

2017 NATIONAL COWBOY SYMPOSIUM & CELEBRATION[®]

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP CHUCK WAGON COOK-OFF[®]



SEPTEMBER 8 - 10, 2017

POLICIES, RULES AND AWARDS

ENTRY: Mail an entry fee check of \$100.00 (which will be refunded upon your arrival at the event) with the completed entry form to NCSC Cook-Off, P.O. Box 6638, Lubbock, TX 79493.

NEW - Each wagon registering by July 1st, 2017 will receive \$200 travel money.

Wagons registering after the deadline will receive \$100 travel money.

We recognize your extensive efforts to be here, and we sincerely thank you for contributing to this event!

CHUCKWAGON PERSONNEL: A designated head cook, two assistant cooks and a helper shall comprise the official crew of your wagon. Only the registered individuals may be involved in the preparation and cooking of the contest food at your wagon. These members must be listed on the entry form. Any changes to this registered crew must be reported to the cook-off officials prior to the contest starting. Only after the food samples are sent to the Judges Tent, additional personnel may assist with serving and cleanup. Wagons exceeding the four designated for the contest cooking crew will be disqualified from the food competition. Name badges will be provided to the individual members of this entered team. Name badges will admit each registered team member to the day sessions and night performances without charge.

JUDGES: The judges will be named and confirmed at a later time. They will be qualified and reputable with a separate group of three judges to judge each food item (15 judges) and a group of three or more judges to judge the wagons and camp.

YOUTH CONTEST: A Youth Cooking Contest will be conducted if there are entries. The contestants will prepare either a potato or desert item – to be determined at the event. Please let us know if you would be willing to participate with our youth entries. There is an entry form enclosed to indicate your willingness to help youth learn how to cook! Please return the completed Youth Contest form to the same address below.

WAGON AND CAMP POLICIES

The wagon and camp judging will occur on Friday, September 8th, at Noon. See Guidelines for wagons.

SPACE ASSIGNMENTS: Based on current available space, we can only guarantee space for the first 20 wagons entered - **ENTRY DEADLINE JULY 1st**. This deadline will allow tickets to be sold early for the event, therefore we will need to know how many wagons are participating early.

Spaces will be reserved for the wagons that assist with cooking the Sunday breakfast. All other wagons will be assigned space based on the entry card return date and on a first-come, first served basis. All wagons are to be in place and ready for judging at Noon on Friday, September 8th.

Upon arrival at the NCSC chuck wagon area, please check in with the chuck wagon office first before unloading your wagon. There will be no driving or parking on the grass camp areas. Each wagon will have an assigned space. More information will be sent to all entering wagons.

COOK-OFF RULES & POLICIES

REQUIRED MEETINGS:

The Chairman and Cooks meeting will begin at 4:00 p.m. Friday, September 8th.

The rules and procedures will be reviewed, times for delivering food samples and judging on Saturday, and questions will be addressed. A cooks' supper is then scheduled for 6:00 p.m. and all wagon teams are invited to eat – the NCSC Crew will be cooking the meal. NCSC will provide dry goods for participating wagons at that time. The NCSC Advisory Board members will also be guests at the supper.

MATERIALS FURNISHED BY NCSC:

1. **Camp wood in limited quantity.** Cooks must furnish cooking wood.
2. **Food Products:** Meat (cutlets for chicken fried steak), potatoes, onions, cooking oil, pinto beans, eggs, fruit, flour, sugar, butter and milk will be furnished as basic items needed for the preparation of the meal. Any special spices or flavorings must be furnished by the wagon.
3. **Ice:** Three 20 pound bags of ice per wagon. Please request additional ice if needed.
4. **Water:** 5 gal. bottled water will be provided to each wagon for cooking purposes.
5. **Paper Goods:** All drinks, plates, eating utensils, cups and napkins.

FOOD RULES: Failure to follow the outlined rules, both in this document and at the Cooks' meeting, will result in disqualification of the food entries from competition. Organization officials will be checking your camp periodically.

1. Menu shall consist of: Chicken fried steak, gravy, pinto beans, potatoes (choice of method of preparation), fruit cobbler/crisp/pie dessert and bread. When serving the public, gravy must be offered at every wagon. Failure to follow the prescribed public menu will result in disqualification of the food entries.
2. Perishable products will be refrigerated and shall be distributed Saturday morning from a refrigerated truck on the site starting at 6:00 a.m. Wagons must have coolers available to receive perishable product, and personnel must be present to sign for the food.
3. Biscuits and pastry may be sourdough, yeast or plain. Cornbread may be prepared in lieu of biscuits or rolls.
4. All desserts will be made only with the fruit provided by the NCSC. No additional fruit or separately purchased fruit is allowed.
5. The judges will settle any disputes or violations of the contest rules. The decisions of the judges are final.

