

HOME CHEF CHALLENGE

HOME CHEF CHALLENGE JUDGING SCHEDULE

Thursday, October 15th, 2026 at 4 PM
BLUE RIBBON BRUNCH BOARD CHALLENGE

Presented By: N.C. State Fair

Friday, October 16th, 2026 at 11 AM
HOLY GUACAMOLE! CHALLENGE

Presented By: N.C. State Fair

Saturday, October 17th, 2026 at 11 AM
BOO-ZY SWEET TREAT CHALLENGE

Presented By: The Distillers Association Of North Carolina



Sunday, October 18th, 2026 at 11 AM
DELIGHTFUL DIPS CHALLENGE

Presented By: N.C. State Fair

Monday, October 19th, 2026 at 11 AM
SWEETPOTATO SHOWDOWN CHALLENGE

Presented By: N.C. State Fair

Tuesday, October 20th, 2026 at 11 AM
"CHEEZ-Y DOES IT" CHEEZ-IT CHALLENGE

Presented By: N.C. State Fair



Wednesday, October 21st, 2026 at 11 AM
BLESS YOUR TART! CHALLENGE

Presented By: N.C. State Fair

Thursday, October 22nd, 2026 at 11 AM
"EAST TO WEST" PORK BBQ CHALLENGE

Presented By: Smithfield Foods

Friday, October 23rd, 2026 at 11 AM
"NUTTY BY NATURE" PEANUT CANDY CHALLENGE

Presented By: N.C. State Fair

Saturday, October 24th, 2026 at 11 AM
"STEW-PENDOUS" BRUNSWICK STEW CHALLENGE

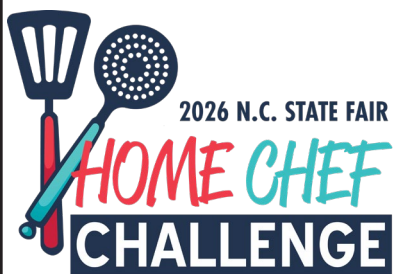
Presented By: N.C. State Fair

Sunday, October 25th, 2026 at 11 AM
"LAYER IT UP" LASAGNA CHALLENGE

Presented By: N.C. State Fair

Smithfield.
Good food. Responsibly.®

HOME CHEF CHALLENGE



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15TH, 2026

BLUE RIBBON BRUNCH BOARD CHALLENGE



ENTRY TAKE-IN: 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

JUDGING: 4 PM

DIVISION 101: THURSDAY, OCT 15 - BLUE RIBBON BRUNCH BOARD

PREMIUMS

CLASS

1st 2nd 3rd

01 - Amateur Home Cook

\$250 \$150 \$100

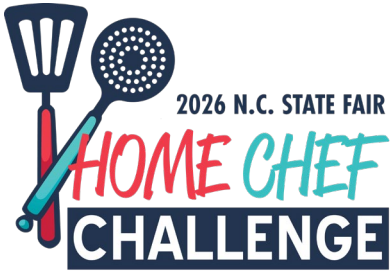
02 - Professional

\$250 \$150 \$100

Bring us your most artistic brunch-themed charcuterie board design, with at least 50% of your board being comprised of homemade treats. Let the judges decide whose brunch board is deserving of the blue ribbon.

Please read through the Rules & Regulations and the Entry Take-In instructions prior to entry.

HOME CHEF CHALLENGE



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16TH, 2026

HOLY GUACAMOLE! CHALLENGE



ENTRY TAKE-IN: 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

JUDGING: 11 AM

DIVISION 102: FRIDAY, OCT 16 - HOLY GUACAMOLE!

PREMIUMS

CLASS

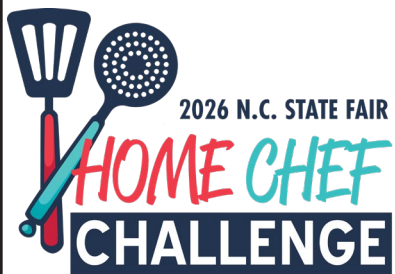
- 01 - Amateur Home Cook
- 02 - Professional

	1st	2nd	3rd
01 - Amateur Home Cook	\$250	\$150	\$100
02 - Professional	\$250	\$150	\$100

Holy Guacamole! It's time to bring us your best guacamole recipe that will bring the fiesta to the judges' taste buds. Be sure to bring your best dipping tool to dish it out with.

Please read through the Rules & Regulations and the Entry Take-In instructions prior to entry.

HOME CHEF CHALLENGE



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17TH, 2026

BOO-ZY SWEET TREAT CHALLENGE



PRESENTED BY:



**DISTILLERS ASSOCIATION OF
NORTH CAROLINA**

ENTRY TAKE-IN: 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

JUDGING: 11 AM

DIVISION 103: SATURDAY, OCT 17- BOO-ZY SWEET TREAT

PREMIUMS

CLASS

01 - Amateur Home Cook

02 - Professional

1st

2nd

3rd

\$250

\$150

\$100

\$250

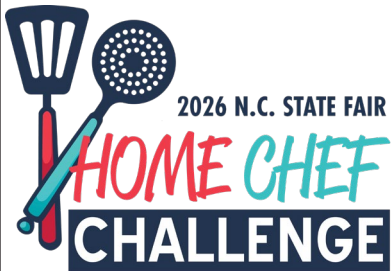
\$150

\$100

Everyone loves a good sweet treat during the spooky Halloween season. Bring us your boo-ziest Halloween-themed dessert that features one of North Carolina's best spirits.

