

2026 OFFICIAL FESTIVAL GUIDE



TEXAS
FOOD CHAMPIONSHIP

PRESENTED BY

DMC

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

FOOD SPORT | LIVE MUSIC | FOOD & DRINK | FAMILY FUN | EXPERIENCES

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS
SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2026

TEXASFOODCHAMPIONSHIP.COM



WHAT IS TFC?

TEXAS FOOD CHAMPIONSHIP KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

1

THE TEXAS FOOD CHAMPIONSHIP

More than a festival. More than a competition. TFC is where Texas comes together through Food Sport, bringing elite culinary talent, entertainment and fans to the Corpus Christi Bayfront for one championship weekend.

2

THE EXCLUSIVE TEXAS QUALIFIER

TFC is the exclusive state qualifier in Texas for the World Food Championships, creating an official pathway for Texas chefs and culinary competitors to earn their place on TEAM TEXAS and advance to the world stage.

3

REPRESENT THE LONE STAR STATE

Winning here means something bigger. Champions earn the opportunity to represent themselves, their communities and the State of Texas against top culinary talent from around the world.

4

COACHED BY A TWO-TIME WORLD CHAMPION

TEAM TEXAS is led by Preston Nguyen, the only two-time World Food Champion, giving qualifying competitors championship-level leadership, experience and mentorship as they prepare to represent Texas on the world stage.

5

WHERE CHAMPIONS ARE MADE

Chefs, pitmasters, rising stars and culinary competitors battle under pressure for Texas Championship titles, Golden Tickets and a place on TEAM TEXAS — putting their talent, creativity and technique to the ultimate test.

6

TEXAS TO THE WORLD

The journey begins in Texas, but the goal is global. Win in Texas. Join TEAM TEXAS. Represent the Lone Star State. Then take on the world in pursuit of the ultimate title: WORLD CHAMPION.

SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2026
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS
TEXASFOODCHAMPIONSHIP.COM



FOOD SPORT 101

TEXAS FOOD CHAMPIONSHIP KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

1

WHAT IS FOOD SPORT?

This isn't just cooking — it's competition under pressure! Chefs, pitmasters and cooks battle against the clock to create championship-worthy dishes, putting their creativity, technique and flavor to the ultimate test.

2

WATCH IT LIVE

Get close to the action and watch Food Sport unfold LIVE! See competitors prep, cook, create and plate their dishes against the clock, with every competition bringing new ingredients, techniques and high-pressure moments.

3

HOW JUDGING WORKS

Every bite counts! Competition dishes are evaluated by judges using established scoring criteria, including execution, appearance and taste, with scores determining who rises above the competition and earns a Texas Championship title.

4

BEAT THE CLOCK

90 minutes. One dish. Every second counts! Competitors have just 90 minutes to prep, cook, create and plate a championship-worthy dish before making their official turn-in — bringing pressure, precision and excitement to every Food Sport battle.

5

BECOME AN E.A.T. CERTIFIED JUDGE

Go from fan to official Food Sport judge! Take the E.A.T. Judge Certification at TFC, learn how to evaluate Execution, Appearance and Taste, and become certified for the opportunity to take a seat at the judging table.

6

CROWNING THE CHAMPIONS

It all comes down to this! Competitors are battling for a Texas Championship title and coveted Golden Ticket to the World Food Championships, earning the opportunity to advance to the world stage and proudly represent TEAM TEXAS!

SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2026
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS
TEXASFOODCHAMPIONSHIP.COM



FOOD SPORT COMPETITIONS

TEXAS FOOD CHAMPIONSHIP KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

1

TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL CULINARY CHAMPIONSHIP

The next generation of Texas culinary talent takes center stage! High school culinary teams put their skills to the test, combining technique, teamwork, creativity and incredible flavor as they battle for the title of Texas High School Culinary Champion.

2

TEXAS LIVE FIRE STEAK CHAMPIONSHIP

Fire. Steak. No shortcuts. Competitors take on the ultimate Texas combination, cooking over live fire to deliver the perfect steak with bold flavor, technique and serious heat.

3

TEXAS DESSERT CHAMPIONSHIP

Texas gets a little sweeter! Talented competitors transform incredible ingredients into show-stopping desserts, battling for the title with creativity, flavor and picture-perfect presentation.

