



29th Annual
LAKELAND PIGFEST

January 23 & 24, 2026

BACKYARD DIVISION



Dear Barbeque Team:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Lakeland Pigfest, we would like to thank you for your interest in participating in the annual Lakeland Pigfest. We are excited to be celebrating our 29th Anniversary and anticipate this year to be bigger and better than ever.

OVERVIEW OF EVENTS

Thursday, January 22nd

Team check-in begins at: 8:00 a.m.
Thursday evening Judging School: 6:00 p.m.

Friday, January 23rd

All vehicles must be in yellow parking lot: 2:00 p.m. — NO Exceptions!
Publix Backyard Contest - Cooks Meeting: 3:00 p.m.
Kinder's Professional Contest - Cooks Meeting: 3:00 p.m.
Gates open to the public: 5:00 p.m.
Fun-Food Competitions
 Sauce turn-in: 5:30 p.m.
 Steak turn-in: 6:00 p.m.
 Anything Butt Appetizer turn-in: 6:30 p.m.
 Anything Butt Entree turn-in: 7:00 p.m.
 Dessert turn-in: 7:30 p.m.
Event Closed to Public: 10:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 24th

All vehicles must be in yellow parking lot: 8:00 a.m. — NO Exceptions!
Gates open to the public: 10:00 a.m.
Saturday - Professional Contest judging
 Chicken turn-in: 12:00 p.m.
 Pork Ribs turn-in: 12:30 p.m.
 Pork turn-in: 1:00 p.m.
 Beef Brisket turn-in: 1:30 p.m.

(Times are subject to change. You will be notified at the Cook's meeting of any changes)

Best Regards,

Donovan Tinsley
Board President, Lakeland Pigfest



2026 AWARDS

Publix Backyard Contest

PRESENTED BY KINGSFORD

GRAND CHAMPION - \$1,500

RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION - \$750

CATEGORY WINNERS

Chicken, Pork Ribs, Pork & Beef Brisket

Trophies will be awarded for 1st - 5th place in all four meat categories.

Ribbons will be awarded for 6th - 10th place in all four meat categories.

+ Grand Champion: 1. Entry fee for following year waived



FUN-FOOD CONTESTS

**Sauce, Steak, Anything Butt Appetizer,
Anything Butt Entree & Dessert**

1st Place - \$500

2nd Place - \$300

3rd Place - \$200

***NOTE: Fun-Food will be judged on Friday evening, January 23rd, 2026.*

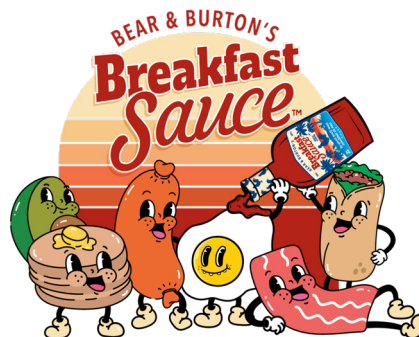


SAUCE COMPETITION

Sponsored by Bear & Burton's W Sauce

- ENTRY FEE:** \$25.00 PER ENTRY. Teams may submit multiple paid entries.
- SAUCE:** Must prepare enough for six (6) Judges. You will be provided with a 16 oz. Container.
- GARNISH:** No Garnish will be allowed.
- CONTAINER:** You are REQUIRED to present your entry in the standard Styrofoam 16 oz. pre-numbered container.
- TURN IN:** Entries must be submitted in its container at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, January 23rd.
- PRIZES:** Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three (3) entries. The amount will be a percentage of the entry fees collected for this category.

1st Place - \$500
2nd Place - \$300
3rd Place - \$200



Please review the KCBS Steak Contest rules and information in this packet



STEAK COMPETITION SPONSORED BY KINDER'S

- ENTRY FEE:** \$25.00 PER ENTRY. Teams may submit multiple paid entries.
- STEAK:** USDA Choice Grade Strip Steaks only, cut into 6 identifiable pieces between 1 1/8"-1 5/8" thick, weighing between 10-16 oz. For appearance, you may submit a second steak, uncut.
- GARNISH:** Garnish is allowed, but it cannot identify the source of the entry.
- CONTAINER:** You are required to present your entry in the provided plastic clamshell container. You may use clear food film to cover the meat.
- TURN IN:** Entries must be submitted in its container at 6:00 pm on Friday, January 23rd.
- PRIZES:** Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three (3) entries. The amount will be a percentage of the entry fees collected for this category.

1st Place - \$500
2nd Place - \$300
3rd Place - \$200



Please review the KCBS Steak Contest rules and information in this packet



ANYTHING BUTT APPETIZER COMPETITION

Sponsored by Pero Family Farms

ENTRY FEE: \$25.00 PER ENTRY. Teams may submit multiple paid entries.

ANYTHING BUTT APPETIZER: Any type of pre-meal food is allowed. Food must be prepared on site. All forms of cooking are permitted.