All entries & recipes must include a product from an eligible distillery listed on the next page.
Please read through the Rules & Regulations and the Entry Take-In instructions prior to entry.

HOME CHEF CHALLENGE



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17TH, 2026 BOO-ZY SWEET TREAT CHALLENGE



PRESENTED BY:



**DISTILLERS ASSOCIATION OF
NORTH CAROLINA**

ONLY PRODUCTS FROM THE FOLLOWING DISTILLERIES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE BOO-ZY SWEET TREAT CHALLENGE:

- 1 - 712 Vodka
- 2 - Biltmore Estate Wine Co.
- 3 - Bogue Sound Distillery, Inc.
- 4 - BHAWK
- 5 - Broad Branch Distillery
- 6 - Buffalo City Distillery
- 7 - Call Family Distillers
- 8 - Cape Fear Winery and Distillery
- 9 - Cedar Mountain Moonshine
- 10 - City Walk Brewing & Distilling
- 11 - Crush Vodka
- 12 - Defiant Whisky
- 13 - Durham Distillery
- 14 - Eda Rhyne Distilling Company
- 15 - End of Days Distillery
- 16 - Fair Game Beverage Company
- 17 - Hidden Ships Distillery
- 18 - Liberty & Plenty Distillery
- 19 - Muddy River Distillery
- 20 - Murto Made Distillery
- 21 - Mystic Farm and Distillery
- 22 - Old Nick Williams Company
- 23 - Olde Raleigh Distillery
- 24 - Outer Banks Distilling
- 25 - Pulse Vodka
- 26 - Seven Jars Distillery
- 27 - Southern Distilling Company
- 28 - Southern Grace Distilleries
- 29 - Vetus Distillery
- 30 - Walton's Distillery
- 31 - Warehouse Distillery

HOME CHEF CHALLENGE



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18TH, 2026

DELIGHTFUL DIPS CHALLENGE



ENTRY TAKE-IN: 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

JUDGING: 11 AM

DIVISION 104: SUNDAY, OCT 18- DELIGHTFUL DIPS

PREMIUMS

CLASS

- 01 - Amateur Home Cook
- 02 - Professional

	1st	2nd	3rd
01 - Amateur Home Cook	\$250	\$150	\$100
02 - Professional	\$250	\$150	\$100

Whether savory or sweet, bring your most Delightful Dip recipe, and something to dish it out with.

Please read through the Rules & Regulations and the Entry Take-In instructions prior to entry.

HOME CHEF CHALLENGE



MONDAY, OCTOBER 19TH, 2026

SWEETPOTATO SHOWDOWN CHALLENGE



ENTRY TAKE-IN: 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

JUDGING: 11 AM

DIVISION 105: MONDAY, OCT 19 - SWEETPOTATO SHOWDOWN

PREMIUMS

CLASS

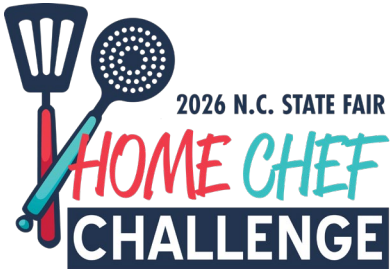
- 01 - Amateur Home Cook
- 02 - Professional

1st	2nd	3rd
\$250	\$150	\$100
\$250	\$150	\$100

Whether it's a favorite Thanksgiving sweetpotato dish or one that's delicious any time of the year, we challenge you to bring us your best sweetpotato side dish.

Please read through the Rules & Regulations and the Entry Take-In instructions prior to entry.

HOME CHEF CHALLENGE



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20TH, 2026 “CHEEZ-Y DOES IT” CHEEZ-IT CHALLENGE



ENTRY TAKE-IN: 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
JUDGING: 11 AM

DIVISION 106: TUESDAY, OCT 20 - CHEEZ-Y DOES IT

PREMIUMS

CLASS

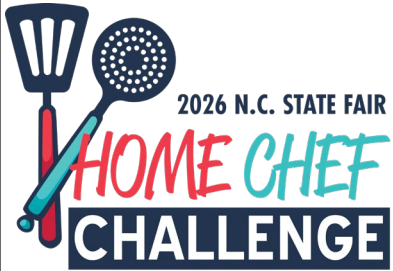
- 01 - Amateur Home Cook
- 02 - Professional

1st	2nd	3rd
\$250	\$150	\$100
\$250	\$150	\$100

Cheez-y Does It! Made right down the road in Cary, we challenge you to get creative with this favorite cheez-y snack. Bring us your best recipe that includes at least 1/2 cup of Cheez-Its.

