



7TH ANNUAL VERMONT CHILI FESTIVAL

Saturday, March 14, 2015

1:00pm-4:00pm

Downtown Middlebury, VT



WELCOME!

The 7th Annual Vermont Chili Festival will take place from 1:00-4:00pm on Saturday, March 14th, 2015 and this year we are really spicing things up! The Chili Fest in the past has brought over 5,000 visitors to the closed off streets of downtown Middlebury to taste chili, meet new vendors, and have fun. This year will feature the annual competition judged by a panel of guest judges with the winners bringing home cash prizes and plaques to hang in their respective establishment! Guest judges this year will include Chef Robert Barral (*Café Provence*) and Alice Levitt (*Alice Eats, Seven Days*). In addition, the competition will be broadcast live throughout the day of the Chili Festival by our exclusive radio sponsor, Hall Communications Radio, on their stations 98.9 WOKO and 99.9 The Buzz! With our panel of guest judges, Hall Communications Radio and their reach of more than a quarter million listeners, plus your chili entry, we expect the 2015 Vermont Chili Festival to be the best one yet!

CHILI ENTRY

Business Name:	_____	No.	Type of Chili Entry
Address:	_____	_____	Beef Chili
City:	_____	_____	Chicken Chili
State / Zip:	_____	_____	Pork Chili
Phone:	_____	_____	Game Chili
Email (<i>required</i>):	_____	_____	Vegetarian Chili
		_____	“Kitchen Sink” Chili

Registrations are due by February 20th, 2015 to The Better Middlebury Partnership c/o Wendy Hirdler, 10 Meadow Way, Middlebury, VT 05753 Questions? Email: vermontchilifest@gmail.com or call: (802) 385-1036

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 14, 2015; 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 5,000 people and it is important that everyone gets to try your chili!
- 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.

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- 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 11:00am. **Please be fully set-up by 12:30 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 Parking 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 are asked **not** to sell any food or merchandise, but 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 seven (7) categories as well as Best Overall Chili. The public attendees of the event will also vote for the “Crowd Favorite”. Winners in each of the seven (7) chili 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.
- Professional vendors are strongly encouraged to enter a chili recipe that can be reproduced for sale at their establishment after the contest. Many event attendees were disappointed that they couldn’t purchase the winning chilies in the weeks following the festival.
- 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 button.** Attendees who have paid for chili sampling will be identified by a button with this year’s design. Buttons will be sold for \$5 online prior to the event or \$7 at the door (children under 8 are free). Buttons will be available at all entry points to the event. Button sales 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 and the “Crowd Favorite” will be announced between 4:30-5pm in the beverage tent. All winners will be announced in press-releases following the event and the first place overall winner will receive a plaque to hang in their establishment.
- **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
 - Crowd Favorite as voted on by the event attendees will receive \$500