



**APRIL 20, 2024**

Go snout to snout at the friendliest amateur BBQ competition in the south! Backyard chefs compete for ultimate bragging rights during the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Battle Below the Clouds, benefiting the Lana's Love Foundation!

**CONTEST ENTRY**

**ELIGIBILITY TO ENTER:** Battle Below the Clouds is an amateur competition and all team members must qualify as amateur backyard cooks as defined by Kansas City Barbeque Society (KCBS) rules. To qualify, *teams may not include any participants who have competed in more than 3 KCBS sanctioned "Master Series" BBQ competitions within the current competition year and teams cannot include participants awarded Grand Champion or Reserve Champion status in any KCBS sanctioned "Master Series" competition.* (Battle Below the Clouds is not a KCBS "Master Series" competition; participation in our competition does not count towards KCBS sanctioned event and award limits.) A team may include one person, or a chief cook with as many assistants as the chief cook deems necessary. The cook must be at least 18-years old. The team captain must reside within 200 miles of Ruby Falls.

**REGISTRATION:** Early registration for previous competitors begins Feb. 16. Registration opens to the public March 1. Entries accepted first-come, first-serve until the maximum number of teams is reached. Registration is not confirmed until entry fee and completed entry form are received.

**ENTRY FEE:** 100% of the entry fee is donated to Lana's Love Foundation. Entry fee is based on the size of the competition site your team requires. Reserve a size that adequately fits your tent and all equipment; including your grill, smoker, tables, chairs, coolers, supplies, and trailer if you plan to bring one. Teams may not exceed the boundaries of their assigned space. Parking will be provided onsite but away from the competition area. Parking is strictly enforced.

Entry fees are as follows:

**\$225 entry fee reserves a 15' x 15' site\***

**\$335 entry fee reserves a 20' x 15' site**

**\$450 entry fee reserves a 30' x 15' site**

*\*A 15'x15' site will not accommodate both a tent and trailer*

**ENTRY FEE INCLUDES:** Entry fee includes competition meat (one 7-9 lbs. pork butt, two racks of ribs and pack of 12 chicken wing drumettes), and one swag bag with two admission tickets to High Point ZIP Adventure at Ruby Falls, two adult Ruby Falls Cave Walk tickets, two Battle Below the Clouds T-shirts, one Battle Below the Clouds apron and awesome swag. Additional t-shirts may be purchased at the event. **All entry fees are donated to Lana's Love Foundation to provide fun activities for Chattanooga area kids with cancer and their families.**

**SET UP**

Teams may set up 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM on April 19 to allow smooth access for all teams. Competition meat is distributed during set up on April 19. A temporary unloading area will be available 4:30 AM – 5:30 AM on the 20th. After 5:30 AM on April 20<sup>th</sup>, direct vehicle access to your site will not be available until the conclusion of the cook-off. Parking is provided onsite but away from the competition area, please plan accordingly. Parking is strictly enforced.

Banners and tent decorations in good taste in your competition area are welcome and encouraged! Water is available on a shared basis. Small portable generators are permitted. Electric hookup is not available.

Camping on Friday night is permitted at your competition site. If you plan to camp, let us know by April 17.

**SAFETY**

Unsafe acts of any kind will result in possible disqualification without entry fee refund. Pets are not permitted in the cooking area. Alcoholic beverages are permitted in the cooking area for those of legal drinking age. Glass bottles and kegs are not permitted. Selling samples of an amateur team's product during the event is not permitted.

**EVENT INFO**

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# RULES OF COMPETITION

- Competitors must qualify as amateur backyard cooks as defined by KCBS rules. (See contest entry info)
- Cooking competition takes place April 20, 5:00 AM to 4:00 PM in the designated area at Ruby Falls. (Cooking of competition meat may begin no earlier than 5:00 AM on April 20)
- Teams may start their fire any time after 11:59 PM, April 19. All fires must be attended.
- Pre-event rubs and marinades are permitted but pre-cooking is not allowed.
- All meat will be inspected to verify it is the official meat provided by Food City.
- All grill and smoker types are permissible.
- Teams may not exceed the boundary of their assigned space.
- **Turn chicken wing entries in the provided container to the official at noon** for judging. Provide 2 wings for each judge to sample (6 wings total). Entries may include any combination of sauces, toppings, and ingredients. Garnish is optional. Sauced entries may use a commercially available sauce or one of their own creation. A panel of 3 judges will score chicken wings on appearance (15%), taste (50%), and tenderness (35%).
- Chicken wing competition winners will be announced at 1:00 PM.
- **Turn in rib entries using the provided container to the official no sooner than 3:20 PM and no later than 3:35PM** in the provided containers. Garnish is optional. Entries may be submitted with or without sauce and must include three to four tastings for each of the 3 judges.
- **Turn in pork butt entry using the provided container to the official no sooner than 3:50 PM and no later than 4:05 PM** in the provided containers. Pork butt entry may be presented as pulled, chopped, or sliced. Garnish is optional. Entry may be submitted with or without sauce and must include three to four tastings for each of the 3 judges.
- Sauced pork entries may use a commercially available sauce or one of their own creation. (Sauce optional)
- A panel of independent judges will score each pork entry. Pork butt and ribs are judged on appearance (20%), tenderness (40%) and taste (40%).
- Judging for pork butt and ribs will be completed by 4:30 PM and awards announced shortly after.
- By entering the cook-off, each team member grants Ruby Falls permission to use their image and/or voice in photographs, video, and audio for any purpose, including but not limited to social media, print media, publications, outdoor advertising, news releases, blogs, digital media, and in other communications related to promotion, advertising and trade without compensation or other consideration.

# AWARDS

The top award and glorious bragging rights will be presented to the **2024 Grand Champion** by earning the highest combined score from rib and pork butt entries. The **2024 Pork Butt Champion** will be awarded to the team with the highest pork butt score. The **2024 Ribs Champion** will be awarded to the team with the highest ribs score. The **2024 Just Wingin' It Champion** will be awarded to the team with the highest chicken wing score. **Second and third place** will be awarded in pork butt, ribs, chicken wings, and Grand Champion categories. The **2024 Jim Brewer People's Choice Award** will be awarded to the team with the most spectator votes for best embodying the essence of fun and friendly competition in support of the Lana's Love Foundation. Awards will be presented on the entertainment stage when judging is completed.

**Door Prizes, Live Bluegrass, Kid's Activities and More!** Register for a chance to win **Atlanta Braves tickets** and a **Solo Smokeless Fire Pit**. Spectators and competitors are eligible to enter. Live bluegrass with the **Jay Brooks Band** and **Lou Wamp and the Bluetastics!** Activities for kids and BBQ for purchase! *Ruby Falls team members and sponsors are not eligible for door prizes.*