Please read through the Rules & Regulations and the Entry Take-In instructions prior to entry.

HOME CHEF CHALLENGE



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21ST, 2026

BLESS YOUR TART! CHALLENGE



ENTRY TAKE-IN: 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

JUDGING: 11 AM

DIVISION 107: WEDNESDAY, OCT 21- BLESS YOUR TART!

PREMIUMS

CLASS

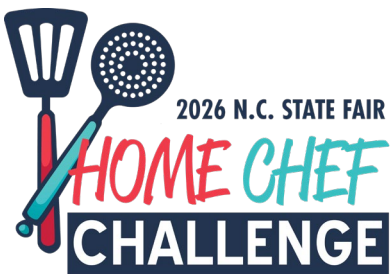
- 01 - Amateur Home Cook
- 02 - Professional

1st	2nd	3rd
\$250	\$150	\$100
\$250	\$150	\$100

A sweet take on the southern saying, Bless Your Tart! challenges competitors to bring their best tart recipe to sweeten the judges' taste buds.

Please read through the Rules & Regulations and the Entry Take-In instructions prior to entry.

HOME CHEF CHALLENGE



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22ND, 2026

“EAST TO WEST” PORK BBQ CHALLENGE



PRESENTED BY:

Smithfield.
Good food. Responsibly.®

SMITHFIELD FOODS

ENTRY TAKE-IN: 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

JUDGING: 11 AM

DIVISION 108: THURSDAY, OCT 22 - EAST TO WEST PORK BBQ

PREMIUMS

CLASS

	1st	2nd	3rd
01 - Amateur Home Cook	\$250	\$150	\$100
02 - Professional	\$250	\$150	\$100

From the East to the West, pork barbeque is an iconic staple food in North Carolina. Whether you prefer the vinegar-style of the East or the tomato based-style of the West, we challenge you to bring your best pork barbeque recipe to settle the debate. May the best style win!

Please read through the Rules & Regulations and the Entry Take-In instructions prior to entry.

HOME CHEF CHALLENGE



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23RD, 2026

“NUTTY BY NATURE” PEANUT CANDY CHALLENGE



ENTRY TAKE-IN: 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

JUDGING: 11 AM

DIVISION 109: FRIDAY, OCT 23 - NUTTY BY NATURE

PREMIUMS

CLASS

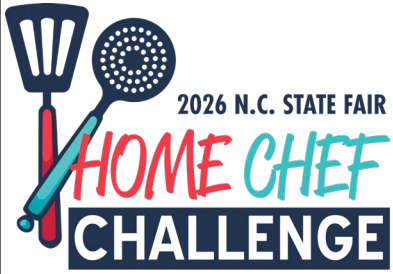
- 01 - Amateur Home Cook
- 02 - Professional

1st	2nd	3rd
\$250	\$150	\$100
\$250	\$150	\$100

Many favorite sweet treats are “Nutty By Nature.” We challenge you to bring us your most delicious candy recipe that includes peanuts. Recipes must include at least 1/2 cup of peanuts or peanut butter.

Please read through the Rules & Regulations and the Entry Take-In instructions prior to entry.

HOME CHEF CHALLENGE



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24TH, 2026 “STEW-PENDOUS” BRUNSWICK STEW CHALLENGE



ENTRY TAKE-IN: 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

JUDGING: 11 AM

DIVISION 110: SAT, OCT 24- STEW-PENDOUS BRUNSWICK STEW

PREMIUMS

CLASS

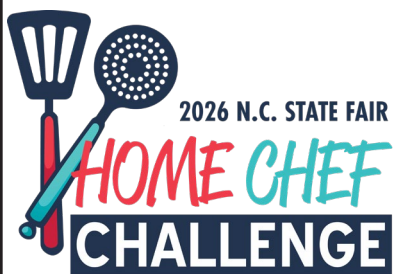
- 01 - Amateur Home Cook
- 02 - Professional

1st	2nd	3rd
\$250	\$150	\$100
\$250	\$150	\$100

A classic Southern comfort food, bring your best Brunswick Stew recipe for the judges to decide whose version is the most Stew-pendous.

Please read through the Rules & Regulations and the Entry Take-In instructions prior to entry.

HOME CHEF CHALLENGE



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25TH, 2026

“LAYER IT UP” LASAGNA CHALLENGE



ENTRY TAKE-IN: 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

JUDGING: 11 AM

DIVISION 111: SUNDAY, OCT 25 - LAYER IT UP LASAGNA

PREMIUMS

CLASS

- 01 - Amateur Home Cook
- 02 - Professional

1st	2nd	3rd
\$250	\$150	\$100
\$250	\$150	\$100

Whether your lasagna features hearty meats, flavorful veggies, or melty cheeses, we challenge you to Layer It Up and bring us your best mouth-watering lasagna recipe.

Please read through the Rules & Regulations and the Entry Take-In instructions prior to entry.