larger than a bean in the bean cup, the entry will be disqualified.
- Onsite entries will not be available for purchase.

DAVID KITCHEN JACKPOT CONTEST

- Contestants receive container for your "contest dish" which may be any type of "dish" cooked on a pit -- from rattlesnake to prime rib, anything goes (but no desserts)!!
- A team may enter more than one "contest dish", however, each additional "contest dish" costs an additional entry fee.
- Teams may begin cooking their Jackpot Cook-Off "contest dish" at any time, after arriving on the BBQ Austin Grounds.
- Onsite entries will not be available for purchase.

BLOODY MARY CONTEST

- The Bloody Mary entries will be judged on Presentation, Taste & Texture.
- Entry can be placed in any container, however no distinguishable marked containers, such as with the name of the team or team logo.
- Only vodka will be permitted as the alcohol ingredient. May use pre-mixed juices. Regular spices only.
- Bring entry to Judges Tent for contest check-in and judging.
- Onsite entries will not be available for purchase.

BBQ SAUCE CONTEST

- The BBQ Sauce entries will be judged by scoring scale of 1-10 in the categories of Presentation, Taste & Texture (with Taste being weighted at 300 percent).
 - All scores are then combined to create a single cumulative score for each product.
 - A sealed 12-ounce container labeled with product name and category type (see below) will be turned in for judging.
 - The label for all entries will be covered and assigned a random number to assure anonymity, before judging.
- Onsite entries will not be available for purchase

Sauces will be divided into two categories:

- **Traditional Sauce:** Tomato-Based, Mustard-Based, Vinegar-Based.
- **Specialty Sauces:** Sauces that don't fit into the other categories (example: White Sauce, Asian, Thai, etc.).

CONTEST PAYOUTS & AWARDS

RIB

1st Place - \$1,750, trophy & banner
2nd Place - \$750 & trophy
3rd Place - \$350 & trophy
4th Place - \$300
5th Place - \$275
6th Place - \$250
7th Place - \$225
8th Place - \$200
9th Place - \$175
10th Place - \$150

CHICKEN

1st Place - \$1,500, trophy & banner
2nd Place - \$750 & trophy
3rd Place - \$350 & trophy
4th Place - \$300
5th Place - \$275
6th Place - \$250
7th Place - \$225
8th Place - \$200
9th Place - \$175
10th Place - \$150

BRISKET

1st Place - \$3,000, trophy & banner
2nd Place - \$1,250 & trophy
3rd Place - \$750 & trophy
4th Place - \$300
5th Place - \$275
6th Place - \$250
7th Place - \$225
8th Place - \$200
9th Place - \$175
10th Place - \$150

JACKPOT

1st Place - \$1,000, trophy & banner
2nd Place - \$500 & plaque
3rd Place - \$250 & plaque
4th Place - \$150
5th Place - \$100

BBQ SAUCE

1st Place - \$250, trophy & banner
2nd Place - \$200 & plaque
3rd Place - \$150 & plaque
4th Place - \$100
5th Place - \$75
*Will be awarded for each sauce category

BLOODY MARY

1st Place - \$250, trophy & banner
2nd Place - \$200 & plaque
3rd Place - \$150 & plaque
4th Place - \$100
5th Place - \$75

BEAN

1st Place - \$350, trophy & banner
2nd Place - \$250 & plaque
3rd Place - \$150 & plaque
4th Place - \$100
5th Place - \$75

TOP TEAM FUNDRAISER

1st - 4th Place - trophy &
Incentive Program offers Rodeo Austin
Sponsorship benefits for fundraisers
over \$10,000

HARDEST WORKING PIT

Top three teams will receive trophies

MOST ELABORATE RIG

Top three teams will receive trophies

BBQ AUSTIN & TEXAS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS

BBQ Austin Grand Champion

Awarded to the highest combined Brisket, Chicken & Ribs Score. Receives a \$1,000 award, a trophy, a banner, and a complimentary entry into the following shows.