OTHER RULES:

1. Each wagon must be prepared to feed a maximum of 50 ticket holders. You will be notified of the exact number you are cooking for at the Cook's meeting. Please portion your food so you do not run out of food before you have served all ticket holders. You will be provided food to serve ticket holders plus your crew. **The food that is served to the public must be prepared the same as that which is submitted for judging.** Meat must be chicken fried and gravy offered with the meat and potatoes for serving the public - that is what we promote for ticket sales and therefore what we must have available to serve.
2. All cooking must be on wood fires – no gas fueled fires allowed. Dutch oven liners will be allowed.
3. Each wagon should have a fire extinguisher accessible within the camp at all times (after wagon judging).
4. Food delivery for judging on Saturday will be discussed at the Cooks meeting on Friday afternoon. Each food item is to be placed in a separate numbered container provided by the NCSC. There will be no other marking on the containers. Any extra marking will disqualify the entry for that category. Delivery of food to the judging area will be restricted to a 15 minute time interval from 11:30-11:45 on Saturday with no exceptions.
5. The chief cook will be responsible for the cleanliness of his or her area, during and after the contest, as well as the conduct of the team. Please be sure to cover any holes and pick up all coals and ashes from the ground before leaving the site. Compliance with Lubbock Health Department Rules is required. Copies of the rules will be available at the Cooks meeting. Hot water for hand washing is required. Triple wash/rinse facilities are required.
6. All wagons shall remain in place until after the Sunday morning devotional is concluded unless special permission is granted for earlier departure by the Wagon Boss.
7. **NO ANIMALS** will be allowed in campgrounds due to city health regulation – no exceptions.
8. No advertising or promotions except those approved by the NCSC will be allowed anywhere at the venue.
9. All motor vehicles must be parked away from the wagons in the designated lot – no exceptions permitted. Our volunteers will be available to assist you with directions to the appropriate area. Any vehicle parked in the fire lanes will be towed with no notice, per the Lubbock Fire Marshall's regulations. In the interest of authenticity and to present a less cluttered look for the photographers, we ask that you cooperate with no vehicles or trailers remaining on the chuckwagon grounds after Friday night set up.
10. Campers, trailers, or motor homes will have designated parking areas at the site, and must check with the chuck wagon office for instructions before parking.
11. The NCSC will not be responsible for theft, damage or accidents. We will have a security guard on the grounds on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, but each wagon is responsible for their own property and securing it nightly. Do not leave valuables exposed overnight at the camp site.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS:

Please use our host hotels! This helps keep the cost of the event down for all. The NCSC has been able to secure special rates for a block of rooms at the MCM Elegante Hotel & Suites (formerly Holiday Inn Hotel Towers) during the event. The number of rooms is limited, so please respond as soon as possible to take advantage of this special offer and secure your crew rooms well ahead of the event. After the room blocks are full or the deadline is reached, the room rates will go up to regular rates and our discounted rate is no longer in effect. All hotels in Lubbock are doing this now, so please be sure to get your reservations early regardless of where you are staying!

Room blocks are only held at the hotel until 2 weeks before our event.

Please do not hesitate in making a reservation – Lubbock is busy every weekend, and there could be a Texas Tech home game which makes rooms more scarce.

MCM Elegante Hotel & Suites
Formerly Holiday Inn Hotel & Towers
801 Avenue Q
(806)763-1200

Deadline for Room reservations is August 31st

We will post more hotels on the web site at www.cowboy.org as they become available with room block.

CHECK OUR WEB SITE FOR SCHEDULES AND LAST MINUTE UPDATES AT:

www.cowboy.org

CONTACT US:

NCSC Office: (806)798-7825 Fax: (806)798-1290

NCSC Email: cowboysymposium@suddenlink.net

NCSC Executive Director and Chair: Monica Hightower

National Championship Chuck Wagon Cook-Off Chair: Farris Hightower

GUIDELINES FOR WAGONS

TRAIL WAGONS

The wagon should be historically correct, authentically restored or authentic replicas, drivably sound, with wagon bed at least two sideboards high, painted or unpainted, with or without Dutch oven boot or possum belly. Wagons should be equipped with the following:

1. A complete brake system.
2. Spring seat mounted on the wagon.
3. Complete wooden tongue assembly, with tongue cap, neck yoke, or tongue chains, doubletree and singletrees, wheel wrench and stay chains.
4. Wooden wagon wheels. Wagon should be in drivable condition.
5. One set of team harness (two horse or mule hitch) displayed on wagon tongue or in a location at the cook's discretion.
6. Four or five wooden wagon bows mounted on wagon, a canvas wagon sheet with wagon.
7. 30/50 gallon wooden water barrel.
8. Old style chuckbox/toolbox made with regular lumber (no plywood).
9. Campsite appearance must be authentic. The cooks should dress historically correct including hats (no caps).
10. All food must be cooked on site over wood burning fires. NOTE: Expanded grates and windshields will be permitted.

RANCH WAGONS

Ranch wagons must be in useable condition. The rules are the same as Trail wagons – with these exceptions: Wagon tire or pipe bows, metal water containers (no aluminum), plywood accepted for chuck box, nylon ropes and tents, sides for wagon tents, metal wood burning stoves and metal work tables/chairs.

SUGGESTED COOKING EQUIPMENT – TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Pots, pans and eatin' irons. Cooper, brass, graniteware and case iron preferred, some old aluminum. Coffee pots and cups must be graniteware or tin. Forks, knives and spoons should be old German or nickel silver, steel, or steel with wood or bone handles, or granite enamelware. A meat saw, cleaver and clock.

Large metal cans with tight fitting lids for flour, cornmeal, salt, sugar and beans. Metal cans or wooden boxes, sourdough kegs or crocks. Flour sacks for aprons and dish towels. Dish pans or small tubs, hand crank coffee grinders, Dutch ovens, pothooks and pot racks to set over fire.

Heavy hammer, single bit axe, a two-man crosscut saw or bow saw, a brace and bits and a drawing knife. Water bucket, long handled dipper (tin, graniteware, or gourd) and wash pan. 30-50 gallon water barrel, kerosene lanterns, stake pins, rawhide and rope hobbles. Rope horse pens or picket line may be displayed.

CAMPSITE – Tents and cowboy teepees and bedrolls must be canvas. Period saddles and cowboy bedrolls should be used. You must be able to load everything into your wagon. If you cannot do this you have too much equipment.