

September 18, 2023

MEMORANDUM

To: District 12 County Extension Agents

Subject: 2024 DISTRICT 12 4-H FOOD CHALLENGE

Food Challenge Planning Committee:

Stephanie Bowman, Chair

Kimberly De La Garza FCH, Lilan Mezquida
FCH, Gloria Carter FCH, Joanne Ureste-
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Sifuentes FCH

The District 12 4-H Food Challenge will be held on Saturday, November 11, 2023 in Falfurrias, Texas at Falfurrias High School located at 100 Jersey Dr., Falfurrias, Texas.

Specific details about the District 12 4-H Food Challenge are in the enclosed Food Challenge Packet. The packet includes rules, agenda, agent assignments and guidelines for participation in the District 12 4-H Food Challenge. It is also available on the District 12 4-H website (<http://d124-h.tamu.edu>). Additional resources are available on the Food & Nutrition page of the Texas 4-H website <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/food-nutrition/>. Please contact the District Office if you have any questions about these resources.

Parents will be directed to a designated waiting area. Agents, please advise parents that they are not allowed in the judging area while youth are being judged.

FOOD CHALLENGE SCHEDULE:

8:00 am - 10:30 am	Senior Registration
8:30 am- 9:00 am	Judge's Orientation
9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Senior Food Challenge Competition
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	District 12 4-H Council Meeting
1:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Junior & Intermediate Registration
1:30 pm – 5: 30 pm	Junior & Intermediate Food Challenge Competition
5:30 pm	Awards Ceremony (Food Show, Food Challenge, Consumer Decision Making)

Registration, Fees & Deadline: Each 4-Her participating in the District 12 4-H Food Challenge must register online through **4-H Online**. There will be a registration fee of \$15.00 per contestant. Registration will open October 2nd through the deadline of October 30th. Counties must have all entries approved by November 1st.

There will not be a late registration period. **NO refunds** will be given to a county and/or individual. This makes it very important for each registration to be correct. Payment is due prior to the event date. Please note, once you submit your registration for approval, you are agreeing to fulfill payment for registration regardless of whether or not you attend this event.

Team Information:

- There will be **3** age divisions this year.
 - Seniors (9th – 12th graders only)
 - Intermediates (6th – 8th graders*) – * *Juniors may be on an Intermediate team.*
 - Juniors (3rd – 5th graders)

- Senior teams must consist of 9th-12th graders **only** and must compete at District to be eligible to advance to the State competition.
- Teams consist of at least (3) three but no more than (4) four team members.
- Counties may enter a maximum of 2 Junior teams, 2 Intermediate teams and 2 Senior teams.
- A mixed team of Junior and Intermediate team members can compete but must do so in the Intermediate division.

Supply Boxes: Every team must complete, sign, and turn in the Supply Box Certification Form (Attachment B) when they arrive at the contest. It must be signed by a team member and a parent/leader for the respective team affirming that their supply box includes only those items listed in the 2023-2024 Texas 4- H Food Challenge Manual. There are changes from the previous year.

Upon arrival, one team member must submit the form to the Supply Box Check-in Superintendent. Each team will be randomly selected for a complete inspection of their supply box. Other teams will not be required to undergo the inspection; however, spot inspectors will be monitoring all teams for compliance. Any team that is out of compliance will receive penalty points or may be disqualified.

Each team will be responsible for purchasing and bringing their own pantry items that are part of their supply box. Pantry items are listed on the Supply Box Certification Form (Attachment B). No additional pantry items may be included in their supply box, only what is on the list.

Supplies: Every team will receive a “key” ingredient for the contest category (Appetizer, Main Dish, Side Dish, or Healthy Dessert). Teams will have access to a grocery which should be combined with the team’s “key” ingredient to create an original recipe/dish during the contest. Grocery items will include items commonly found in grocery stores and or home pantries, including items such as produce, seasonings, oils, etc. Teams must use at least 2 additional items from the grocery store to create their dish.

