

Castle Pines Inaugural Chili Cookoff

Official Rules & Competition Guidelines

Saturday, October 24, 2026

Castle Pines Fall Festival

Village Square Shopping Area (7437 Village Square Drive, Castle Pines)

Think your chili has what it takes? Bring your best recipe and compete for the title of **Castle Pines' First Annual Chili Cookoff Champion!** Whether your recipe is a longtime family favorite or a secret award-winning creation, we invite you to join us for a fun day of friendly competition and community spirit.

Participant Requirements

- **Entry Fee:** \$20 per participant - Register at
 - Prepare approximately **2 gallons of chili** (two full crockpots).
 - Chili may be **Red or Green**—all recipes and ingredients are welcome!
 - Give your chili a **creative name**, which will be displayed at your tasting station.
 - Please have your chili hot and ready to serve by **10:00 AM**.
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What We Provide

Each participant will receive:

- One designated tasting station
 - Table and tent
 - Electricity for crockpots
 - Tasting cups
 - Tasting spoons
 - Tabletop sign featuring your chili name
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Participant Schedule

9:00–10:00 AM

- Participant check-in and setup

10:00 AM

- Fall Festival opens and public tasting begins.

12:30–1:00 PM

- Official Judges' Tasting

1:00 PM

- **Judging concludes and People's Choice voting closes.** All judges' ballots and People's Choice votes must be submitted by 1:00 PM.

Approximately 1:30 PM

- **The Judges' Overall Winner and the People's Choice Winner will be announced during a break in the Pumpkin Races.**
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Judging

There are **two opportunities to win!**



Judges' Overall Winner

- Selected by our official panel of community judges.



People's Choice Winner

- Determined by votes cast by Fall Festival attendees using our QR code voting system.
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Awards

Both winners will receive:

-  First Annual Castle Pines Chili Cookoff Trophy
-  Champion's Apron
-  Two (2) tickets to **Vino in the Village 2027**

Time Commitment

Participants should plan to be onsite from **10:00 AM until approximately 1:30 PM**, when the winners will be announced during the Pumpkin Races.

Additional Information

- Please keep your chili heated and ready for serving throughout the event.
- Participants are responsible for bringing any serving utensils needed for their crockpots (ladles, extension cords if needed, etc.).
- Please help keep your area clean throughout the event and remove all personal items at the conclusion of the cookoff.
- Most importantly—**have fun!** This event is all about bringing the community together, showcasing your favorite chili recipe, and enjoying a little friendly competition.

We look forward to crowning the **first-ever Castle Pines Chili Cookoff Champions** and celebrating a fantastic day at Fall Fest. Good luck, and may the best chili win! 🌶️🏆

Official Judging Criteria

Each chili will be scored on the following:

- 🌶️ **Taste & Flavor** – Overall flavor, seasoning, and balance.
- 🥄 **Texture & Consistency** – A hearty, well-prepared chili with an appealing consistency.
- 🕯️ **Aroma** – An inviting aroma that complements the flavor.
- 🎨 **Appearance** – Overall presentation and visual appeal.
- ⭐ **Overall Impression** – The judge's overall enjoyment and "Would I want another bowl?"

The Judges' Overall Winner will be determined by the highest combined score from our official judging panel.

Questions? Contact Whitney Shank at whitney@castlepineschamber.com.