- Houston Champion
- State Fair of Texas Champion - Dallas
- North Texas Fair & Rodeo Champion - Denton
- San Angelo BBQ Champion
- CBA - Cook of the Year/Champion
- San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo Champion
- Lone Star BBQ Society
- National Championship Barbecue Cook-Off - Meridian
- BBQ Austin the following year in the Texas State Champions Division

BBQ Austin Reserve Champion

- Receives \$500 award, the trophy is awarded to the second highest overall combined score for Brisket, Chicken, & Ribs.

Texas State Grand Champion

Champions Row at BBQ Austin showcases the top talent from across Texas, featuring the winners of nine of the state's most prestigious BBQ cook-offs. Each champion earns the honor of representing their event on Champions Row at BBQ Austin. From these elite competitors, two titles are awarded: Texas State Grand Champion and Texas State Reserve Champion. BBQ Austin uses a unique scoring system based on CBA (Champions Barbecue Alliance) rankings to determine the winners. Champion teams receive waived entry fees for Chicken, Ribs, and Brisket categories and one 40x40 Champion space. For full details on what's included with the Champion space, please refer to the Champion Package Chart.

- All Champions may register for additional categories, spaces, and add-ons at their own expense.
- Submit the registration form by January 12th, 2026
- Receives a \$500 award, a trophy, a banner, & a designated spot at the National BBQ Battle in Washington, DC to represent the State of Texas.
- Show champions invited to compete on Champion row
 - BBQ Austin Champion
 - Houston Champion
 - State Fair of Texas Champion
 - North Texas Fair & Rodeo Champion
 - San Angelo BBQ Champion
 - CBA - Cook of the Year/Champion
 - San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo Champion
 - Lone Star BBQ Society
 - National Championship Barbecue Cook-Off - Meridian

Texas State Reserve Champion

- Receives a \$250 award and a trophy.

JR. PIT CONTEST INFORMATION

JR. PIT MASTER CONTEST

The Jr. Pit Master Contest is open to the public with an entry fee of \$50 per contestant (\$75 during the extended registration period). No onsite registration available.

Divisions:

- Junior Division: Ages 8–12
- Senior Division: Ages 13–17
- (Age is determined at the time of the contest.)

Contest Details:

- Judging is based on presentation, taste, and texture.
- Adult supervision is required (one adult per cook).
- Provided: Charcoal, BBQ pit, pork chop, and apron.
- Bring: Utensils, BBQ rub, BBQ sauce, gloves, foil, a small table, and any additional items needed.

Registration:

- Register online through the BBQ Austin Team Registration Website.

Note: Parking is not included in the registration fee.

JR. PIT MASTER CONTEST SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 7, 2026

- 10:00 AM • Jr. Pit Master Cook Check-In
- 10:30 AM • Jr. Pit Master Cook Meeting
- 10:45 AM • Pork Chop & Turn-In Tray Distributed
- 11:00 AM • Pits Lit & Cooking Begins
- 12:30 PM • Pork Chop Turn-In, Judging & Awards

JR. PIT MASTER CONTEST RULES

Jr. Cook Responsibilities

- The Jr. Cook is responsible for prepping, seasoning, cooking, and presenting their entry.
- Guidance from an adult is allowed, but please allow the Jr. Cook to be the Head Cook.

Cooking Area & Meat Handling

- Jr. Cooks will cook on charcoal grills in the Jr. Pit Master area.
- BBQ Austin will provide all the competition pork chops.
- The pork chops will be handed out at the Jr. Pit Master area at the start time.
- The pork chop will be prepped and cooked in the Jr. Pit Master area.
- The pork chop is not allowed to leave the designated Jr. Pit Master area; if this occurs, the pit will be disqualified.
- No pork chop is to be present in the Jr. Pit Master area other than the pork chops provided.

Jr. Cook Responsibilities

- The Jr. Cook is responsible for prepping, seasoning, cooking, and presenting their entry.
- Guidance from an adult is allowed, but please allow the Jr. Cook to be the Head Cook.

Cooking Area & Meat Handling

- Jr. Cooks will cook on charcoal grills in the Jr. Pit Master area.
- BBQ Austin will provide all the competition pork chops.
- The pork chops will be handed out at the Jr. Pit Master area at the start time.
- The pork chop will be prepped and cooked in the Jr. Pit Master area.
- The pork chop is not allowed to leave the designated Jr. Pit Master area; if this occurs the pit will be disqualified.
- No pork chop is to be present in the Jr. Pit Master area other than the pork chops provided.

