

## Main Street Pearl's Oktoberfest – Gumbo Cook-Off

### Cook-Off Guidelines



1. Cooks are to prepare and cook in a sanitary manner. Cooking conditions are subject to inspection by the judging committee. Infractions identified by the committee shall be immediately corrected or the team shall be disqualified.
2. Teams are allowed to bring one generator per team. Electricity is not provided.
3. Teams must provide a fire extinguisher.
4. No glass containers are allowed. Metal, Plastic, and Paper ONLY.
5. Teams are asked to prepare at least 10 Gallons of Gumbo. (Last year teams ran out with this amount, so plan accordingly.)
6. Prizes will be awarded in each category
  - First Place: \$1,500
  - Second Place: \$1,000
  - Third Place: \$750
  - Most Spirited Booth: \$250
  - Main Street Pearl Favorite: \$500
7. Gumbo: All ingredients must be added on site and in raw form (except meat cooked with stock) but may be chopped and cut ahead of time. No ingredients can be combined offsite. We want all the cooking to be done at the event to keep it fair. Teams will be allowed to bring all ingredients prepped in advance (chop the veggies, make the stock, and cook meat if desired, etc.). ALL TEAMS must provide rice or other ingredients. **ROUX CAN BE PREPARED AHEAD OF TIME!!**
8. Team Captain: Each team will designate a team captain, who is responsible for seeing that each assigned area is kept clean, trash is dumped at the end of festival, that a judging sample is taken to the judging table, and that all team members have read and understood these rules and regulations. Teams are responsible for their own garbage. The Captain's meeting will be Saturday @ 9:30am on the stage. You will be given your tasting cups, napkins, spoons, and judging cups at this time. You will be given the opportunity to ask any questions you may have during this meeting as well.

9. Space: You will set-up at **your** designated spot. Tent # will be placed on each garbage can that marks your gumbo spot. Each team will have a 10' x 10' space. Teams must provide their own tables and tent to cover their cooking area. All teams must bring all supplies necessary for cooking. The Main Street Pearl Committee will not be responsible for supplying utensils, pots, pans, burners, etc. Please ensure your area is clean and all trash has been placed in the proper containers before leaving your site.
  - a. Each Cook Team will be responsible for their own signage for their space.
  - b. Ensure that all walkways remain clear from your equipment/decorations.
  
10. Judging: Judging cups for the judges will be provided the morning of the cook-off. The team captain is required to deliver the judging cup to the judging area at a set time. (This information will be communicated on the day of.). All gumbo will be judged in the same category regardless of the preparation method. The winners of the cook-off will be announced at approximately 4pm. All decisions by the judges are final. Cooking conditions are subject to inspection. Failure to follow these rules will be grounds for disqualification. Any changes to these official rules and regulations will be communicated to teams in advance of the event.
  - a. Judges will judge on the following categories: Appearance, Aroma, Flavor, Consistency, and Texture
  - b. Judges require that there is no rice or garnishes for all the judging samples. JUST GUMBO!
  - c. Results from gumbo competition will be available only upon request the following week.
  
11. Serving: Gumbo teams **MUST** serve only from the side of the tent that faces the stage. The gumbo samples **MUST** only be served out of the tasting cups that are provided.
  
12. Decorations: ALL teams are highly encouraged to decorate their tent.
  
13. Parking: All gumbo teams will have one parking pass per team. Pass must be placed on review mirror. Once you unload gumbo materials, you **MUST** move your vehicle so the next person can unload. You will park in the Gate 1 parking lot. Any vehicle that does not have a parking pass displayed on review mirror will be towed, per city guidelines.
  
14. The Main Street Pearl Committee will provide & place the "Contains Shellfish/No Shellfish signage at your tent.
  
15. The Main Street Pearl Committee reserves the right to make additional regulations as situations warrant. Decisions of this committee and judges are final.

## IMPORTANT TIMES

City Park  
Mary Ann Drive & Hwy 80

### Event date & time

Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 am

### Set-up Gumbo date & time

Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>  
6:30 am-9:00 am

### Cook-Team Meeting (Mandatory)

Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> 9:30 am  
(Meeting place TBD)

### Judging

\*Judging will begin at 12pm. Turn in gumbo times will vary for gumbo teams.





**Main Street Pearl's Oktoberfest – Gumbo Cook-Off**  
**APPLICATION - \$100 Entry Fee**

Official Team Name \_\_\_\_\_

Chief Cook \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_ (Home) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Payment for the total entry fee (\$100) must be received with application no later than September 27, 2024. Late entries, if space is available will incur an extra \$50 fee. Limited space is available so apply early to secure your spot.

Any photos taken at the event become the property of Main Street Pearl and may be used for promotional purposes. For any additional information or questions contact Stacy Smith at [ssmith@cityofpearl.com](mailto:ssmith@cityofpearl.com) or 601-932-3503

I am entering this contest voluntarily and acknowledge that participation is a privilege, not a right. In exchange for the opportunity to participate in MSP Gumbo Cook-Off, I assume all risks and indemnify and release all sponsoring and/or hosting entities, including but not limited to the City of Pearl and Main Street Pearl Association as well as their employees, agents and volunteers from any and all liability for personal injury arising out of my or my team's participation in this event.

Complete this form and return it along with your registration fee no later than September 27, 2024.  
Send application and entrance fee to:

Main Street Pearl  
PO Box 5948  
Pearl, MS 39288-5948

*Make checks payable to Main Street Pearl*

I verify that I have read all the rules and regulations and understand my responsibilities.  
I agree to abide by all rules and regulations of Main Street Pearl and understand **that their decisions are final.**

Signature (required): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Suggested List of Supplies

- 20-30 qt stock pot
- Water for cooking/cleaning
- 1 full propane tank
- 1 propane burner
- All ingredients for winning gumbo
- Cooked rice
- Cutting boards
- Knife/knives
- Paddle/spoon for stirring
- Ladles for serving
- Bowls/Ziplock bags for storing ingredients
- Kitchen Towels
- Paper Towels
- 10x10 Pop Up tent
- 1 or 2 tables
- Chairs for leisure
- Ice chest for all raw ingredients
- TENT DECORATIONS!

