



The Sun Herald GUMBO CHAMPIONSHIP

35th Annual Biloxi Seafood Festival
Application



Applicant / (Team Captain) _____ Shirt Size _____

Company, Organization, or Team Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Booth Dimensions: 12'x12'

List any additional team members:

2) _____ Shirt Size _____

3) _____ Shirt Size _____

4) _____ Shirt Size _____

5) _____ Shirt Size _____

Please mark one entry category:

Professional Team

The Professional Team Division is for those representing a restaurant or other food service organization.

Amateur Team

Amateur Team Division is for those representing an organization/company/etc (not a restaurant, caterer, etc.).

QUESTIONS? CALL THE BILOXI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AT (228) 604-0014.
MAIL OR FAX APPLICATION TO BILOXI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
11975E SEAWAY ROAD, GULFPORT, MS 39503 / FAX (228) 604-0105,
WWW.BILOXISEAFOODFESTIVAL.COM.

Booth Dimensions: 12'x12'

The Sun Herald

GUMBO CHAMPIONSHIP

35th Annual Biloxi Seafood Festival

Guidelines

Sign up today for The Sun Herald **GUMBO CHAMPIONSHIP** at the 35th Annual Biloxi Seafood Festival! This year's festival is scheduled for September 10 and 11, 2016 at Point Cadet Plaza, Biloxi, MS. The Gumbo Championship will be held on the second day of the festival, **Sunday, Sept. 11th, 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. (please note the contest time change)** Teams can enter either the Professional or Amateur competition.

The competition will be held in a special, fenced-off, area of the Biloxi Seafood Festival, near the Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum (location on festival grounds is subject to change). The public will be invited to enter the competition area and sample gumbo for a small fee (this fee is in addition to the Biloxi Seafood Festival entry fee). 100% of the net proceeds raised by the competition will benefit the chamber's programs. This is an outstanding opportunity to help a good cause, receive recognition for your company or group, and have fun all at the same time!!!

Winners will receive awards, recognition in The Sun Herald, and bragging rights. The following awards will be given:

BEST OF SHOW (All teams eligible - both professional and amateur) Awarded to the overall winner for the best gumbo: \$500; Main trophy (rotating each year); Gold medals for each team member; recognition in The Sun Herald.

BEST OVERALL PRESENTATION (All teams eligible - both professional and amateur) Awarded to the team with the best decorated booth, costumes, etc. \$100; Certificates for each team member.

PEOPLES' CHOICE AWARD (All teams eligible - both professional and amateur) *The public will vote for their favorite gumbo and Peoples' Choice will be awarded to the team with the most votes.* \$100; Certificates for each team member. *In addition to the awards listed above, all contestants will receive a commemorative gift.

Professional Division Awards:

PROFESSIONAL CHAMPION - Team plaque; Gold medals for each team member

PROFESSIONAL 1ST RUNNER UP - Silver medals for each team member

PROFESSIONAL 2ND RUNNER UP - Bronze medals for each team member

Amateur Division Awards:

AMATEUR CHAMPION - \$400; Team plaque; Gift for each team member

AMATEUR 1ST RUNNER UP - \$200; Gift for each team member

AMATEUR 2ND RUNNER UP - \$100; Gift for each team member

The following rules apply to all contestants (Professional Teams and Amateur Teams):

1. For 2016, the entry is FREE!
2. There are two entry divisions: Professional Team and Amateur Team. The Professional Team Division is for those representing a restaurant or other food service organization. Amateur Team Division is for those representing an organization/company/etc. (not a restaurant, caterer, etc.).
3. Entry Deadline: Contestants must complete an application and submit it to the Biloxi Chamber Office by 5pm, September 5, 2016.
4. Each team will provide a minimum of 10 gallons of seafood gumbo (20 gallons recommended).