Sauce & Presentation

- Sauce must be cooked on; no additional sauce may be added once the pork chop is in the tray.
- No pooling of sauces or liquids in the turn-in tray.
- Pork chop may not contain decorations, toppings, stuffing, or additional items.
- Only the pork chop is allowed in the tray.
- Pork chops may not be marked in any way apart from grill marks.
- Pork chops may be lightly trimmed before, but not after cooking.
- No garnishment or any additional items other than the entry should be put into the contest container.
- Pork chops must be submitted in the provided trays.
- The foil provided must stay in the tray under the pork chop.

Participation & Disqualification

- If the Jr. Cook abandons the pit in the Jr. Pit Master area for any reason other than a medical emergency or to use the restroom, the Jr. Cook must notify the BBQ Committee member.
- If at any time the Jr. Cook is not the primary cook, the pit will be disqualified.
- If the pit has been abandoned by the Jr. Cook without notifying the BBQ Committee Member, the pit may be disqualified.

JR. PIT MASTER CONTEST AWARDS

GRAND CHAMPION

- Belt Buckle & Banner

RESERVE CHAMPION

- Belt Buckle & Banner

**Will be awarded in both age divisions*



2026 BBQ AUSTIN TEAM SCHEDULE

March 3 - March 8, 2026

Tuesday - 3/3/2026

9:00 AM - 8:00 PM

- BBQ Teams and Team Vendors arrive on-site for setup. * Gate 2 access only*

1:00 PM - 6:00 PM

- Ice Pickup available at BBQ Bank (bring a cart or carry - Ice ticket needed)

Wednesday - 3/4/2026

9:00 AM - 8:00 PM

- BBQ Teams and Team Vendors setup continues. *Gate 2 access only*

12:00 PM - 6:00 PM

- BBQ Bank open to purchase ice tickets, admission & parking (ice available for pickup, bring a cart or carry - Ice ticket needed.)

Thursday - 3/5/2026

9:00 AM - 8:00 PM

- BBQ Teams and Team Vendors setup continues. *Gate 2 access only*

11:00 AM - 5:00 PM

- BBQ Bank open to purchase ice tickets, admission & parking (ice available for pickup as well)

5:00 PM

- **CHIEF COOKS MANDATORY MEETING** ^{NEW!}
 - Pickup containers & get assigned CBA QR codes, you will also pick up aprons, space # required by the Fire Marshal, and fundraising QR codes.
- All teams have to be checked in and items/vehicles not in team space must be removed from contest area.

9:00 PM

Friday - 3/6/2026

8:00 AM

- City of Austin Health Department & Travis County Fire Marshal to complete onsite compliance inspection.

10:00 AM

- BBQ Austin Committee to deliver donation buckets to team spaces -This is a fundraiser!

12:00 PM

- BBQ Austin public parking gates **OPEN**

4:00 PM

- Carnival, Petting Zoo & Pony Rides **OPEN**.

5:00 PM

- **BBQ SAUCE TURN-IN - Must be in line 10 minutes before turn-in time.**

7:00 PM

- **DAVID KITCHEN'S JACKPOT TURN-IN - Must be in line at least 10 minutes before turn-in time.**

11:00 PM

- BBQ Austin ticket gates **CLOSE**.

12:00 AM

- BBQ Austin Carnival **CLOSE**.

Saturday - 3/7/2026

9:30 AM

- **BLOODY MARY TURN-IN - Must be in line at least 10 minutes before turn-in time.**

11:00 AM

- BBQ Austin parking, ticket gates, and carnival open to public.

11:30 AM

- **BEAN TURN-IN - Must be in line at least 10 minutes before turn-in time.**

12:30 PM

- **Jr. Pit Master Turn-In, Judging & Awards**

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

- Most Elaborate Rig & Hardest Working Pit judging.

