



Las Vegas BBQ Festival 2026 - BBQ Competition Rules

Updated 8/22/2026

Buy-in

- **\$350** - 27' x 18' space
- **\$425** - 36' x 18" space

Categories:

- **Anything Quail** *(optional - judged entry only, NOT part of People's Choice.)*
- **Chicken Drums**
- **Ribs**
- **Cook's Choice BBQ Side ancillary** *(optional)*

Cooks must compete in ALL categories to be considered for Grand Champion or Reserve Grand Champion.

People's Choice

The main feature of the Las Vegas BBQ Festival is the People's Choice sampling. **All teams will be provided with Chicken Drums & Ribs to cook & serve during the PC competition.**

Participation in the People's Choice Sampling is mandatory.

The People's Choice Sampling will be open between 12pm - 4pm (or while supplies last).

- People's Choice categories are:
 - **Chicken Drums**
 - **Ribs**
 - **Cook's Choice BBQ Side**

To taste your food, the public may purchase **BBQ Sample Packs**, available now on EventBrite.

BBQ Sample Packs include tickets to sample the BBQ and a voting token(s) so the public can vote for their favorite team. Voting will be for a favorite overall team, not by food item.

- Each sample ticket can be exchanged for one BBQ Sample (1 ticket = 1 rib, 1 ticket = 1 chicken drum, 1 ticket = a 4oz BBQ Side)
- **Make some money back!** Every sample ticket a team collects can be redeemed for \$1 from NVBBQA at the close of the sampling period.





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People's Choice Sample containers & utensils

- The NVBBQA will provide teams with sample trays (paper), 4 oz cups, napkins, plastic forks & spoons.

Prizes Win your share of a \$6,000 prize pool!

Chicken Drum		Ribs		Cook's Choice Side	
1st	\$650	1st	\$650	1st	\$250
2nd	\$450	2nd	\$450	2nd	\$150
3rd	\$250	3rd	\$250	3rd	\$100
4th	\$100	4th	\$100	4th	\$75
5th	\$50	5th	\$50	5th	\$50
Anything Quail		PC		GC	\$800
1st	\$250	1st	\$200	RGC	\$575
2nd	\$150	2nd	\$100		
3rd	\$100	3rd	\$75		
4th	\$75				
5th	\$50				

Category & Turn-In Information

Each team shall bring their turn-ins inside Red Rock Harley-Davidson. From there, it will be carried to the judges where judging will be blind.

Chicken & Ribs (People's Choice & Turn-in Box)

We provide the proteins! All Chicken Drums & Ribs used in the competition will be provided by The Nevada BBQ Association.

- Proteins provided with the buy-in:** Each team will receive a minimum of:
 - One (1) case of chicken drums (40lbs/ approx. 80 - 100pcs)
 - Eight (8) racks of St. Louis cut pork ribs
 - We will monitor BBQ Sample pack pre-sales. As we get closer to the contest, there may be an opportunity for teams to cook & serve additional racks of ribs.
- Once proteins are distributed, **TEAMS MAY NOT REMOVE ANY EVENT FOOD from the event site.**





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- **For Chicken Drums & Ribs - Competitors must use the provided proteins**
 - Chicken and Ribs must be served to the public during People's Choice hours
 - AND turned into the judges using the provided turn-in boxes for their entries.
 - Turn-in boxes must contain a minimum of 6 samples for the judges.
 - **Garnish is optional.** If garnish is desired, you may use: fresh green lettuce, curly parsley, flat leaf parsley, curly green kale and/or cilantro.
- The Chicken & Rib meat must be served on the bone.
- Competitors will be judged by Appearance, Taste & Tenderness.

Cook's Choice BBQ Side Ancillary (People's Choice & Turn-in Box)

This is an **optional category** but a great way to stand out & win extra prize money! We recommend cooks prepare a minimum of 50-100 samples.

Cooks may choose from the following BBQ Side options:

- Beans
- Potato Salad
- Mac & Cheese
- Cornbread
- Vegetable
- Other (must be approved by the NVBBQA)

The Cook's Choice BBQ Side Ancillary:

- Must be served to the public during People's Choice hours
- AND turned into the judges using the provided turn-in boxes for their entries.
 - Turn-in boxes must contain a minimum of 6 samples for the judges.
 - **Garnish is optional.** If garnish is desired, you may use: fresh green lettuce, curly parsley, flat leaf parsley, curly green kale and/or cilantro.
- If desired, the Cook's Choice BBQ Side may be served in small, disposable cups. Cups should be provided by the teams and must still all fit within the turn-in box. The box must still include a minimum of 6 samples. Each sample should be 2oz or larger.
- Competitors will be judged by Appearance, Taste, Tenderness, & Execution.
 - Execution:
 - Teams will be provided a notecard where they will list the name of their BBQ Side and a brief description of what they created.
 - The notecard should be turned in with the entry. If it is not turned in, no execution points will be awarded.