4

TEXAS CHEF OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP | BY AGAPE RANCH

Creativity takes center stage as competitors showcase their culinary skills, combining technique, originality and exceptional flavor in pursuit of the Texas Chef Open Championship.

5

TEXAS PITMASTER CHAMPIONSHIP | CHICKEN & OPEN

Smoke, fire and serious BBQ skills! Texas pitmasters battle through Chicken and Open categories, bringing bold flavors, creative techniques and championship-worthy barbecue to the judges.

6

TEXAS COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIP | BY TAMUCC

The next generation of culinary talent takes the stage! Collegiate competitors showcase their skills, creativity and teamwork in a high-energy battle representing the future of the industry.

SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2026
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS
TEXASFOODCHAMPIONSHIP.COM



FOOD SPORT COMPETITIONS

TEXAS FOOD CHAMPIONSHIP KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

7

TEXAS BURGER CHAMPIONSHIP

Who makes the best burger in Texas? Competitors stack up bold flavors, creative toppings and serious cooking skills in a battle to create the ultimate championship burger.

8

TEXAS LIVE FIRE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

Anything goes when fire takes center stage! Competitors harness flame, smoke and creativity to build incredible dishes in one of the weekend's most exciting live-fire battles.

9

TEXAS SEAFOOD CHAMPIONSHIP

Fresh flavor meets championship competition! Chefs showcase their creativity and technique, transforming seafood into incredible dishes worthy of the Texas Seafood Championship title.

10

TEXAS JUNIOR CHEF CHAMPIONSHIP

The future of Food Sport starts here! Young chefs step into the arena to showcase their talent, creativity and kitchen skills while competing for Texas championship honors.

11

TEXAS PITMASTER CHAMPIONSHIP | RIBS & BRISKET

This is Texas BBQ at its finest! Pitmasters go smoke-to-smoke with championship ribs and brisket, putting hours of technique, patience and pit mastery on the judging table.

12

TEXAS PRO CHEF CHAMPIONSHIP

Texas' culinary pros enter the arena! Professional chefs put their experience, creativity and technique to the test in a high-level battle designed to find a true Texas Champion.

SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2026
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS
TEXASFOODCHAMPIONSHIP.COM



CHOOSE YOUR EXPERIENCE

TEXAS FOOD CHAMPIONSHIP KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

1

TEXAS FOOD CHAMPIONSHIP DAY PASS

Experience TFC for the day with access to Food Sport competitions, live music, entertainment, shopping, family activities and festival experiences happening across the Corpus Christi Bayfront.

2

CHAMPIONS WEEKEND PASS

Make a weekend of it! Enjoy all three days of the Texas Food Championship and experience the competitions, entertainment, culinary action and festival activities from opening day through Championship Sunday.

3

KIDS WEEKEND PASS

Kids 17 & younger are FREE all weekend! Bring the entire family for three days of Food Sport, live entertainment, Kids Zone attractions, interactive activities and Texas-sized family fun.

4

TASTE OF TEXAS PASS

Taste your way through TFC! Receive tasting vouchers for participating food trucks, vendors and select BBQ & Live Fire competitors, plus your Taste of Texas Map to guide the adventure.

5

TEXAS CHEF'S TABLE

Our most intimate culinary experience! Limited to only 16 guests per seating, this upgraded experience features a chef-driven multi-course menu with thoughtfully selected beverage pairings.

6

CHAMPIONS CLUB VIP EXPERIENCE

Experience TFC like a Champion with premium hospitality, open bar, exclusive culinary experiences, air-conditioned lounge, premium restrooms and elevated festival access throughout the weekend.

SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2026
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS
TEXASFOODCHAMPIONSHIP.COM



THE CHAMPIONS CLUB

TEXAS FOOD CHAMPIONSHIP KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

1

PREMIUM OPEN BAR

Raise a glass in Champions Club with a premium open bar featuring spirits, handcrafted cocktails, beer, wine and non-alcoholic selections. Discover featured brands and enjoy premium pours throughout your elevated VIP festival experience.

2

EXCLUSIVE MEALS AND TASTINGS

Come hungry! Champions Club guests enjoy exclusive chef-driven meals, tastings, bites and culinary experiences throughout the weekend, featuring talented chefs, special menus and unique flavors created specifically for our VIP guests.

