Moontower Saloon BBQ Cook Off 2026

Saturday, October 3, 2026 (rain or shine)

***** Only first 30 teams accepted *****

$10,000 MAX PAYOUT

RULES

SET UP:

The cook off will be held at Moontower Saloon. Teams may start setting up on **Friday, October 2 at 12:30 pm. Teams must check in on arrival.** There will be Moontower Saloon BBQ Committee Members on hand to sign you in, direct teams to their assigned location, inspect uncooked meats and answer any questions. There will be a **mandatory Cooks Meeting** on Friday, October 2 at 6:00 pm.

ENTRY FEE:

- $250.00 (includes all 3 meat categories)
- $50.00 (RV site)

MEAT CATEGORIES:

Brisket	Pork Ribs (no baby back)	½ Chicken (intact)

TEAMS MUST ADHERE TO THE FOLLOWING RULES:

- Supply their own equipment
- Provide their own electricity and water
- No alcohol may be brought on property
- Attend Cooks Meeting at 6:00 pm on Friday
- Turn in entries at the specified times below
- Return cook-off site to its original condition by 10:00 am on Sunday (dumpsters will be provided)
- One assigned space per team
- No vehicles allowed at assigned team space
- Head Cook will be held responsible for the conduct of his/her team and guests

MEAT INSPECTION:

Meats are to be inspected by a Moontower Saloon BBQ Committee Member on Friday. Teams will receive a meat inspection form which must be presented on Friday between 4:00 - 6:00 pm to receive your judging trays. All meat must be presented to inspectors in a raw state. Pre-cooked, pre-seasoned, or marinated meat is not allowed. All preparation and cooking may begin after inspection is complete. All meat must be cooked on-site.

COOKS MEETING (MANDATORY):

At least one cook from each team must attend the Cooks Meeting on Friday, October 2 at 6:00 pm. Teams must bring their meat inspection form to the meeting to be issued judging trays. Specifics of meat judging, turn-in times, thickness, number of slices and quantities to turn in will be discussed at the Cooks Meeting.

Teams may use any type of barbecue pit or smoker they choose. However, open fires, ground pits or gas grills are not allowed. All meats must be cooked over a wood or wood product fire. Only one team per pit is allowed.

Teams are to prepare and cook in as sanitary a manner as possible. Cooking conditions are subject to inspection by Moontower Saloon BBQ Committee Members. Unsanitary conditions are cause for team disqualification.

SATURDAY TURN-IN TIMES and JUDGING:

Chicken – 12:00 pm
Pork Ribs – 1:30 pm
Brisket – 3:00 pm

The double-numbered ticket system will be used for judging. Judges will base their decisions on taste, tenderness, aroma and appearance. All entries submitted to the judges must be free of garnishments or sauces. Meats may be cooked with sauces but must not be added to the judging trays. Garnishing is cause for disqualification.

Teams are responsible for delivering their entries to the judging table – to be identified in the Cooks Meeting on Friday. Judging trays must have tickets attached and be free of damage or any markings. Markings are cause for team disqualification. There will be a 10-minute window before and after the actual turn-in time to submit entries. Decisions of the Moontower Saloon BBQ Committee and the Head Judge are final.

AWARDS CEREMONY:

Awards Ceremony will be Saturday evening at 5:30 pm. Location will be identified at the Cooks Meeting. Teams must present their tickets to receive awards.

Moontower Saloon reserves the right to make additional rules or requirements if needed.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER:

Entry form and fee must be turned in at Moontower Saloon, 10212 Manchaca Rd., Austin, TX 78748, no later than **Wednesday, September 30, 2026.**

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ENTRY FORM

(Make checks payable to: *Austin's Moontower Saloon*)

☐ **$250 Entry Fee** ☐ **$50 RV Site**

Team Contact Information

Team Name: _____

Head Cook: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Assigned Space: _____

(Moontower BBQ Committee to assign space number)

Waiver

I, the undersigned, hereby waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages against Moontower Saloon or its authorized agents. I agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the 2026 Moontower Saloon BBQ Cook Off.

Signature of Head Cook: _____

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If you have additional questions, contact Lou at 512-563-9438**.**

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PAYOUT

Brisket/Pork Ribs/Chicken

Payout amounts for each meat category:

1st Place:	$750.00
2nd Place:	$550.00
3rd Place:	$450.00
4th Place:	$400.00
5th Place:	$350.00

Reserve Grand Champion

$1,000.00

Grand Champion

$1,500.00