5. Teams are responsible for providing their own ingredients, including cooked rice. Seafood should be at least one of the ingredients in the gumbo – to keep in line with the Seafood Festival theme.
- 6. Each team may choose to prepare the seafood gumbo in advance or prepare on-site.**
7. The public will be invited to pay a fee (this fee is in addition to the Biloxi Seafood Festival admission fee) to enter the competition area and sample the gumbo. Each team will serve samples to the public. The Biloxi Seafood Festival will provide sample-size serving cups (4oz.), spoons, napkins, and crackers or bread. Teams are welcome to provide their own supplies if they choose.
- 8. Booth spaces will be 12'x12' this year, no larger.**
9. Set up can begin on Sunday, September 11, 2016, beginning at 7:00am. Set-up must be complete no later than 12:00pm. Gumbo Championship gates open on Sunday at 1:00pm! **NO TRAILERS or VEHICLES ARE ALLOWED IN THE ACTUAL CONTEST SERVING AREA.**
10. Booth spaces will be assigned by the committee. Please check in with Terry Powell and Wade Howk regarding your booth space.
11. Unloading: When you arrive in the morning there will be someone to meet near the Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum. It's important to move your vehicle immediately after unloading (before you begin to set-up) to a parking space to make room for other teams to unload. The competition area and festival grounds must be clear of all vehicles by 10:00am!
12. Admission/Passes: At the festival, you will receive 5 Team member passes (identifying wrist bands). The passes cover your entry into the festival on Sunday (\$5), and your entry into the competition area (\$5). You will be required to provide the pass (wrist band mentioned above) or pay the entry fees. If you need more than five, we request that you purchase these additional passes (\$10 / each). We ask for your cooperation on this. As a reminder, there is not an entry fee for the competition, so please consider the purchase of additional passes as a donation for a good cause. You can purchase additional passes in advance through the chamber office or at the festival gate.
13. You must keep your booth open during the hours of the Gumbo Championship – Sunday, September 11th, 1:00pm – 3:00pm. **(NOTE NEW TIME)**
14. Each entrant will need to provide his or her own **plywood to place beneath propane burners**, tables, chairs, work surfaces, cooking equipment, utensils, umbrellas, tents, propane stove and fire extinguisher, etc. Booths will be located near the Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum (location on festival grounds is subject to change). The Biloxi Seafood Festival Committee is not responsible for any set up or tear down of booths. ***It's usually warm at the festival, so a tent or other cover is highly recommended. Additional recommendations include battery operated fans, propane tanks/burners and or generators. We will not provide electricity.***
15. Teams will ensure that sanitary caution is made. Each team should make plans for hand washing facilities - including warm water, soap, bucket/container and towels/paper towels for drying. Plastic gloves are to be worn by all cooks and assistants while cooking and serving samples to the public.
16. No (readily consumable) food items can be sold at your booth. In other words, it's ok to sell cook books, spices, cooking utensils, etc. No food items sold by the chamber (i.e. water, soft drinks, etc.) can be sold or given away to the public.
17. Teams are asked to decorate around their booth/table. (A "Best Overall Presentation" award will be given). Ideas to consider include booth decorations, costumes, company/organization banners, signs, music, giveaways/trinkets, recipe handouts, balloons, and any other ways to make your booth stand out. The event should be fun for your team and the public. Please do not bring any decorations that you cannot take home with you. This includes sand, glitter, dirt or other items that are difficult to contain. The area must be left clean.
18. Peoples' Choice Award: The public will be given 1 ticket per person, along with instructions, as a way to vote for their favorite gumbo. Teams are asked to provide a labeled container (jar, box, etc.) to be kept at their table. The public will drop their ticket in the container of their choice to vote for their favorite gumbo. The containers will be collected shortly after 3:00pm and the tickets will be counted. The team with the most tickets wins the Peoples' Choice Award.
19. Judging will take place between 1p.m.-3p.m. A festival staff member will come to your booth between 1p.m.-3p.m. and will let you know that they are there to retrieve a sample for the judges. You will provide one bowl for each judge to taste. Gumbo entries will be assigned a number, which will be clearly labeled on the container. Care will be taken to ensure that judging occurs without the judges knowing which team submitted an entry. Judges will consider Aroma, Consistency, Color, Taste, and Aftertaste. **THE DECISIONS OF THE JUDGES SHALL BE FINAL.** Awards will be announced shortly after 4:00pm. at the Biloxi Seafood Festival Main Stage.

