



10 11TH STREET • P.O. BOX 388 • ELKINS, WV 26241 • OFFICE: (304) 636-1824 • WWW.FORESTFESTIVAL.COM

Dear Chili Cook-Off Participant,

We are excited to announce that the Mountain State Forest Festival is gearing up for another unforgettable celebration of our community's rich culture, outdoor spirit, and the beauty of nature. This year's theme, "Autumn in Color," reflects the natural wonder and vibrant traditions that make our region so special. This year's 88th festival will take place from September 26 to October 4, 2026.

As part of this year's festivities, we are thrilled to invite you to participate in the Chili Cook-Off, which will take place on Saturday, September 26th on Davis Avenue in Downtown Elkins. Whether you're a seasoned chili master or a passionate newcomer, this event is the perfect opportunity to showcase your culinary talents and embrace the flavors of nature, all while competing for a chance to win some fantastic prizes, local glory, and bragging rights.

Event Details:

- **Date:** Saturday, September 26, 2026
- **Set Up:** 2 PM- 3PM
- **Finishing Touches of Chili:** 3PM – 4PM
- **Event Begins:** 4 PM
- **Location:** Davis Avenue (downtown Elkins)
- **Registration Deadline:** Monday, September 14, 2026

How to Enter:

To register for the Chili Cook-Off, simply complete the attached entry form and submit it by Monday, September 14, 2026. Each participant will need to bring cooking equipment (including heat source), enough chili to serve 150 portions (4 oz each), and a tent if desired. Although not required, we encourage participants to highlight local, natural ingredients to tie in with our "Autumn in Color" theme.

During the event, we will provide tasting cups, spoons, napkins, one table, two chairs, and a public voting station for attendees to cast their votes for the **People's Choice** award. Additionally, a panel of judges will determine the winners in the following categories **Best Overall**, **Most Creative Chili**, and **Spiciest Chili** as well as Maid Silvia's Choice, Maids of Honor's Choice, and Director General's Choice.

We are excited to celebrate this year's theme by embracing the flavors and charms of nature, and we hope you'll join us in this exciting event! Whether you're a local or a visitor, your participation will help make this year's Chili Cook-Off a truly memorable experience for everyone.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact us.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely,

Amanda Carter
Assistant Director
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Heidi Bray
Executive Director
executive@forestfestival.com



2026 88th Mountain State Forest Festival

RULES:

- Each team must have a Food Handler Training Card.
- Chili can be cooked off-site, with finishing touches completed at the competition.
- Teams must bring a heating source.
- No entry fee – All applicants are subject to review.
- Cash prizes for Best Overall Chili 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. All other award winners will receive recognition.

🌶️ MSFF Chili Cook-off Registration Form 🌶️

Name: _____

Team Name (if any): _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Anything Else We Should Know? _____

Release: By signing this form, I release the Mountain State Forest Festival from all personal injury, illness or property damage that I may incur because of my participation in the Mountain State Forest Festival.

Signature: _____ Date: _____