

30th Annual "Chilly" Chili Challenge
Saturday, January 31, 2026
1000 North River Street

Rules:

1. All contestants including caterers must obtain a Monroe County Health Department **Temporary Food Service Permit** (753-5553). An application has been enclosed for your convenience. Additionally, a **Certified Food Worker** must be present at the contest site on January 31st. This year's event will be held in a large heated tent by the Roger Robach Community Center.
2. Chili must be prepared at an approved kitchen and comply with all Monroe County Health Department regulations.
3. Contestants should safely prepare a minimum of 5 gallons of chili for public tasting. **(Safe food handling and storage is imperative)**
4. Each contestant will be provided with a 10' by 10' space, one eight foot banquet table and 2 folding chairs.
5. Contestants may "decorate" area with banners, signs or placards promoting their restaurant, catering service or nonprofit organization.
6. Electric power **will** be provided. Other supplemental heat sources are allowed but must comply with all fire regulations.
7. Chili will be tasted/evaluated by a panel of judges as well as the general public. **Judges decisions are final.** Cash awards and plaques will be presented based on the judge's decision.
8. The **People's Choice Award** is based on public tasters who will vote for their favorite chili by placing a bean in jars provided at each tasting station.

People's Choice	Judge's Choice/Professional	Judge's Choice/Amateur
\$200 + plaque	1st place - \$200 + plaque	1st place - \$200 + plaque
	Runner-up - \$150 + plaque	Runner-up - \$150 + plaque
9. The Ontario Beach Park Program Committee will be selling wristbands for 2 oz. samples of each contestant's chili. Cups, spoons and napkins will be provided to all contestants. All proceeds help fund entertainment at Ontario Beach Park throughout the 2026 season.
10. Event organizers reserve the right to refuse admission to anyone not adhering to contest rules/policies or health department regulations.
11. On Saturday, set up begins at 9:00 am. Judging starts promptly at 1:30 pm. Public tasting 12:00 - 3:00 p.m. Awards - 3:30 p.m.

If your restaurant, catering business or organization would like to enter the "Chilly" Chili Challenge obtain a Temporary Food Service Permit DIRECTLY from Monroe County Health Dept. and complete the contest ENTRY FORM and return it to:

**Chili Challenge
c/o Pam
57 St. Paul St
Rochester, NY 14604**

Or

Email: Pamela.Bialaszewski@cityofrochester.gov

All entries must be submitted and Health Department permits obtained by **Monday, January 19, 2026 (to avoid a late fee) for Health Department Permit.**

For more information call Pam at **428-6135**.

CHILLY CHILI CHALLENGE
SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2026
12:00 - 3:00 p.m.

2026 "Chilly" Chili Challenge Application

Business/Organization

PLEASE PRINT

Name:

Address:

Zip:

Phone Number:

Fax Number:

Email:

Contact Person:

Category (check one) Amateur

☐

Professional

☐

RETURN THIS ENTRY FORM TO:

Chili Challenge

c/o Pam

57 St. Paul St

Rochester, New York 14604

or Email: Pamela.Bialaszewski@cityofrochester.gov

or Fax 428-6021