

7th Annual Southeastern Cowboy Gathering
Chuck Wagon Cook Off
Hosted by the Booth Western Art Museum

This event is designed to educate the public about the importance of the chuck wagon to the cowboys of the mid to late 1800s cattle drive era. Chuck wagons, the food prepared and the dress of the crew members, to the extent possible, should be authentic to that period. Crew members should interact with the public and describe what they are doing as often as they are able, without sacrificing the quality of their food or falling behind schedule.

The Museum will provide each team with a box of food during the cooks' meeting. Each team will receive the same ingredients: meat, beans, cooking oil, flour, sugar, fruit, potatoes, and onions. Crews are responsible for bringing all other ingredients they will need to prepare their dishes. Ingredients used should be limited to those that would have been reasonably available during the cattle drive era. The Museum will also provide water (for cooking, clean-up and drinking), ice, and the plates, cups and utensils for serving the public.

Each team will prepare five dishes with enough for the judges and 50 ticket holders. The five dishes will be potatoes, beans, bread, dessert, and meat. A further description of each dish is provided in the rules.

Crews should plan to arrive Friday, March 12th. Each wagon will be assigned a space in the Festival Grounds, north of the Museum, upon arrival. All wagons should be in place and ready for judging by 3:00 pm that afternoon. The actual score sheet to be used by the wagon judges is attached for your reference. The cooks meeting will be held at 4:30 pm in the cooking area. Wagon judging will be suspended during the meeting. Preparation and cooking may begin any time following the cooks' meeting. Cooks will turn in their entries at High Noon on Saturday, March 13th. Crews will serve ticket holders as soon as you are ready after turn-in until 1:00. The awards will be announced at 2:00 near the cooking area.

Each entrant is required to send a \$100 registration fee along with their entry form to the Museum by February 19th. These checks will be returned to each crew upon arrival at the Museum. Each team will be presented with \$200 in appearance money at the awards ceremony. First, second and third places will be awarded in each food category and wagon judging. First place will earn \$300, second place will earn \$200, and third place \$100. The team earning the most total points in all six categories will win "Best All-Around" and a \$500 bonus prize.

For more information or to register, contact Doc Stovall at 770-387-1265 or docs@boothmuseum.org.

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Rules and Regulations

1. A team may consist of three to five members.
2. Only team members are allowed in the cooking area! One team member should remain in the cooking area at all times for fire safety reasons. Please interact with the public, but do not invite them into the cooking area until all cooking is completed.
3. Alcohol consumption and tobacco use are not permitted on the grounds of the Booth Western Art Museum.
4. Ingredients cannot be precooked and must be combined, chopped, sliced, or diced during the competition, on site.
5. All cooking must be done over a wood fire or using coals from a wood fire. Teams must bring their own wood.
6. The Museum will provide each team with numbered containers for their entries. These numbers will be different from the wagon number, making it double-blind. All entries must be presented to the judge's table on time, **NO EXCEPTIONS**. Time warnings will be given periodically throughout the cook off. Once all entries have been submitted to the judges, crews may serve the public.
7. There should be no eating in the cooking area.
8. Use good fire safety practices. Keep yourself and the public safe.
9. Know and practice safe food handling procedures. Teams should provide dishwashing facilities and sanitation supplies. Coolers should be used for all refrigerated items. Keep hot foods above 140° and cold foods below 40°. There should be no finger licking. Tasting utensils must be washed immediately after use. Wash cutting boards between meats and vegetables to avoid cross-contamination.
10. Contestants will be cooking under the umbrella of the Booth Museum's food permit and should follow all safety rules to insure compliance with local regulations.
11. Interaction with the public is encouraged. Please be courteous in sharing cooking information.

12. The following dishes are required of all teams: meat – cook's choice with the exception of chili; potatoes – cook's choice with the exception of potato salad; beans – cook's choice; dessert – cook's choice using the fruit provided; bread – sourdough, plain, or corn entries are acceptable.

13. No prepared spice mixes, flour based mixes, prepared sauces, mayonnaise, sour cream or other modern ingredients are allowed.

14. A panel of local qualified judges will judge the food entries and all judges' decisions are final.

The Booth Western Art Museum and the 7th Annual Southeastern Cowboy Gathering are not responsible for accidents or damage incurred during the cook off.

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Registration Form

Please complete this form and sign at the bottom acknowledging you have read the attached rules and regulations for this competition and return it to the Museum along with your \$100 registration fee. This check will be returned to you at the cook's meeting.

Team/Wagon Name: _____

Team Captain: _____

Team Members: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: (Day) _____ (Evening) _____

Email Address: _____

I have read the rules and regulations for the 7th Annual Southeastern Cowboy Gathering Chuck Wagon Cook Off and agree to abide by these rules and regulations throughout the competition. I acknowledge that all judge's decisions are final.

Team Captain Signature

Date

Please return this form along with your \$100 registration fee to:

Booth Western Art Museum
501 Museum Drive
P.O. Box 3070
Cartersville, GA 30120
770-387-1300
www.boothmuseum.org