

Department S5

SPECIAL FOODS CONTESTS

2026 COMPETITION GUIDE

ENTRY DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 1

COORDINATOR

Steve Rogers

ASSISTANT COORDINATOR

Davis Hill

Tina Rogers

Tori Rogers

Baylin Rogers



COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS OFFICE

Hours: Mon. - Fri., 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

brannock@carolinaclassicfair.com

336-727-2236

CLICK HERE TO ENTER

DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP

DROP-OFF INFORMATION

- Drop-off dates and times vary for **SPECIAL FOODS CONTESTS** entries. Please review each section you enter carefully to ensure you have the correct information.



- Contestants will need to drop off all entries in Gate 8. Once you have dropped your item off you must leave out of Gate 8 and park in one of the Carolina Classic Fair parking lots.

ENTRY INFORMATION

- **Special Foods Contests are for Amateurs Only No professionals may enter unless otherwise stated. Youth division contestants must be 17 years or younger to participate, unless otherwise stated.**
- Pre-entry is required for all special food contests. Entry blank MUST include the last four (4) digits of the social security number of contestant or entry will not be accepted. Entries will be acknowledged after September 1 by the Fair Office with an Exhibitor's letter and entry tag. If you have questions, please call the numbers provided on each contest page or the Fair Office.
- Contestants will be admitted free at all gates with their entry, but others must pay gate admission. Space in Gate 8 parking lot is available for free to contestants, but space is limited and not guaranteed. If parking is full at the Gate 8, a sign will be placed in front of the lot and contestants will be responsible for finding and paying for their own parking. Parking fees will not be reimbursed. **Please come early!**
- Bring entry to Yesterday Village Pavilion on specified day and time. All parts of the recipe must be brought when entered, unless otherwise stated. Do not attach entry tag to the container of food. Give entry tag and recipe to Contest Coordinator when checking in.
ADMISSION GOOD FOR CONTESTANT ONLY! Exception: One adult will be admitted free with youth exhibitors.
- The complete recipe should be typed (unless otherwise stated) on an 8 1/2" x 11" sheet of white paper for all special food contests. List all ingredients, exact measurements, all preparation steps, and number of servings. Any recipe with raw eggs in the finished product will be disqualified. If recipe is incomplete or not eligible, entry will be disqualified. **NO NOTEBOOK PAPER ALLOWED.**
- Type or write name, address and telephone number on reverse side of recipe in the upper right corner or use address label and write phone number. Do not write exhibitor's name on the front of the recipe. **DO NOT PLACE RECIPES IN SHEET PROTECTORS.**
- Recipe must be brought with entry on day of contest. Entry may not be entered without recipe. Non-food decorations or garnishes are prohibited. Presentation must be confined to container. Physical damage, which may occur during transit or handling, will not be counted against the contestant.
- Entries must be brought in an appropriately sized container. If entry needs to be chilled or kept warm, bring in insulated container or small cooler. No Sternos allowed!
- Please follow general food safety practices. Recipes become the property of the Fair and will be used for purposes of publicity, advertising, publishing, promotions, etc. Entry and container will be returned to contestant immediately following judging. The decision of the judges will be final. Premium checks will be mailed after the Fair.

EXHIBITOR MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN!

If any rules are not followed, contestant will be disqualified. DO NOT FORGET YOUR RECIPE!

SECTION 100: International Nachos



ENTRY INFORMATION

DATE: Friday, October 2 | Bring entry between 5:45-6:45 PM

LOCATION: Yesterday Village Pavilion

JUDGING: 7:00 PM - Exhibitor must be present to win

- Prepare your most creative nacho recipe inspired by the flavors of a country or region outside of Mexican. Traditional Mexican-style nachos will not be accepted.
- Entries must begin with a chip, crisp, cracker, fried dough, sliced vegetable, or another sturdy base and topped with ingredients that represent the chosen international cuisine. Examples could include Italian nachos with marinara and mozzarella, Greek nachos with feta and tzatziki, etc.
- Entries must include meat, seafood, cheese, vegetables, sauces, and other toppings. There is no limit on ingredients, but the finished entry should be recognizable as a shareable nacho-style dish. Contestants must identify the country or region that inspired their recipe.
- Bring enough to provide tasting portions for 10-12 people, with enough remaining and a winner's photograph. A typed recipe must be submitted with the entry and should include the dish name, country or region represented, ingredients, and preparation instructions.
- Youth Division: Ages 7-17 - Same rules apply. Must be different recipe from Adult Entry.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Flavor: 40 points

