



2025 Judging Rules and Format

1. The Judge's decision is **FINAL**. There is no appeals procedure.
2. There will be a **MANDATORY Food/Drink Vendor** meeting in City Hall (101 W. Main) at 10:00 AM on the day of the event. This is when you'll pick up your judging container/clam shell box for the food to be judged. You will also be given your initial supply of bowls, spoons, napkins, etc. located in the supply box truck next to City Hall. **One person from each team MUST be present regardless of whether you would like your product to be judged.**
3. Products to be judged **MUST** be turned in **AT CITY HALL** in this order and **NO SOONER:**
SOUP - 12:00 PM | CHILI - 12:30 PM | STEW & BREW - 1:00PM
4. You will take your own products to be judged. No one will pick them up for you.
5. You will need to submit **FIVE 4oz servings with lids, packed inside the clam shell box** in each category you are entering. (*Not limited to one entry per category*)
6. Entries must be submitted in provided containers. No garnishes or decorations may be added to the product or container. Each product will be judged on its own merit.
7. At turn in, you will present your product, declare what category, (soup, stew, chili or brew) and give your name and organization. Each container will be given a random number in order to assure fair and unbiased judging. Judges **WILL NOT** be aware of whose product they are judging.
8. **Judges will be awarding points based on three criteria:**
 - **APPEARANCE - WORTH 1 - 4 POINTS**
 - **TEXTURE - WORTH 1-8 POINTS**
 - **TASTE - WORTH 1-8 POINTS****Each judge will then rank each entry in order of preference.**
9. In the case of a tie, the Judging Director will have final say in determining the winner.
10. Each product will be judged by a panel of at-least four judges, and judging will be conducted in the following manner:
 - **Table Captain will present the containers to each judge.**
 - **Each judge will give a score of 1-4 points on appearance, 4 being the highest score.**
 - **Each judge will give a score of 1 - 8 points on texture, 8 being the highest score.**
 - **Each judge will give a score of 1 - 8 points on taste, 8 being the highest score.**
 - **Each judge will then rank the entries with 1 being the highest score on the overall appeal.**
11. Once all entries are judged, the judges will turn the score card over to the Table Captain for tabulation.
12. The Judging Director will review all scoring cards, check for errors, and then assign First (1st) through Third (3rd) place in each of the categories. (Soup, Stew, Chili & Brew)

**AWARDS CEREMONY WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE MAIN STAGE
(MULBERRY AND MAIN) AT 4:30 PM.**