GARNISH: Garnish rules are waived. ANYTHING GOES. However, any obvious effort to identify the source of the entry will be considered marking and will receive a score of "1".

CONTAINER: You are NOT REQUIRED to present your entry in the standard Styrofoam container; however, we are NOT responsible for returning any trays, bowls, decorations, etc. They will be available outside the hangar after the contests are complete. Be sure to affix the number on top of the turn-in presentation, not underneath. Be sure to affix securely. We are not responsible if it falls off. The container cannot be larger than one person can carry.

DESCRIPTION: A brief description of the entry must be submitted with your entry.

TURN IN: Entries must be submitted in its container at 6:30 pm on Friday, January 23rd.

JUDGING: Appearance and taste will be judged in the usual KCBS format. Instead of judging tenderness, the Judges will be instructed to judge CREATIVITY of the entries presented.

PRIZES: Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three (3) entries. The amount will be a percentage of the entry fees collected for this category.

1st Place - \$500

2nd Place - \$300

3rd Place - \$200





ANYTHING BUTT ENTREE COMPETITION

Sponsored by Bush's Best

- ENTRY FEE:** \$25.00 PER ENTRY. Teams may submit multiple paid entries.
- ANYTHING BUTT:** Any type of food is permitted. Food must be prepared on-site. All forms of cooking are permitted.
- GARNISH:** Garnish rules are waived. ANYTHING GOES. However, any obvious effort to identify the source of the entry will be considered marking and will receive a score of "1".
- CONTAINER:** You are NOT REQUIRED to present your entry in the standard Styrofoam container; however, we are NOT responsible for returning any trays, bowls, decorations, etc. They will be available outside the hangar after the contests are complete. Be sure to affix the number on top of the turn-in presentation, not underneath. Be sure to affix securely. We are not responsible if it falls off. The container cannot be larger than one person can carry.
- DESCRIPTION:** A brief description of the entry must be submitted with your entry.
- TURN IN:** Entries must be submitted in its container at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, January 23rd.
- JUDGING:** Appearance and taste will be judged in the usual KCBS format. Instead of judging tenderness, the Judges will be instructed to judge CREATIVITY of the entries presented.
- PRIZES:** Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three (3) entries. The amount will be a percentage of the entry fees collected for this category.

1st Place - \$500
2nd Place - \$300
3rd Place - \$200





DESSERT COMPETITION

Sponsored by Mayfield Dairy Farms

- ENTRY FEE:** \$25.00 PER ENTRY. Teams may submit multiple paid entries.
- DESSERT:** Dessert entries may be prepared off-site, BUT cannot be purchased from a store. Must prepare enough for six (6) Judges. Portions should be in adequate quantity, BUT not necessarily cut into individual serving sizes (for instance, pies and cakes may be presented whole, etc.).
- GARNISH:** Garnish rules are waived. ANYTHING GOES. However, any obvious effort to identify the source of the entry will be considered marking and will receive a score of "1".
- CONTAINER:** You are NOT REQUIRED to present your entry in the standard Styrofoam container; however, we are NOT responsible for returning any trays, bowls, decorations, etc. Be sure to affix the number on top of the turn-in presentation, not underneath. Be sure to affix securely. We are not responsible if it falls off. The container cannot be larger than one person can carry.
- DESCRIPTION:** A brief description of the entry must be submitted with your entry.
- TURN IN:** Entries must be submitted in its container at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, January 23rd.
- JUDGING:** Appearance and taste will be judged in the usual KCBS format. Instead of judging tenderness, the Judges will be instructed to judge CREATIVITY of the entries presented.
- PRIZES:** Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three (3) entries. The amount will be a percentage of the entry fees collected for this category.

1st Place - \$500
2nd Place - \$300
3rd Place - \$200





RULES & PROCEDURES

THE OFFICIAL LAKELAND PIGFEST PIG (BBQ) BUCKS

All participants will be encouraged to sell their barbecue at the event.

All vending teams selling BBQ or any other item at the Lakeland Pigfest will use PIG (BBQ) Bucks only. No cash sales will be permitted. The contestant retains 80%, and the Festival receives 20% for charities.

NON-BBQ COMPETITION CONCESSIONS

Any food, drinks, or other items to be sold or dispensed at the Lakeland Pigfest must be approved by the Executive Committee prior to the event. The Lakeland Pigfest organization reserves the right to refuse vending privileges. Carbonated beverages, alcoholic beverages and water are sold exclusively by the Festival. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ARE CARBONATED BEVERAGES, WATER, OR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES TO BE DISTRIBUTED (GIVEN AWAY OR SOLD) TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC BY CONTESTANTS.**

VEHICLES

All team member vehicles that do not fit in the team space must be off the grounds or in cook team parking on Friday by 2:00 p.m. No vehicles will be allowed back onto the event grounds until 6:00 p.m. on Saturday evening. No Exceptions!

