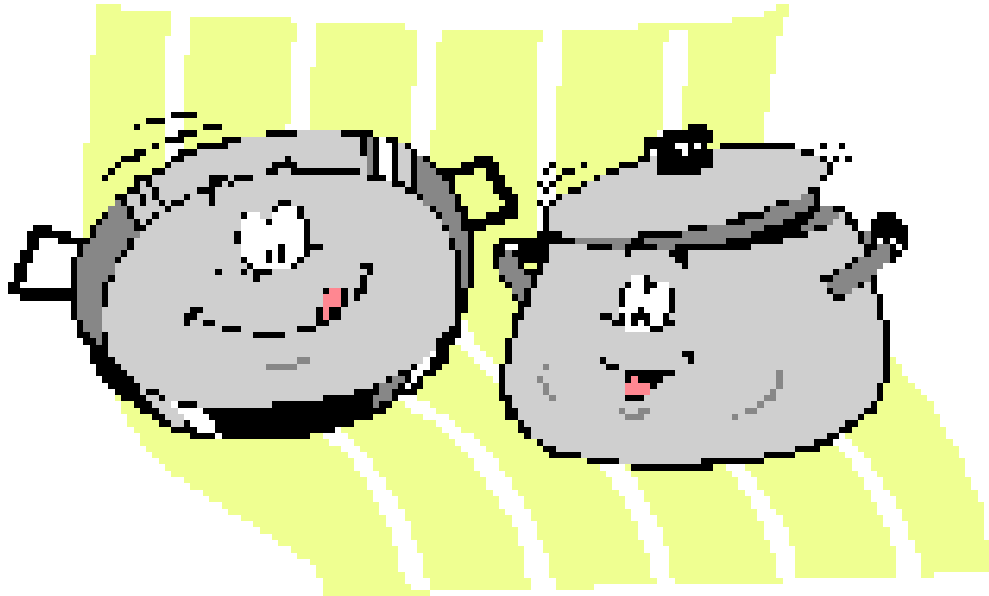


CHILI COOK-OFF

Fundraising Project



*Instructions
&
Sample Ballot*

CHILI COOK-OFF

An event I am familiar with, but until very recently had never seen it as a possible fundraiser for youth clubs. A Pathfinder Coordinator named Mike Salzman introduced me to the idea as one that had been used by his church for some time with success.

First you will need a venue, someplace that can house enough people and depending on your format maybe grilles and camp stoves. Get an idea of what kind of interest you can raise in the cook-off, make sure it will be worthwhile and then find a place. Inside or outside does not matter, as long as it is a good time of year to be outside and your location will be big enough.

Now you need chili makers, some groups may want vegetarian only, others have different standards. If you would like, you can have two or three categories of chili for your entrants. Do not charge for entry; just let them know how many ounces of chili you estimate they will need, figure at least four ounces per guest.

The fundraising is in the ballots. You will sell ballots as tickets to the cook-off. Mike recommended \$4.00 per ballot for adults, you will want to use what you believe will raise the most money for group and still be reasonable. The ballots need not be complicated, you can assign an entrant number to each entry and people will vote for the one they like best. At the end of voting, the numbers are tallied and the chili voted best receives a small and inexpensive trophy.

Your group will need to provide bowls, spoons, and cups. I recommend the local warehouse store and six-ounce styrene bowls by the case. Or you can try your local dollar stores for other bowls and the like. Mike's group provides lemonade and crackers as well. I do think you should provide crackers but consider selling beverages; do not offer too many varieties though. Mike's group has also combined the event with a bake sale in the past. I suggest that if you plan on adding a bake sale or other items consider larger items like full cakes and pies that you can sell by silent auction.

Mike reports that his group usually nets around two hundred dollars during a one evening event. This will vary depending on the number of participants and entries you have, as well as what other items you choose to wrap in. When preparing for your event try to advertise it for free publicly where ever in your area posting public announcements is allowable, such as the local grocers. You may also curb your overhead if you can find a sponsor, such as the local grocer to provide bowls, cups, spoons, and garbage boxes for your event.

SAMPLE BALLOT

Welcome to the First Annual Northside Youth Ministry Chili Cook-off

Sponsored in part by

Local Grocery

Local Church

Local Butcher

Today you will vote on this year's best Northside chili. Please take time to taste as many entries as possible and enjoy. When you have completed your ballot return it to the ballot boxes posted near the sponsor booth. You may vote for only one entry in each category.

Best vegetarian _____

Best meat lovers _____

Best Cajun _____

Best Western _____

Thank you for joining us and helping Northside Youth Ministry meet its fundraising goals. Thank you to our sponsors _____ who provided the bowls, cups, spoons, beverages, and cooking stations for today's event.