

Fall Festival United Way Fundraiser Presents:

**Battle of the Departments**

**Chili Cook-Off & Bake-Off Challenge**

**What better way to end the 2025 CCG United Way Campaign than a Healthy Department Bake/Cook-Off Competition? All departments have an opportunity to show their skills by entering the Chili Cook-Off and/or Dessert Bake-off Challenge!**

The registration fee is $5.00 (CASH ONLY) upon arrival at the Fall Festival United Way Fundraiser.

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**Department Guidelines**

DATES:

* Complete and submit your registration form to Lauren Vance, LVance@columbusga.org by Monday, October 20, 2025.
* Judging will take place at the Fall Festival United Way Fundraiser on Friday, October 31, 2025, located at the City Hall Courtyard. (The fee is $5.00 upon arrival)

RULES FOR CHILI COOK-OFF:

* Chili must be in a warming device (crock pot, Instant Pot, etc.)
* Contestants must bring their own supplies (pots, power/extension cords, utensils, etc.)
* Chili must be homemade (no store or restaurant-bought)
* Contestants must list all ingredients and have a name for chili
* Any garnishments found on the top layer must also be present in the chili
* Contestants may decorate their competition area to enhance the event atmosphere (optional)
* Tasting supplies (cups, spoons, etc.) will be provided

RULES FOR BAKE-OFF:

* Baked goods must be homemade (no store or restaurant-bought)
* Contestants must bring their own supplies (pots, power/extension cords, utensils, etc.)
* No add-on ingredients allowed, unless they are integral to the dish (i.e., frosting on a cupcake)
* Contestants may decorate their competition area to enhance the event atmosphere (optional)
* Tasting supplies (cups, spoons, etc.) will be provided

Judging:

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| **Chili Category** | **Possible Descriptors** |
| **Traditional** | **Features red chili peppers and spices with meat (with or without beans).** |
| **Chili Verde** | **Uses green chili peppers and spices with meat, with non-vegetable fillers.** |
| **Veggie Chili** | **A vegetarian category for those who want to participate without meat, which can be its own official category.** |
| **Spiciest Chili** | **Recognizes the chili that offers the most heat, while still maintaining good flavor.** |
| **Odd/Wildcard** | **For unusual or unique chili recipes, such as those featuring game meats like deer.** |

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| **Baking Category** | **Possible Descriptors** |
| **Pies** | **Fruit or non-fruit pies** |
| **Cakes/Cupcakes** | **Chocolate, Vanilla, Sponge, Un-Baked, etc.** |
| **Breads** | **Banana Nut Bread, Cinnamon Rolls, Sweet/Savory** |
| **Candies** | **Fudge, Truffles, Caramels, Barks** |
| **Odd/Wildcard** | **For unusual or unique baking recipes, such as those featuring unique ingredients** |

Prize: 1st, 2nd, 3rd Place Trophies

Chili Cook-Off & Bake-Off Registration Form

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Department Name

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Department Team

Captain:

Check the boxes below to indicate the challenge your department will be competing in.

Chili Cook-Off Dessert Bake-Off

**I have read and agree to comply with the guidelines of the Department Chili Cook-Off/ Dessert Bake-Off and understand that I am responsible for communicating them to my department.**

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**Department Team Captain**

**Signature:**

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**Department Director**

**Signature:**

Complete and submit your registration form to Lauren Vance, LVance@columbusga.org by Monday, October 20, 2025.