1:30 PM

- **CHICKEN TURN-IN - Must be in line at least 10 minutes before turn-in time.**

3:30 PM

- **RIBS TURN-IN - Must be in line at least 10 minutes before turn-in time.**

5:30 PM

- **BRISKET TURN-IN - Must be in line at least 10 minutes before turn-in time.**

11:00 PM

- BBQ Austin ticket gates **CLOSE**.

12:00 AM

- BBQ Austin Carnival **CLOSE**.

Sunday - 3/8/2026

8:00 AM - 10:30 AM

- BBQ Committee to pick up donation buckets. Teams may begin to tear down team space but nothing including vehicles and RVs will be allowed to enter or leave the event area until after the awards ceremony.

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

- Awards Ceremony - **MONETARY WINNERS WILL NEED TO COMPLETE W9 before receiving check!**

12:00 PM

- Event is over - gates will open and teams will be able to begin moving out of the event space.

6:00 PM

- **ALL TEAMS AND ITEMS MUST BE REMOVED FROM EVENT GROUNDS**



2026 BBQ AUSTIN PRICING SHEET

March 6-7, 2026
512-919-3013

SPACE OPTIONS

NEW!

Pick One	Package	Size	Cost	Chief Cooks (up to)	Assistant Cooks (up to)	Team Lot Weekend Parking Passes	In-Space RV Permits	RV Lot Permits	110Vs	30 Amps	50 Amps	Water Access?	Band Tickets
☐	A	800 sq. ft. (i.e. 20x40)	\$550	1	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	N	-
☐	B	1,600 sq. ft. (i.e. 40x40)	\$800	1	2	2	1	-	1	-	-	Y	-
☐	C	3,200 sq. ft. (i.e. 40x80)	\$1,750	2	4	4	1	1	2	-	1	Y	8
☐	D	6,400 sq. ft. (i.e. 80x80)	\$2,750	4	8	6	2	2	4	1	1	Y	16
☐	E	9,600 sq. ft. (i.e. 80x120)	\$4,000	6	12	8	4	2	6	2	2	Y	24
☐	F	14,400 sq. ft. (i.e. 120x120)	\$6,000	9	18	11	9	-	9	3	3	Y	32
☐	G	19,200 sq. ft. (i.e. 120x160)	\$7,750	12	24	14	12	-	12	3	3	Y	40
☐	CHAMP TEAM	800 sq. ft. (i.e. 20x40)	-	1	2	1	1	-	1	*OR	*OR	Y	-

(All space option costs include Event Insurance Fees & Health Department Fees. Spaces are subject to various orientations depending on overall layout.)

ADDITIONAL CONTEST ENTRIES

Contest	Description	Regular Rate (on/before Dec 15)	Extended Rate (Dec 16-Jan 12)
Jr. Pit Master	Open to Ages 8-17: Junior Division 8-12, Senior Division 13-17. Check-In is at 10:00am and Turn-In is at 12:30pm on Saturday, March 7.	\$50	\$75
Beans	One entry per chief cook. Turn-in is at 11:30am on Saturday, March 7.	\$30	\$50
DK's Jackpot	One entry per chief cook. No desserts allowed. Turn-In is at 7:00pm on Friday, March 6.	\$55	\$75
Bloody Mary	One entry per chief cook. Judged based on Presentation, Taste & Texture. Turn-In is at 9:30am on Saturday, March 7.	\$30	\$50
BBQ Sauce	One entry per chief cook. Traditional or Specialty. Turn-In is at 5:00pm on Friday, March 6.	\$30	\$50