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Desert Gamebird Farms Anything Quail Ancillary (Turn-in Tray Only)

This is an **optional category** but a great way to stand out & win extra prize money! It is a judged entry only, NOT part of People's Choice.

***** Recipe Requirement *****

- All teams participating in the Anything Quail category are required to provide the recipe for their entry
- **Recipes must be submitted by Thursday, November 5th.**
- Participating teams agree that the recipes may be used on Desert Gamebird Farms website and marketing materials. Cooks/Teams will be credited on their recipe.
- Teams must also be sure to take a photo of their entry and submit it to travis.barr@nvbbq.org after then event
 - We will also have our photographer available at the turn in table for this category but please still submit your photos.
- **The quail for this category will be provided.**
- **Anything Quail entries must use the quail provided by Desert Gamebird Farms.**
 - Quail will be distributed to the teams no later than the cooks' meeting on Nov 6.
 - Depending on the final team count, each team will receive 5-6 birds.
- The turn-in must consist of a minimum 6 portions for the judges to sample.
- Teams must use the **provided serving tray** to turn in their entry. The tray will be a 20" x 14' plastic tray (See example: <https://www.ikea.com/us/en/p/smula-tray-clear-40041131/>).
 - Turn-in trays may be decorated.
 - Decorations must stay within the perimeter of the tray & must stand on their own.
 - Decorations must be no taller than 18".
 - Trays must be able to be easily carried by one person.
 - Edible garnish is allowed but will not be tasted as part of the entry.
 - Non-edible decorations are allowed on the tray but should not be on the judges portions or present any choking hazard to the judges.
 - Decorations must be picked up prior to the awards ceremony. Any decorations that are not picked up will be discarded.
 - Decorations may not identify the team. Judging is blind.
- Competitors will be judged by Appearance, Taste, Tenderness, & Execution.
 - Execution:
 - Teams will be provided a notecard where they will list the name of their Anything Quail entry and a brief description of what they created.
 - The notecard should be turned in with the entry. If it is not turned in, no execution points will be awarded.





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Timeline

Load-In Information

Load in after 4:00 p.m. on Friday, November 6. Please check-in with an organizer before parking. We'll load teams in as they arrive.

If you will be arriving later than 8pm on 11/6, please contact the organizer to arrange arrival.

Mandatory Cooks Meeting - Friday, November 6 at 7:00 pm

TIMELINE

Turn-In Times - Saturday, November 7

12:00pm (noon) - *Opening ceremony/National Anthem*

12:30 - Anything Quail

- Turn-in window: 12:20pm-12:40pm ***EXTENDED WINDOW***

1:00 - Chicken Drum

- Turn-in window: 12:55pm-1:05pm

1:30 - Ribs

- Turn-in window: 1:25pm-1:35pm

2:00 - Cook's Choice BBQ Side

- Turn-in window: 1:55pm-2:05pm

People's Choice Sampling - 12:00 - 4:00pm (or while supplies last)

5:30pm Awards (or earlier)

Load-Out Information

Please bag your own trash. We have volunteers that will help take the trash to the dumpsters. Ash containers & a grey water receptacle will be available. Teams are responsible for leaving a clean space.





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Health Department Regulations

As teams will be serving samples to the public, the Las Vegas BBQ Festival is considered a Tasting Event by the Southern Nevada Health District.

All food must be prepared onsite.

Once proteins are distributed, **TEAMS MAY NOT REMOVE ANY EVENT FOOD from the event site.** This is to stay compliant with our health permits. Please let us know if you have any questions.

The NVBBQA will handle the permits but teams are responsible for their cook space meeting Health Department standards. **We are happy to answer any questions you have.** Please see the checklist below:

- [Temporary Food Establishment Checklist](#)

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Health Department regulations or People's Choice, please contact Travis Barr or any of the NVBBQA board members. **We're here to help!**





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Additional Information

Electricity will NOT be provided. Teams that want electricity will need to bring their own power sources. We reserve the right to ask you to discontinue the use of your generator if we deem it too loud and a disturbance to surrounding teams.

Fire sources can be wood, wood pellets, charcoal, electric, or propane. Deep frying is not allowed.

The red Solo cup rule applies: All alcoholic beverages should be in cups or concealed containers. Excessive use of alcoholic beverages or public intoxication are grounds for eviction. This is a family friendly event.

It's each team's responsibility to keep their area clean. Please bag your own trash and take it to the dumpster. You are responsible for removing grease and gray water.

- Ash containers and a gray water receptacle will be available.

Each team must have a recently serviced fire extinguisher in their cooking area.

Feel Free to Contact Us With Any Questions

Travis Barr (Organizer)

760.371.5603 | travis.barr@nvbbq.org

or info@nvbbq.org

Event URL

nvbbq.org/lasvegasbbqfestival

Event Date

November 7, 2026

Location

Red Rock Harley-Davidson

2260 S Rainbow Blvd, Las Vegas, NV 89146

