



SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2026 | CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

A LETTER TO OUR 2026 COMPETITORS

WELCOME TO THE TEXAS FOOD CHAMPIONSHIP

YOUR KITCHEN. YOUR SHOT. YOUR ROAD TO TEAM TEXAS.

Competitors,

Welcome to the Texas Food Championship. You are here because you chose to put your food, your skill and your name on the line - and that deserves respect.

Over three days in Corpus Christi, cooks from across Texas and beyond will step into our kitchens with different backgrounds, different stories and different reasons for competing. Once the clock starts, every one of you shares the same opportunity: **cook your best food, earn your place and give the judges something they cannot forget.**

TFC was built to be more than another cook-off. We wanted a championship worthy of the people willing to compete in it - a place where a home cook can stand beside a seasoned chef, a pitmaster can represent years of work behind the fire, and the next great competitor can make a name for themselves in one weekend.

A GOLDEN TICKET DOESN'T JUST SEND YOU TO WORLDS.
IT EARNS YOU A PLACE ON TEAM TEXAS.

Team Texas is our commitment to the competitors who earn the right to represent this championship at the World Food Championships in Indianapolis. We are not interested in simply handing you a ticket and wishing you luck. If you earn that position and accept it, **we are going with you.**

TFC will cover your World Food Championships entry fee, provide one hotel room for your team, provide eligible Worlds travel support, outfit you with your Team Texas chef coat and cap, welcome you into Team Texas Camp with food and drink, and put the TFC team behind you on site. You will have access to Team Texas Captain Chef Preston Nguyen for preparation and brainstorming, backup sous-chef support, connections to TFC partners for potential sponsorship opportunities, and a media push that tells people exactly who is representing Texas.

When you put on Team Texas, you represent something larger than yourself. You represent your team, this championship, the people who helped you get here and the state whose name is across your chest. Carry it with pride. Compete hard. Help the competitor beside you. And when it is your turn to cook, **leave absolutely nothing behind.**

For some of you, this weekend will end with a trophy. For others, it will end with lessons, friendships and a reason to come back stronger. But every competitor arrives with the same thing in front of them - **a legitimate chance to earn a Golden Ticket, join Team Texas and take their food to the world stage.**

WE BUILT THE ARENA. WE BROUGHT THE JUDGES. WE OPENED THE ROAD TO WORLDS.
NOW THE KITCHEN BELONGS TO YOU.

I'll see you in the arena,

Matthew Lawson

PRESIDENT & FOUNDER

Texas Food Championship

COMPETE FOR TEXAS | EARN YOUR GOLDEN TICKET | TAKE YOUR PLACE ON TEAM TEXAS