2026 BBQ AUSTIN PRICING SHEET

March 6-7, 2026
512-919-3013

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	REG EXT
RESERVED TEAM LOT WEEKEND PARKING PASS	Weekend parking pass with Permit Gate Access for teams; lot is reserved for competing team members only; not available for purchase onsite . LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE!	\$60 \$75
ONE DAY PARKING PASS	Single day parking with General Admission gate access; available during registration and onsite at BBQ Austin.	\$15 \$20
RV LOT PARKING PERMIT	RV lot reserved for all RVs that will not be in your team's space; dry lot (no power/water); these permits are not available for onsite purchase.	\$250 \$300
RV WATER FILL	Purchase rental through registration; will be filled at the beginning of BBQ Austin. Price is per fill.	\$50
RV HOLDING TANK SERVICE	Purchase rental through registration; Service will be on Friday, Saturday & Sunday between 3:00 AM - 10:00 AM*Other o[tions available	\$150
STANDARD PORTABLE RENTAL	Purchase rental through registration; Service will be Thursday-Sunday between 3:00 AM - 10:00 AM	\$175
ADA PORTABLE RENTAL	Purchase rental through registration; Service will be Thursday-Sunday between 3:00 AM - 10:00 AM	\$175
HANDWASHING STATION	Purchase rental through registration; Service will be Thursday-Sunday between 3:00 AM - 10:00 AM	\$160
GREY WATER HOLDING TANK	Purchase rental through registration; Services are \$75/each and can be purchased for Friday and/or Saturday mornings *options available in registration	\$205
TENT PERMIT FEE	Required by the Travis County Fire Marshal for all tent structures over 400 square feet with sides or 700 square feet without sides.	\$240 (one time)
ICE TICKETS	1 Ticket = 1 20lb Bag of Ice. Can be purchased onsite at the BBQ Bank; no other ice vendors may be onsite at BBQ Austin.	\$8 per ticket
ADULT EVENT ADMISSION	Adult Ages: 13+; Private Party Wristbands do not get guests into BBQ Austin.	\$8 \$10
CHILD EVENT ADMISSION	Child Ages: 3-12; Children 2 and under are free; Private Party Wristbands do not get guests into event.	\$5 each

BBQ Austin Teams

Marketing Guidelines

- The event's official name is "BBQ Austin". **Do not use "BBQ Cook-Off"** or any other variation to refer to the event.
- Rodeo Austin is our official name. Use Rodeo Austin to refer to the organization.
- Do not use "Austin Rodeo" or "Star of Texas Rodeo" or any other variation to refer to the organization or event.
- **No** photography, videography, or streaming on Rodeo Austin grounds is allowed without prior written consent from Rodeo Austin Marketing Department.
- Requesting permission for photography, videography, or streaming does not guarantee approval.
- If creating a Facebook event for your team/tent, please name the event TEAM/TENT NAME at BBQ Austin.
- Please reach out to the Rodeo Austin Marketing Department to request official logos.
- Please send all graphics using official logos to the Marketing Department for approval before posting.
- If you are buying media, please send all scripts to the Marketing Department for approval.
- Please do not promote alcohol brands on graphics for the event.

Marketing Department Contact:

Lindsay Night

Lindsay@RodeoAustin.com

TERMS & CONDITIONS

LEGAL ENFORCEMENT & SUMMARY

Rodeo Austin including its officers, directors, volunteers and agents and/or employees (herein called Rodeo Austin), the County of Travis (herein called County), the City of Austin and BBQ Austin Contestants, including parents, and/or legal representatives (herein called Contestant), agree that Rodeo Austin, County, and City will in no case be responsible for any loss, damage or injury, regardless of how much loss, damage or injury is occasioned by whom. Contestant will protect, indemnify and hold harmless Rodeo Austin from any and all claims, suits and/or judgments (including the cost of defense of any such claim and/or suit by Rodeo Austin) brought by anyone as a result of any loss, damage or injury to any person, animal or property occasioned by any action or inaction of Contestant, whether solely or in conjunction with Rodeo Austin or anyone else. The Rodeo Austin management reserves the final, absolute right to interpret rules and regulations and to arbitrarily settle and determine all matters, questions, or differences in regard thereto, or otherwise arising out of, connected with, or incident to Rodeo Austin and its activities. It further reserves the right to determine unforeseen matters not covered by these rules and to amend or add to these rules as in its judgment as it may determine necessary.

