



The Great Grits Cookoff and Festival

Cook Teams:

We are excited to have each of you at the 10th Annual Gipson's Tire Pros Great Grits Cook Off. It is hard to believe that we are already in year ten. The cook off is a fundraiser supporting the Coach a Child Scholarship Fund. Your YMCA gave scholarships to over 3300 deserving children, families, and senior adults unable to participate in YMCA activities due to financial hardship. Those scholarships totaled more than \$330,000.

If you are committed as a vendor, here is the information you will need to know for Saturday, October 21st. This information should make your arrival, unloading, and set up go smoothly. So, here you go...

Awards

- **The "Grits Champion Award"** will be presented to the team with the best tasting grits in each division. A runner up award will also be presented in this category. In addition, we will present the Gipson's Tire Pros Golden Grit Bowl to the overall winner, regardless of division.
- **"Best Presentation Award"** will go to the cook team with the best decorations at their booth. We are looking for the team that best reflects the atmosphere of a "Grits" Cook-Off and their own business. This award will be judged on effort, creativity, and originality. A runner-up award will also be given. Scoring for this category is separate and has no impact on the judging of the grit's dishes submitted to the food judges. All teams are considered for the "Best Presentation Award" regardless of how their dishes score or place.
- **"People's Choice Award"** will be presented to the team that raises the most money at their table. Teams are encouraged to solicit donations based on people's enjoyment of their grits. Teams may use whatever method they desire to raise money (raffles, give-a-ways, etc.). As you can imagine, we do not make much money on your entry fee so this category is very important to the success of the cookoff. Please be creative to make sure your team is active in raising money. **All donations will benefit the Coach a Child Scholarship Fund.**

Set Up

- **Remember that you provide your own tent and table as well as what you choose to decorate your area. We will provide the serving cups, spoons and napkins.**

- You are welcomed and encouraged to decorate and set up your table and tent on Friday afternoon or early evening. Your booth will be marked with a painted number on the grass. You will have a 15x15 area for your team
- You will be sent a map on how to enter the cook team area. You can use the vendor and cook team entrance or the front entrance of the Y to come set up on Friday only. On Saturday you will need to use the back entrance shown in the map.
- You will receive a list of cook teams, assigned booth numbers as well as a map of the booth layout on Wednesday, October 13th. If for some reason we need to change the layout, I will email it to you on Thursday evening.

Saturday Morning

- It is important that you are completely set up and ready to do business by 8:45. Runners that will be completing the race will want to sample your grits.
- For unloading on Saturday morning, please use the map that will be provided to unload.
- You will be given an approximate time that someone will come and get your dish to present to the judges. You can use the attached score card to determine how you want to present your dish to the judges, including whether you use the provided taster cup or another cup/bowl of your choice.
- Teams are asked to prepare 10-12 gallons of grits. Teams need to provide a way to keep the grits warm.
- The YMCA will provide the serving napkins, taster cups (2 oz), and taster spoons.
- The grits tents are open from 9 am – 12:00 pm. Awards will be presented around 11:45.
- Remember, there is no electricity. Your best option is propane tanks. Generators are welcome as long as they are quiet (Honda Generators)

We are expecting a big crowd with the addition of the Nitty Gritty 5K Race and Fun Run. The cookoff is a great way to promote your business. If you have additional questions, feel free to give me a call at 358-9622 or on my cell phone at 799-3054.

Thanks for your participation!