

9th Annual Vermont Chili Festival

Saturday, March 11, 2017
1:00-4:00pm
Downtown Middlebury, VT



The 9th Annual Vermont Chili Festival will take place from 1:00-4:00pm on Saturday, March 11th, 2017. Each year, this event brings crowds exceeding 6,000 people to the closed off streets of downtown Middlebury to sample chili and enjoy live entertainment. Once again, the competition will be judged by a panel of guest judges and winners awarded cash prizes. We're also offering a cash prize for best booth, so get creative! **This year, we are introducing a new judged category: Anything But Chili...time to show us what you've got!** (Entrants in this category must enter a chili as well.) We are also allowing the sale of merchandise this year for the first time, which includes things like hats, t-shirts, specialty sauces, etc. Once again, the competition will be broadcast live throughout the day of the Chili Festival by our exclusive radio sponsor, Hall Communications, on their stations 98.9 WOKO and 99.9 The Buzz.

Please join us for the 9th Annual Chili Festival...it's going to be the hottest one yet!

CHILI ENTRY

Contact Info

Business Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email (required): _____

No.	Type of Chili
_____	Beef Chili
_____	Chicken Chili
_____	Pork Chili
_____	Game Chili
_____	Vegetarian Chili
_____	"Kitchen Sink" Chili
_____	Anything But (<i>optional</i>)

_____ I'm entering as an amatuer (5-10 gallons)

Registrations are due by February 18th, 2017 to The Better Middlebury Partnership c/o Wendy Hirdler, 10 Meadow Way, Middlebury, VT 05753 Questions? Email: vermontchilifest@gmail.com or call: (802) 377-1752

Please see page 2 for important instructions and contest rules.

CHILI CONTEST RULES & REGULATIONS

Prior to the Event:

- **All vendors must submit a certificate of insurance made out to the Town of Middlebury with this registration form listing the Better Middlebury Partnership as an additional insured for March 11, 2017; these must be received by the contact listed above prior to the event.**
- Vendors are asked to bring a **minimum of 15 gallons of chili**. The projected attendance will be over 6,000 people and it is important that everyone gets to try your chili! Amateur vendors should consider making 5-10 gallons.
- Vendors must provide their own table, a heat source (electricity will **not** be available), pot, a small 10x10 pop-up tent (in case of inclement weather). Vendors must also provide their own trash bags and must completely remove all the trash that is generated at the site.
- Please provide signage letting the public know who you are and the kind of chili they will taste. Table decorations are encouraged – have fun and use the opportunity to promote yourself! Keep in mind there is no booth or entry fee.
- The road will be closed and event set-up will begin at 10:00am. **Please be fully set-up by 12:00 noon in your designated location.** We will let you know your location after we have received all entries. **It is imperative that vendors set up in their designated area as vendor locations will be printed on directional event maps.**
- Vendors may pull up to their location to unload, but will have designated parking in the Mill Street/Frog Hollow Park-ing Lot. You will be provided a Vendor Parking Pass that will allow access through Park Street. Please leave on-street parking space open for shoppers.

During the Event:

- Participating vendors may sell merchandise. Please have adequate staffing so the chili lines can continue to move quickly. Vendors are encouraged to provide the public with takeaways such as menus, coupons or other promotional material.
- All vendors will be judged together by the panel of guest judges. There will be specific times when judging will take place and the vendor will be responsible for making sure the judges receive their chili. Chili will be judged according to each of the categories as well as Best Overall Chili. The public attendees of the event will also vote for the “Crowd Favorite” and “Best Booth.” Winners in each of the categories will be announced throughout the day. Volunteers will come around to pick up your entry when your category is being judged. A finalized timeline and further instructions for judging will be provided prior to the event.
- Restaurants are strongly encouraged to enter a chili recipe that can be reproduced for sale at their establishment after the contest. Many event attendees like to try the winning chilies in the weeks following the festival. This is also a good chance to enter a signature dish in the “Anything But Chili” category.
- Serving ladles, 4oz cups, spoons and napkins will be provided by The Better Middlebury Partnership and will be distributed before the event begins. The BMP will also be selling bottled water and hot cocoa at various locations throughout the event.
- **Please only serve chili to attendees who have a chili fest button.** Attendees who have paid for chili sampling will be identified by a button. Buttons will be sold for \$6 online prior to the event or \$8 at the door (children under 8 are free). Buttons will be available at all entry points to the event. Entry fees help the Better Middlebury Partnership cover the costs of the event.
- **Please reserve 10oz of chili for overall winner judging!**

After the Event:

- The overall winners and runner-ups, “Crowd Favorite” and “Best Booth” will be announced between 3:00-4:00pm. All winners will be announced in a press release and on social media and the Vermont Chili Fest website following the event. The top three overall winners will receive an engraved plaque to hang in their establishments, to be delivered after the event.
- We will be awarding cash prizes for the winning teams:
 - First place overall will receive \$1,000
 - Second place overall will receive \$750
 - Third place overall will receive \$500
 - First place in each category will receive \$100
 - Anything But Chili will receive \$100
 - Crowd Favorite will receive \$500*
 - Best Booth will receive \$200*
 - Amateur Favorite will receive \$100*

**voted on by event attendees*