

# Welcome to the Rails to Trails Festival

## Chili Cook-Off & Salsa Contest

### Rules and Tips

Cook-off/Contest takes place at 601 Richmond Road ~ Historic Railroad Depot

Shade canopy and oblong table provided and aluminum foil for placing under stoves used on tables. *No electricity. Propane Only! You must provide everything you need.*

It's a good idea to arrive early, *anytime after 7am*. Tables are selected on a first-come basis. You can drive your vehicle near tents for unloading; this may not be possible later, as the area becomes very crowded and parking close by is limited. Please check in with me when you arrive at the site so there will be no confusion over table choices and to make sure I have your name and the name of your Chili/Salsa. *Pre-registration is required.*

*You must prepare your chili and salsa on the premises, however, chopping and other food preparations, such as cooking beans, can be done ahead of time. All chili must contain some brand of Chili Powder or fresh chili peppers.* Utmost care must be taken to maintain a clean and healthy environment with good hygiene practices.

You may choose to *decorate your table for judging.* You will need to provide one container only for People's Choice tickets to be dropped into as tasters vote for your chili/salsa with their designated tickets. We will gather your tickets at approximately 2pm into a large envelope to be counted.

Your Salsa must be ready to serve by 11:00 am and Chili must be ready by 11:30 am. Tasting Kit sales will begin at Noon! Please do not give out any samples before this time to the public. Kits will be sold at both ends of the Chili Cooking area. You will need to prepare enough for a steady flow of tasters until 2pm (*about 4-6 gallons of chili, about 2 quarts of salsa*). You should also provide chips for tasting the salsa.

*Samples of Chili and Salsa will be taken from each contestant for tasting by the Judges (about 10 oz -1 ¼ cup). Judges will select first place, and second place Chili winner for \$100 and \$50 prizes and first place and second place \$75 and \$25 prizes for Salsa. Judges will also select the Best Decorated Table. Tasters will select the People's Choice Best Chili and Best Salsa. These winners receive special gifts. First Runner-ups will receive honorable mention.*

Each taster is supplied with two different colored tickets in their purchased tasting kit. One color is designated for Chili and one color for Salsa. *You will need to scoop a small amount of Chili (about 1 Tablespoon is enough) into each taster's cup as they visit your table.* Tortilla chips are needed for tasting Salsa. You do not want to run out of Chili or Salsa too soon since tasters will not be able to vote for you if they cannot sample your entry.

*Be sure to encourage all tasters to Vote for your Chili and Salsa.* Some ring bells, clank pots or sing out when tickets are placed in their containers, this adds to the fun and competition. Some entrants even provide corn bread or crackers or other treats, however this is up to the entrant and not expected. Encouragement should not be confused for bribery. *Entrees that are found offering alcohol or any other type of lure in exchange for votes will be immediately disqualified.* We want a fair competition.

*Someone needs to attend to your table at all times.* Sometimes there is wind that could blow over items or blow out a stove flame. Try to keep your area clean and tidy. *You will need to clean up your table area completely when the contest ends, usually by 2:30pm.*

We will provide you with a *participant badge*. Please return this at the end of the Cook-Off so we can recycle them for the next year. Please feel free to share samples with other participants if you wish at any time. However do not allow any tasting to festival goers until the tasting time begins and they have purchased a tasting kit. This is a fund raiser.

*Winners will be announced as soon as all tickets are counted, usually before 3pm. Prizes are awarded at that time.*

There are two bathrooms inside the Depot and several Porta-Potty's in the back parking area. Beverages are sold in a small trailer set up near the Depot.

Food and craft booths will surround the Chili Cook-Off Tents and Railroad handcar rides will take place on the railroad tracks. There will also be live music and children's activities. You can visit the Historic Railroad Depot Museum and store and Rails to Trails Festival t-shirts and Chili Cook Off aprons will be for sale there as well.

It's a good idea to dress in layers. It is usually very chilly in the morning and warms up in the afternoon. Be prepared for a long day. Bring a pillow for that chair. You may want to bring a cup and spoon to taste the chili of your competition. Visit each other, check out other tables. No one appreciates the work you do this day better than another entrant! Compliment each other, give and receive tips and you will be sure to enjoy the day!

It's difficult to have children with you since space is so limited. Use good judgment.

This is a no-smoking event. Be respectful of your neighbor.

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## Chili Cook-Off and Salsa Contest

### Check List of Items you may Need

Stove	Propane Bottle
Torch or Matches	Cooking Pots and Lids
Spoons & Ladles	Hot pads & trivets
Table Cloths & Weights/Clamps	Decorations
Sign with Name of Chili/Organization	Ticket Container
Chairs for you and helpers (space is limited)	Ice Coolers
Aprons	Dish Towels
Cutting Boards	Knives
Paper Towels	Can Openers
Spoon Rests	Serving Dishes for Salsa & Chips
Chips for Salsa	All Ingredients
Drinks and Food for yourselves	Containers for Leftover Chili/Salsa
Small waste basket with spare bags	Good Attitude and a Smile
A container for carrying all items that can store under tables	

**Good Luck to YOU. Be sure to have fun!**  
**Thank you for supporting Lassen Land & Trails Trust!**  
**Sheri Houck 257-7129 [shillnberi@digitalpath.net](mailto:shillnberi@digitalpath.net)**

# Chili Cook Off Oct 3, 2009

To Enter Please Call/Email Sheri Houck at 530/257-7129

[shillnberi@digitalpath.net](mailto:shillnberi@digitalpath.net) OR fill out form below and turn in at the Depot.

Name of Chili/Salsa: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone & Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Sponsor (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_