

Memphis Italian Festival 2024

Spaghetti Gravy Cooking Contest

Official Rules and Regulations

1. Spaghetti gravy is defined as the juice exuded by cooking meat and Italian seasonings; also, a sauce made from it. The meat or gravy for the contest may not be precooked, sauced, or marinated in any way prior to inspection at the beginning of the contest. This will result in disqualification.
2. Each contestant competing shall supply ALL of his own meat, cooking ingredients, individual cooking devices (portable electric or propane stoves), utensils, preparation tables, etc.
3. Due to Park Commission rules NO vehicular movement will be allowed within the contest area at any time during the festival. We will have our transportation help you. **There will be one entrance and exit.** You will have to be patient with us and we will help each team accordingly. Teams are not allowed to have golf carts or any other vehicles on the park grounds. Any vehicles of teams (members or friends) parked in the non-designated parking areas will be cause for disqualification of that team. If allowed on field, you must **unload vehicles immediately and park elsewhere.**
4. Each contestant may have as many Assistants as necessary. During the contest judging, only the Chief Cook and five (5) Assistants will be allowed in the cooking area. Any Cook or Assistant that handles food in any way must comply with paragraph 5 of these rules.
5. Each contestant must comply with all applicable rules and regulations of the Memphis and Shelby County Health Department including, but no limited to the following:
 - A. Meat must be at 40 degrees or less before cooking.
Your coolers, with ice, will keep it cold enough.
 - B. After cooking, the meat gravies must be maintained at 140 degrees or less before cooking. Hats and gloves must be worn by the Cook and all food handling Assistants.
 - C. Cleanliness of the Cook, Assistants, and contestant area is required.
 - D. No live animals are allowed in the cooking area at any time!
This is grounds for disqualification.

- 6. Set-up is on Wednesday between 8:00am and 8:00pm. Each contestant must check-in at the Judges Tent. At the time of check-in, you will verify contestant numbers and cooking area assignments.
- 7. Each contestant must cook enough spaghetti gravy to give out samples to all judges. If you run out of spaghetti gravy before the judging is completed, you will be disqualified.

8. **JUDGING**

Judging of the spaghetti gravy entries will involve two procedures occurring simultaneously. Individual judges will visit the teams for **ON-SITE** scoring. At the same time, a different group of judges inside the Judges' Hospitality Tent will judge spaghetti gravy from one (1) 20oz container, identified by a coded number for each team. The two categories will be judged separately. **ON-SITE and Blind** judging begins at **12:00 NOON** Saturday. There will be **three (3) ON-SITE judges** coming at different times ranging about 15 to 20 minutes apart. This is why one (1) judge should not stay more than 15 minutes. Final judging will consist of the top **six (6)** scoring teams from the preliminary judging. **Four (4)** judges will come at one time during finals and from their scores, the winner will be chosen. **All Prize Winners may be asked to disclose their recipe in writing.**

- 9. Cooking Team **MUST** compete in the Spaghetti Gravy Contest. Cooking Team may enter 1 or all Additional Contests as stated on the entry form. No refunds if you drop out of a contest.

<u>FEES FOR BOOTH SPACE</u>	<u>FEES FOR STAGE FRONT SPACE</u>
20' x 20' \$500.00	
20' x 30' \$700.00	20' x 30' \$900.00
20' x 40' \$800.00	20' x 40' \$1,100.00
20' x 60' \$1,100.00	20' x 60' \$1,200.00

Clean up deposit \$100.00 PLEASE MAKE SEPARATE CHECK.
(deposit will NOT be returned if included in check for booth space)

The selection committee reserves the right to reject any application.

If your application is not accepted, your deposit will be and fees will be refunded by mail. If your application is accepted and you participate as a contestant, the clean-up deposit will be refunded if clean-up in your area is satisfactory, when checked by a member of the committee. No refunds of the Entry Fees will be made once you have been accepted into the contest whether you appear or not. Please send two (2) checks: one to cover Entry Fees and one to cover Clean-up only.

The Entry Fee will be deposited when you are accepted for the contest, the Clean-up check will not be deposited, but will be held until the end of the contest. If Clean-up of your area passes inspection of the Memphis Italian Festival Committee, your original check will be returned to you when you check out (this is usually Sunday morning), **Please bring your own trash bags to use during the festival.**

