



MAY 3, 2025

Go snout to snout at the friendliest amateur BBQ competition in the south! Backyard chefs compete for ultimate bragging rights during the 10th 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 Eight early registration spots open for previous competitors on Feb. 24 at 10:00 AM. Registration opens to the public at 10 AM on March 3. 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. During registration, teams have the option of reserving one parking space adjacent to the competition area for an additional \$100 donation.

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 on May 2, 4PM – 7PM to allow smooth access for all teams. Competition meat is distributed during set up on May 2. A temporary unloading area will be available, 4:30 AM – 5:30 AM on May 3. After 5:30 AM on May 3, 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. Teams registered for one reserved parking spot adjacent to the competition area will receive a special parking pass to display on their windshield.

Banners and tent decorations in good taste in your competition area are 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 30.

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

Continues on back

RULES OF COMPETITION

- Competitors must qualify as amateur backyard cooks as defined by KCBS rules. (See contest entry info)
- Cooking competition takes place May 3, 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 May 3.
- Teams may start their fire any time after 11:59 PM, May 2. 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.** Provide 2 wings for each judge to sample (6 wings total). Entries may include any combination of sauces, toppings, allowed garnishes, & ingredients. Sauced entries may use a commercially available sauce or one of their own creation. Three judges will score chicken wings on appearance (15%), taste (50%), & 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.** 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)
- If used, garnish is limited to chopped, sliced or whole leaves of fresh green lettuce, curly parsley, flat leaf parsley, curly green kale and/or cilantro.
- A panel of independent judges will score each pork entry. Pork butt and ribs will be 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 **2025 Grand Champion** by earning the highest combined score from rib and pork butt entries. The **2025 Pork Butt Champion** will be awarded to the team with the highest pork butt score. The **2025 Ribs Champion** will be awarded to the team with the highest ribs score. The **2025 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 **2025 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.

FESTIVAL

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 **Mountain Cove Bluegrass 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.*