Rules: Team members should familiarize themselves with the “Rules of Play” as stated in the 2023-2024 Texas Food Challenge Manual. There is a “no cell phone” policy for team members during the contest. Cell phones are not permitted at any time during the contest including use as a calculator. Any participant caught using a cell phone, for any purpose, will be automatically disqualified from the team and asked to wait in the parent/volunteer waiting area.

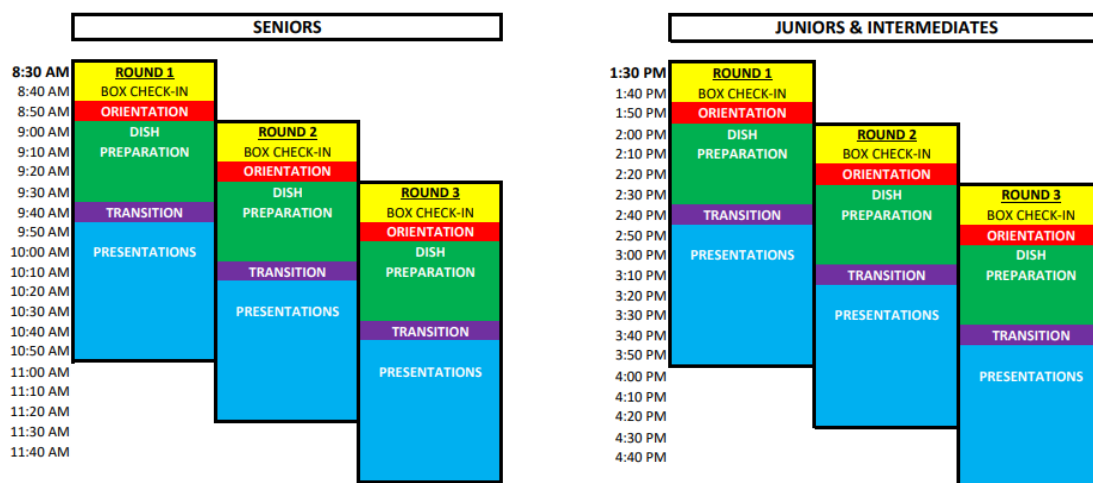
Finished dishes MAY NOT leave the preparation/judging areas. Dishes will be discarded after teams complete the judging process to ensure teams in the following heats do not see what ingredients are available to take advantage of.

CEA Responsibilities/Volunteer Information: Please see (Attachment C) for a detailed list of agent assignments. All assigned agents are responsible for reviewing information and preparing for their specific assignment.

Volunteers: The County Extension Agent from each participating county must contact, confirm and submit the names and information of two (2) adult leaders to assist as judges during the District 12 4-H Food Challenge. A link is provided on the District 4-H website (Food Challenge page) to submit this

information. You may use (**Attachment D**) to organize the information; however, the online submission must be completed by **October 30th**.

Schedule: This year, food challenge teams will compete in heats to assist with electricity, help with continuity of judging, and have less sitting time for the 4-H'ers. The counties will be contacted the week of Food Challenge to let them know what Heat # to report to. More heats may be added depending on the number of teams competing. **Once 4-H'ers go into the judging area, no food will be allowed to come out of the food challenge competition or judging area. An agent will be responsible for taking team photos with their dish as 4-H'ers will then immediately dispose of their dish so that no teams will be at an advantage or disadvantage in the various heats of competition.**



**The schedule provided above is tentative and may be altered by the District 12 Food Challenge planning committee based upon the number of participants and facilities. It was developed to cut down on wait time of participants.*

Be sure to read this letter in its entirety and share the necessary information with county faculty, 4-H'ers, parents and leaders. Recruit the appropriate people needed to fulfill any responsibilities and submit the requested information by the **deadline of October 30, 2023**.

If you have any questions or need any assistance or guidance, please contact the District Office.

Sincerely,

Grace Marshall
District 12 4-H Specialist
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
Texas 4-H Youth Development

Ruben J. Saldana
Senior District Extension Administrator
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
District 12

cc: District 12 4-H Council
District 12 County Extension Agents
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