Crowd Appeal: 20 points

Appearance: 20 points

Preparation Ease: 20 points

PREMIUMS: 1ST: \$500 | 2ND: \$300 | 3RD: \$150

001. Chester's "International Nachos"

PREMIUMS: 1ST: \$100 | 2ND: \$50 | 3RD: \$25

002. Chester's "International Nachos"



**Youth Division
Contest Sponsor**

SECTION 102: "TRY KETO" CHALLENGE



ENTRY INFORMATION

DATE: Monday, October 5 | Bring entry between 5:45-6:45 PM

LOCATION: Yesterday Village Pavilion

JUDGING: 7:00 PM - Exhibitor must be present to win

- Welcome to the Rehab Medicine of the Carolinas "Try Keto" recipe contest. We invite you to showcase your culinary skills by creating a delicious and innovative dish that adheres to the ketogenic (keto) diet. The contest is all about embracing the keto lifestyle and exploring the diverse flavors and ingredients that make it exciting.
- All ingredients must be keto-approved, focusing on high-fat, moderate protein, and low-carb components. For inspiration check out these websites: fuledme.com, ketogenic.com, and pieceloveandlowcarb.com
- Recipe must feed 6-8 people. Recipe must include a list of ingredients, detailed instructions and must be typed on a 8 1/2" x 11" sheet of paper. Name, address and phone number must be printed or typed on the BACK of the recipe and should be submitted with the entry. Entries that do NOT have the required recipe will NOT be judged.
- Youth Division: Ages 7-17 - Same rules apply. Must be different recipe from Adult Entry.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Flavor: 40 points

Crowd Appeal: 20 points

Appearance: 20 points

Preparation Ease: 20 points



PREMIUMS: 1ST: \$500 | 2ND: \$300 | 3RD: \$150

001. Rehab Medicine of the Carolinas "Try Keto" Recipe Contest (Adult)

PREMIUMS: 1ST: \$100 | 2ND: \$50 | 3RD: \$25

002. Rehab Medicine of the Carolinas "Try Keto" Recipe Contest (Youth)

SECTION 103: "JUST DESSERT"



Steaks • Fish • Burgers • Pizza

ENTRY INFORMATION

DATE: Tuesday, October 6 | Bring entry between 5:45-6:45 PM

LOCATION: Yesterday Village Pavilion

JUDGING: 7:00 PM - Exhibitor must be present to win

- The Village Tavern invites all chefs to create their own original dessert recipe. Use your imagination and get creative! Each recipe must be homemade and must feed between 8-10 people.
- No limit on ingredients. Professional chefs or bakers may not enter. Recipe must be typed on an 8 1/2" x 11" sheet of paper. Name, address, and telephone number of the entrant must be printed or typed on the BACK of the recipe and should be submitted with the entry. Entries that do not have the required recipe will not be judged.
- Youth Division: Ages 7-17 - Same rules apply. Must be a different recipe from adult entry.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Flavor: 30 points

Crowd Appeal: 20 points

Appearance: 20 points

Creativity/Originality: 20 points

Preparation Ease: 10 points

PREMIUMS: 1ST: \$600 | 2ND: \$400 | 3RD: \$250

001. Village Tavern "Just Dessert" Recipe Contest (Adult)

PREMIUMS: 1ST: \$100 | 2ND: \$50 | 3RD: \$25

002. Village Tavern "Just Dessert" Recipe Contest (Youth)



**Youth Division
Contest Sponsor**

SECTION 104: GOT TO BE NC WINE



ENTRY INFORMATION

DATE: Thursday, October 8 | Bring entry between 5:45-6:45 PM

LOCATION: Yesterday Village Pavilion

JUDGING: 7:00 PM - Exhibitor must be present to win

- Childress Vineyards invites all wine enthusiasts to create their own original family recipe using any wine made by Childress. We are looking for innovative and original recipes.
- Recipes must include enough wine so that it's prevalent in the dish. Entries are open to all categories: main dishes, side dishes, soups, stews, or desserts. No limit on ingredients. Professional chefs or bakers may not enter. The entry must feed between 8-10 people.
- Childress wines can be found at many grocery stores. For more product information and sales locations, please visit childressvineyards.com.
- Recipe must include receipt or proof of purchase of the Childress wine. Recipe must be typed on an 8 1/2" x 11" sheet of paper. Name, address, and telephone number of the entrant must be printed or typed on the BACK of the recipe and should be submitted with the entry. Entries that do not have the required recipe will not be judged.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Flavor Recognition of Product: 40 points

Flavor: 30 points

Appearance: 20 points

Preparation Ease: 10 points

PREMIUMS: 1ST: \$500 | 2ND: \$300 | 3RD: \$150

001. Got to be NC Wine Recipe Contest

SECTION 105: WBFJ HEAVENLY CAKE NIGHT



ENTRY INFORMATION

DATE: Friday, October 9 | Bring entry between 5:45-6:45 PM

LOCATION: Yesterday Village Pavilion

JUDGING: 7:00 PM - Exhibitor must be present to win

- Cakes are always a treat at church potlucks and are popular with all ages. Bring your favorite cake that your family and church friends are crazy about!
- Must be an original recipe. May be any type of ICED cake (see the required amounts next to each type): cupcakes (12), cake pops (12), sheet cake (1), layer cake (1). Ready-made cake or icing mixes are prohibited.
- Youth Division: Ages 7-17 - Same rules apply. Must be a different recipe from adult entry.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Flavor: 50 points

Crowd Appeal: 20 points

Appearance: 20 points

Preparation Ease: 20 points

PREMIUMS: 1ST: \$500 | 2ND: \$300 | 3RD: \$150

001. WBFJ Heavenly Cake Night (Adults)

PREMIUMS: 1ST: \$100 | 2ND: \$50 | 3RD: \$25

002. WBFJ Heavenly Cake Night (Youth)



**Youth Division
Contest Sponsor**