

TEXCLIPSE CHILI COOK-OFF RETURNS APRIL 25–26 — JUDGES & COOKS NEEDED

The 4th Annual Texclipse CASI Chili Cook-Off returns April 25–26, 2026 at Junction City Park, bringing a full weekend of chili competition, tournaments, and community fundraising.

Hosted by Texclipse Cares (501(c)(3)), the event supports scholarships for Junction High School graduates pursuing study abroad, trade and beauty school programs.

This year's event includes a full schedule of CASI-sanctioned chili competition, salsa, margaritas, beans, showmanship and washer + corn hole tournaments with over \$1,500 in cash prizes. **First-time cooks are encouraged! No experience needed!**

EVENT DETAILS:

- Junction City Park Pavilion, Junction, TX
- Saturday, April 25 & Sunday, April 26, 2026
 - Saturday: Main cook day + competitions + awards
 - Sunday: Chili Day 2 + awards
- FREE and open to the public (Entry fees apply to competitors)
- RV and Tent Camping Available on site
- River access (bring chairs, coolers, floaties)

WHAT'S HAPPENING:

- CASI Chili Cook-Off (sanctioned)
- Salsa Competition
- Margarita Competition
- Beans
- Showmanship (best booth + crowd participation)
- Washers Tournament (Singles & Doubles)
- Corn Hole Tournament (Singles & Doubles)

LOCAL AWARDS:

- Locals Champion (highest placing local)
- Battle of the Businesses (highest placing local business)
- Showmanship (best booth + participation)
- Last Place

JUDGES NEEDED: Texclipse is actively looking for judges and tasting volunteers.

- Taste entries
- Help score categories
- Be part of the official judging

No experience required. Just show up!

COOKS BAGS:

All registered cooks will receive a goodie bag filled with items from local businesses and sponsors. If you are a Junction business and would like to include marketing materials (koozies, pens, coupons, swag, etc.), we'd love to have you involved.

FAQ:

What is CASI?

CASI (Chili Appreciation Society International) runs official chili cook-offs across the country and raises over \$1 million per year for charity.

What is a “sanctioned” cook-off?

It follows official CASI rules. Winners can qualify for larger competitions, including Terlingua.

What do I need to know as a first-time cook?

- You cook on-site
- Turn-ins are scheduled
- Keep it simple
- You do NOT need experience

What if I want to judge instead of cook?

Show up and sign in. We'll assign you categories and walk you through it.

How do I sign up?

- Scan the QR code
- Visit: www.texclipsepresents.com
- Or sign up on-site

What is Showmanship?

Showmanship is your booth's personality, not your chili.

It's how you:

- Decorate your space
- Dress up (costumes encouraged)
- Play music / create a vibe
- Interact with the crowd

Think of it like this:

- Chili is judged in a cup
- Showmanship is judged by the experience

What makes a good showmanship booth?

- A theme (funny, wild, creative, whatever)
- Decorations or setup that stands out
- Energy—talking to people, having fun
- Giving out small samples, candy, or swag

Can I enter multiple categories?

Yes. Enter as many as you want.

Is this event just for competitors?

No. Come walk the cook sites, meet teams, check out showmanship booths (candy, giveaways, kid-friendly), and enjoy the event.

Is this a weekend event?

Yes. Camp in the park and make a weekend out of it OR pick from one of our lodging options at www.junctiontexas.com

What's the most important thing I need to know?

Beans DO NOT belong in chili!

FINAL NOTE:

Whether you're cooking, judging, competing or just showing up, Texclipse is built for participation. No experience needed. Support local events and be part of the community! Come out, get involved and make a weekend of it in Junction. There are no strangers at Texclipse, just friends you haven't met yet! For questions or inquiries, contact: texclipsemusicfestival@yahoo.com

The event is made possible in part through a grant from the Junction Texas Tourism Board. Thank you for supporting local events and economic growth in Junction.