All checks should be made payable to the **Memphis Italian Festival.**

11. Applications submitted are not a guaranteed entrance into the contest. There is only space for (48) contestants. Applications will be accepted after the sign-up meeting if space is available.
Send applications to:
Vickie & Richard Ranson
3525 Bruton Branch Road
Savannah, TN 38372
12. The Memphis Italian Festival Spaghetti Gravy Cooking Contest will be held in Memphis, TN at Marquette Park where other activities such as Children's Games, Bocce Tournament, Volleyball, Arts & Crafts, live entertainment and other events will also be taking place.
13. A mandatory meeting for the Team Captain or Team Representative will be held at least three weeks Before the contest. The rules and regulations and other necessary information will be discussed at this time. We will call each team to notify you of time and place.
14. It is the responsibility of each contestant to see that the contest area is kept clean and that the area is Cleaned and all equipment removed from the site by 12 NOON Sunday following the contest. Any space left in disarray or with loose or bundled trash and garbage will disqualify the team from future Participation and/or result in forfeiture of the clean-up deposit. **Please NOTE - bring your own plastic trash bags to use throughout the festival.**
15. The Team Captain will be responsible for the conduct of his team and guests. Under **NO** circumstances are alcoholic beverages to be distributed (given away or sold) to the general public by the contestants. The Memphis Italian Festival Committee requests and requires that good taste be used with your conduct as well as your spaghetti gravy. We want each team to have a good time and we want a good atmosphere for those who attend.
16. **CONTESTANTS MAY NOT SELL FOOD, DRINKS, T-SHIRTS, ETC.**
17. The Memphis Italian Festival Committee reserves the right to make additional regulations as the situation warrants.
18. Decisions of the Spaghetti Gravy Cooking Contest Chairmen and Judges are **FINAL**.
19. Violations of rules and regulations of the contest may result in disqualification, expulsion from grounds, and/or disqualification from future participation.
20. **Be sure to read and keep the rules and regulations** for the Memphis Italian Festival Spaghetti Gravy Cooking Contest. Copies of the rules and regulations are available by writing to us at:
Vickie & Richard Ranson
3525 Bruton Branch Road
Savannah, TN 38372
Or you can email us at theransons@bellsouth.net.

21. **Music ** If music in your area becomes too loud or is offensive to your neighbors, you will be asked to Turn it down or be disqualified. NO LIVE BANDS, COMBOS, ETC. WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE INDIVIDUAL COOKING AREAS AT ANY TIME DURING THE EVENT.** There will be NO entertainment (tapes, CDs, singing, etc.) allowed in team areas during the judging starting at 12:00 noon on Saturday.

22. The Memphis Italian Festival Committee is not responsible for tents or other equipment left unattended either before, during or after the contest, even though there will be security guards at the park. Please secure items before leaving the park.

23. **All contestants must adhere to all electrical, fire, and other codes including the city, county, state or federal codes.**

- A. Each contestant must have a Fire Extinguisher of a **2A, 40BC rating. Please check & make sure they are charged.** All tarps and tents must be fire retardant with a certification.
- B. The Festival will supply electricity. **NO** generators are allowed. Spaces will have numbered Duplex Box....please only use your designated outlets.
- C. There are specific guidelines for hanging lights, decorations, etc. We will have all specifications in writing for you at the meeting.
Please carefully read all specifications in Rule #24 below.

24. **Electrical Wiring for Cooking Teams**

Each of the following rules is in place to ensure a safe Italian Festival.

1. Christmas lights or similar ornamental lights, without guards, are not acceptable. All lighting Fixtures must be protected from accidental breakage. **Guards must be provided over light bulbs.** Rope lighting is requested.
2. Extension cords must be securely installed to prevent damage or injury. Attach to the structures, tent legs, etc.
3. **Please put duct tape on all extension cords with your team number on them close to the plug.**
4. Use of **extension cords** at the Memphis Italian Festival. **Teams should bring all extension cords for their use during the festival.**
 - All extension cords shall have UL or Fm approved labels.
 - Shall be three wire grounded type with all pin contacts in place.
 - Will be free of cuts or abrasions that penetrate the outer jacket of the cord exposing the conductors or components inside.
 - The outer jacket may not be repaired with electrical tape or other types of splicing connectors.

- The cord may have new cord cap ends (receptacle or plug ends) (male or female) with proper installation.
 - It is suggested that no cord under **12 gauge** in size be used to provide power from the power distribution boxes put in place by the Memphis Italian Festival.
 - **Damage to equipment due to low voltage will be your responsibility.**
 - **There will be no power strip extensions allowed** (piggy backing).
 - All cords shall be laid in fashion to not cause a trip hazard to any person and shall be protected from damage by foot traffic or equipment movement. All cords and equipment are the responsibility of the provider and shall be maintained throughout the event in a safe manner. You must provide a protective cover (mats) for any cord that runs in a walkway where people may gather or pedestrians may walk, to prevent damage to the cord or the entanglement around a person's foot.
 - **16 gauge cord** if your power load is between 0 to 10 amps and 0 to 100 feet.
 - **14 gauge cord** if your power load is between 10 to 15 amps and 0 to 50 feet.
 - **12 gauge cord** if your power load is between 10 to 15 amps and 50 to 100 feet.
 - **10 gauge cord** if your power load is between 15 to 20 amps and 50 to 100 feet.
5. Easements must be kept clear of anything except power cables at all times. Do **NOT** put your Portable Toilet, boxes, etc. there!
 6. Easements are off limits to everyone except festival personnel.
 7. All metal of conductive structures containing or supporting wiring are to be grounded to the Festival ground network.
 8. **Industrial Consultants** will inspect each cooking team for the compliance of all rules before power is turned on for the festival.
 9. If the rules of above are not followed, power will be turned off to the cooking team that is not in compliance.

Limited power will be available for set up only. Full power for cooking teams will be available by opening of the festival.

If you have any questions or need to make arrangements, please call Vickie & Richard Ranson at (901) 606-5123 or email theransons@bellsouth.net.