



2026 COMPETITOR

WHAT YOU MUST BRING

COME PREPARED. BRING WHAT YOUR COOK REQUIRES.

TFC provides the items on the official Kitchen Equipment List. You bring the rest.

REQUIRED BEFORE YOU COMPETE

FOOD HANDLER CERTIFICATION IS MANDATORY

BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE VERIFICATION

1 | FOOD + INGREDIENTS

- Bring every ingredient required for your planned competition dish.
- Proteins, produce, dairy, refrigerated/frozen products, sauces, stocks, oils, seasonings, garnishes and finishing ingredients.
- Bring specialty ingredients and reasonable backup quantities.

SAM'S CLUB PANTRY = SUPPLEMENTAL BACKUP

2 | SPECIALTY TOOLS + EQUIPMENT

- If your recipe depends on an item that is NOT on the TFC Kitchen Equipment List, bring it.
- Examples: thermometers, scales, timers, blender/processor, mixer, mandoline, microplane, pastry tools, squeeze bottles, molds, plating tools or preferred utensils.
- Bring any recipe-specific cookware or equipment you require.

IF YOUR COOK DEPENDS ON IT - BRING IT

3 | ICE + COLD HOLDING

- Ice is NOT provided by TFC.
- Bring your own ice and cooler/ice chest if needed.
- Each kitchen has an 18" x 42" open area for an ice chest or storage tote.

BRING YOUR OWN ICE

4 | FOOD SAFETY + STORAGE

- Maintain safe temperatures and storage for your products.
- Bring a food thermometer and any personal cold-holding or storage items your cook requires.
- Cooking water is available in Back of House.

KEEP YOUR PRODUCT SAFE

5 | PERSONAL DISHWASHING

- Kitchen sinks are for HANDWASHING ONLY.
- The BOH dish pit is only for TFC-provided equipment.
- Plan for your own personal cookware, utensils and equipment after use.

NO GENERAL DISH PIT ACCESS

6 | TEAM + PERSONAL ITEMS

- Competitor credentials and Food Handler Certification verification.
- Appropriate competition clothing, apron and kitchen-appropriate closed-toe shoes.
- Personal towels/rags, recipe notes, competition paperwork and personal necessities.
- Totes/containers for transporting your supplies.

7 | BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME

- Review your official Kitchen Equipment List.
- Confirm your competition start time and kitchen assignment.
- Check the Competitor Portal for updates.
- Pack backup ingredients and any specialty item your dish cannot be completed without.

DO NOT FORGET

FOOD HANDLER CERT. | INGREDIENTS | THERMOMETER | ICE / COOLER
SPECIALTY TOOLS | CREDENTIALS | RECIPE / NOTES | BACKUP SUPPLIES

THE GOLDEN RULE

IF YOU NEED IT TO EXECUTE YOUR DISH AND TFC DOESN'T LIST IT AS PROVIDED - BRING IT.

BBQ + LIVE FIRE: THIS PACKING GUIDE APPLIES TO KITCHEN ARENA COMPETITORS.

BBQ + LIVE FIRE TEAMS FOLLOW THEIR SEPARATE EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS; ONLY POWER + WATER ARE PROVIDED.