

# 2025 Chili Cook-Off Participants' Guide

Welcome, Chili Champions!

Thank you for being part of the **19th Annual United Way Chili Cook-Off**! This guide has everything you need to prepare for a fun, flavorful, and impactful event. Your creativity, enthusiasm, and secret recipes help make this one of Newton's favorite community gatherings and help United Way make a difference all year long.

## Event Details

Saturday, September 27, 2025

11:00 am – 1:30 pm

6<sup>th</sup> Street between Main Street & Poplar, Newton

## What You'll Need to Bring

- 6-8 gallons of chili (ready to serve and kept warm)
- Method to keep chili hot (limited electricity available – 50' 12-gauge extension cords required)
- Booth setup: canopy, table, hand sanitizer, themed décor, signage, and donation jar
- Two volunteers to serve chili
- Optional: Bite-sized treats for Sweet Treat Cook-Off + extra donation jar (\$25 entry fee)

## Promote Your Booth

Get the word out through email, social media, and personal invites. The more people at the event, the more support for United Way—and your booth!

## Booth Decor & Theme Ideas

Creativity counts! Eye-catching themes and costumes attract attention and donations. Juggling clowns, cheerleaders, or fun props—bring the energy!

## Electricity Guidelines

- Limited spots available for \$25
- Must bring your own 50' 12-gauge extension cord
- No cord=no power hookup
- See event staff by 9:30 AM for access

## Day-of Schedule

9:00 AM – Booth setup begins (Enter from Poplar, exit on Main; only one vehicle per booth at a time)

10:45 AM – Chili temp check (must be at 160°F to serve)

11:00 AM – Gates open! Serve 1-ounce samples

12:00 PM – Booth Décor & Pride of the Prairie winners announced

1:00 PM – Donation jars collected at Union State Bank (alley side)

1:25 PM – People's Choice Winners announced

1:30 PM – Booth teardown

## Sweet Treat Cook-Off (Optional)

- Bring bite-sized portions to serve with chili

- Provide separate donation jar
- \$25 entry fee
- Treats judged by People's Choice

## **Event Rules**

- Chili must be the STAR! (red, white, vegan, meaty – all welcome!)
- Arrive hot and ready to serve
- No excessive noise or disruption to neighbors
- Approved toppings: cheese, onions, crackers, jalapenos (no hot dogs!)
- No selling or handing out items of monetary value (to ensure fairness)

## **Contact Info**

Got questions? Need help?

Email: [director@uwhmc.org](mailto:director@uwhmc.org)

Call: 316-283-7101

## **Chili Cook-Off Checklist**

- ☐ 6-8 gallons of chili, fully cooked and hot
- ☐ Method to keep chili warm (cord or other)
- ☐ Booth décor, signage, and donation jar
- ☐ Hand sanitizer, gloves and other booth materials
- ☐ Sweet Treat supplies + extra donation jar (if entering)
- ☐ 2 volunteers to serve
- ☐ 50' extension cord if using electricity