SIGNAGE

In consideration of our event sponsors, we require that teams display only one sign of corporate logo identification, no larger than 2' X 5' and no higher than **eight** feet off the ground. Teams not identifying corporate sponsorship may have larger signs than specified, but no inflatable bottles or large balloons are allowed on cook team sites. The Lakeland Pigfest, Inc. reserves the right to make the final determination of what is acceptable on all signage.

ARRIVAL AND CHECK-IN

Arrival and check-in details and directions will be sent to you in your pre-event package that will be sent the first week of January. You will receive your space assignment and hospitality package at check-in. You may set up any time after 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 22, 2026. If you need to make other arrival arrangements, please contact the Backyard Division Committee at backyarddivision@lakelandpigfest.org or at 863-512-0696.

COOKS MEETING

3:00 p.m., Friday, January 23, 2026 (It is mandatory that you attend this meeting to pick up food containers). FINAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING ENTRIES FOR JUDGING AND TIME SCHEDULES WILL BE GIVEN AT THIS MANDATORY COOKS MEETING.



RULES & PROCEDURES

COMPETITION MEAT INSPECTION

Meat inspection will be available at 9:00 a.m. on Friday.. Uncooked meat must be kept below 40 degrees F. A cooler with ice is acceptable. Cooked food must be kept above 140 degrees F. It is the responsibility of each cook team captain to follow these guidelines and all teams are subject to random verification.

SUPPLIES

Each contestant shall supply all of his/her own meat, cooking ingredients, individual cooking devices, utensils, preparation tables, fire extinguishers, etc. Please note: provided for you is a regulation cooking area, electricity, and water (on-site, but not to every space). All contestants MUST adhere to all electrical, fire, food safety, and other codes and rules set forth by the Lakeland Pigfest or other legal entities.

TEAM NAME & CONDUCT

Each team must submit an official team name that cannot be changed. In the case of duplicate names, the earliest postmarked shall prevail. A cook team shall consist of a chief cook and as many assistants as desired as long as they will fit inside your cooking area. The committee expects that good taste will be used - not only in your cooking, but in your area as well. We want each team to have a good time, and we want a good family atmosphere for those who attend.

THE CHIEF COOK IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONDUCT OF HIS/HER TEAM AND GUESTS.

CAUSES FOR DISQUALIFICATION/DISCIPLINARY ACTION

- A. Excessive use of alcoholic beverages
- B. Use of controlled substances
- C. Foul, abusive or unacceptable language
- D. Excessive noise generated from speakers or public address systems
- E. The use of motorized vehicles is prohibited. Prohibited vehicles include golf carts, scooters, ATVs, four-wheelers, motorized coolers, etc.
- F. Failure to adhere to instruction or direction from the Lakeland Pigfest, Inc.

SPACE REQUIREMENTS

Due to limited space, the size of each cooking area will be 20' x 20'. Contestants **must** stay within the boundaries of their allocated area. (For example, do not erect a 20' x 20' tent if the tent ropes would not be within your area.) The Fire Marshall and The Lakeland Pigfest will have strict control.

Please keep in mind that equipment (including RV) **must** fit inside your 20' x 20' space. The Lakeland Pigfest will not be able to accommodate you if you exceed your space allotment on all sides. Early arrival is encouraged for large RV's or large pieces of cooking equipment. Please make a note on your application if you will need RV parking in the RV lot. **Please be advised, tents exceeding 120 sq. ft. in size require a tent permit from the City of Lakeland Fire Dept.**



RULES & PROCEDURES

TEAR DOWN

You **may not** tear down prior to the Awards Ceremony at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 24, 2026. Teams **must** vacate the event venue by 10:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 24, 2026.

ELECTRIC

Each team will be provided one outlet with 20 amp service. Those requiring more than 20 amp service **must notify** the Backyard Division Committee at 863-512-0696 or **backyarddivision@lakelandpigfestival.org** upon application to the contest. There will be an additional charge to supply service greater than 20 amps. It is your responsibility to notify the contest organizer when you submit your application. If you arrive at the event with electric needs greater than 20 amps the event organizer will not be able to accommodate your electric needs.

OTHER RULES AND REGULATIONS

Teams must attempt to enter all four (4) food categories. Any team vending without legitimately attempting to turn entries in all four categories will be asked to immediately cease vending operations. This will also automatically prohibit future consideration for your team at The Lakeland Pigfest. The Lakeland Pigfest is a BBQ competition first and foremost and only teams serious about the competition will be given application to the event. We are registered with the State of Florida as a BBQ competition, thank you for aiding us in maintaining the integrity of the event.

Teams must enter all four (4) food categories to be eligible for the Grand Championship.

The Lakeland Pigfest reserves the right to make additional rules as the situation warrants. All decisions of the Lakeland Pigfest are final. **Violations of Lakeland Pigfest rules and regulations of the festival may result in disqualification and expulsion from the grounds and/or disqualification from future participation in the event.**