1. Failure of any Team Representative to abide by all rules, regulations, specifications, guidelines, and requirements as set forth in the 2026 BBQ Austin, a Rodeo Austin production, Team Handbook and Contest Rules may, at the sole discretion of Rodeo Austin, result in forfeiture of all monies, rights, and privileges.
2. BBQ Austin Leadership reserves the right to deny any Team participation at BBQ Austin that has previously violated the BBQ Austin, a Rodeo Austin production, Team Handbook and Contest Rules.
3. By this reference, the Handbook is incorporated into and becomes a part of the Official Entry Form. By signing the Official Entry Form, the Team's Chief Cook agrees to abide by the provisions of this Handbook. It is also agreed and assured that the Team's Chief Cook has made all Team Representatives aware of the contents of the Handbook.
4. Any incident of non-compliance with any part of this Handbook is considered a breach of agreement and may be cause for immediate expulsion from the Contest. Violations of the rules and regulations set forth in this Handbook will result in:
 - First Violation: verbal and written warning
 - Second Violation: \$100.00 fine, payable upon assessment
 - Third Violation: \$500.00 fine, payable upon assessment
5. Show policy promotes equal opportunities and participation for everyone with no distinctions based on race, color, gender, sexual orientation, religion, disability, national origin or other considerations. Notwithstanding other provisions included in this Handbook, violation of this policy could result in immediate termination of the Team's Official Entry Form, requiring the Team to vacate space and forfeit all monies paid to date.
6. The various logos of the Rodeo Austin and BBQ Austin are registered trademarks and may NOT be used under any circumstances without prior written permission from the marketing division of the Rodeo Austin.
7. Rodeo Austin management reserves the right to establish and enforce whatever rules are necessary for the regulation of the Contest.
8. Team Representatives must comply with all rules, regulations, and requirements of the Fire Marshal, the Austin/Travis County Health & Human Services Department and any governmental entity having jurisdiction over these premises.

EVENT CANCELLATION

Rodeo Austin reserves the right to cancel an event for reasons beyond Force Majeure. If Rodeo Austin cancels an event, registrants will be notified and offered a full refund of the fees paid directly to Rodeo Austin minus any non-refundable processing fee. Rodeo Austin is not responsible for any refund between the registrant and a third-party vendor or for travel expenses.

In case of cancellation of the event or unavailability of the event due to war, governmental action or order, act of God, fire, Strike, labor disputes, or any other cause beyond Rodeo Austin's control, this Agreement shall terminate, and the exhibitor shall be entitled to the return of the fees for the event, less the prorated share allocated to Rodeo Austin of the expenses incurred by Rodeo Austin in connection with the event. Refund of the Fees as provided in this section shall be the exclusive remedy of the exhibitor against Rodeo Austin in case the event is canceled or rescheduled through war, governmental action or order, acts of God, fire, strike, labor disputes, or any other cause beyond the control of Rodeo Austin of and from all claims for damage and agrees that Rodeo Austin shall have no obligation except the above stated refund. Requests for refunds must be submitted to Rodeo Austin and are subject to the discretion of Rodeo Austin.

FORCE MAJEURE: Rodeo Austin is not liable for any delay or failure to perform its operations, activities, shows, and/or events to the extent such delay or failure results in a force majeure occurrence. A force majeure occurrence is defined as any occurrence arising from the causes beyond the reasonable control of Rodeo Austin that delays or prevents performance by Rodeo Austin otherwise required by this agreement, including but not limited to any

- Breakage or accident to equipment, machinery, or facilities
- Any strikes, lock-outs, or other labor difficulties
- Statutes, ordinances, regulations, orders, or rules issued by governmental authorities,
- Judicial decrees or orders
- Acts of God
- Animal diseases and/or quarantines
- Wars, riots, or insurrections
- Civil disobediences, public demonstrations, or sabotage
- Fires, floods, explosions, or inclement weather
- Inability to obtain necessary labor, materials, supplies, utilities, or transportation
- Depressions, recessions, or other economic downturns
- Embargoes or energy shortages
- Other causes beyond Rodeo Austin's reasonable control

COVID 19: Exhibitors and family members are asked to refrain from attending the show if they have been in contact with anyone exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms within the last 14 days, have a fever or other symptoms, or if you fall into a high-risk category as defined by the CDC. By participating or attending Rodeo Austin, you are acknowledging that an inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public place where people are present. By attending Rodeo Austin, you and any guests voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to COVID-19 and agree to not hold Rodeo Austin or any of its affiliates, directors, officers, employees, agents, contractors, or volunteers liable for any illness or injury.