3

MARKETING & NETWORKING

Connect with chefs, champions, business leaders, industry professionals, partners and special guests. Build new relationships, talk business and enjoy an atmosphere designed for meaningful connections while experiencing TFC together.

4

LOUNGE & PREMIUM COMFORT

Step away from the action and recharge inside the air-conditioned Champions Club, featuring comfortable lounge seating, premium restrooms and an exclusive VIP environment to relax, cool down and enjoy the festival in comfort.

5

GIFTS & MERCH

Your VIP experience comes with a little extra! Champions Club guests receive exclusive TFC gifts, merchandise and special surprises from participating partners, giving you something memorable to take home from championship weekend.

6

PRIVATE PERFORMANCES & ACCESS

Experience private performances, special guest appearances, exclusive programming and premium access. Get closer to the chefs, personalities and entertainment that make championship weekend unforgettable.

SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2026
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS
TEXASFOODCHAMPIONSHIP.COM



THE TEXAS CHEF'S TABLE

TEXAS FOOD CHAMPIONSHIP KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

1

ONLY 16 SEATS

Intimate by design. Each Chef's Table seating is limited to only 16 guests, creating an exclusive dining experience where you're closer to the chef, the food and every detail behind the meal.

2

MULTI-COURSE EXPERIENCE

Settle in for a chef-driven multi-course culinary journey featuring thoughtfully crafted dishes, creative techniques and incredible flavors brought together exclusively for Texas Chef's Table guests.

3

MEET THE CHEFS

This is more than dinner. Meet the chef behind your meal, hear the inspiration behind each course and experience the stories, techniques and creativity that bring every plate to life.

4

CURATED BEVERAGE PAIRINGS

Each experience comes to life with thoughtfully selected beverage pairings designed to complement the flavors of the menu and create an elevated experience from the first course to the last.

5

FRONT-ROW CULINARY ACCESS

Get closer to the kitchen than ever before. Watch, learn and interact as your meal comes together, giving you an up-close look at the talent and craftsmanship behind every course.

6

A DIFFERENT TABLE EVERY TIME

Different chefs, menus and experiences make each seating unique. Choose your favorite — or experience more than one — and discover a new culinary story every time you take a seat at the table.

SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2026
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS
TEXASFOODCHAMPIONSHIP.COM



THE TASTE OF TEXAS PASS

TEXAS FOOD CHAMPIONSHIP KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

1

YOUR TASTING VOUCHERS

Your Taste of Texas Pass includes tasting vouchers redeemable throughout TFC, giving you access to specially portioned bites and samples from participating food trucks, vendors and culinary experiences.

2

TASTE FOOD TRUCK ALLEY

Come hungry! All participating food trucks will offer a Taste of Texas item, allowing passholders to sample their way through Food Truck Alley and discover favorites without choosing just one.

3

B&B CHARCOAL ARENA

Follow the smoke to the B&B Charcoal Arena! Select BBQ and Live Fire competitors will offer special Taste of Texas items, giving you a chance to sample food straight from the pits, grills and fires.

4

TASTE BEYOND FOOD TRUCK ALLEY

Participating vendors throughout TFC will also offer special samples and tasting items for passholders, adding even more flavors and discoveries as you explore the festival grounds.

5

FOLLOW THE TASTE OF TEXAS MAP

Grab your Taste of Texas Map and start exploring! Participating locations will be marked throughout the festival, creating your own food tour as you taste your way from stop to stop.

6

CONQUER THE TASTE OF TEXAS

Think you can make it through TFC? Follow the map, taste your way through participating stops and complete the Taste of Texas experience to earn select TFC merchandise and ultimate foodie bragging rights!

SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2026
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS
TEXASFOODCHAMPIONSHIP.COM



ENTERTAINMENT

TEXAS FOOD CHAMPIONSHIP KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

1

LIVE MUSIC ALL DAY LONG!

Over 10 HOURS of LIVE MUSIC each day featuring some of the hottest local, Texas & national artists — including The Voice winner Sundance Head, Rich O'Toole, JR Castillo, Tyrone Vaughan & more!

2

THAT ENGLISHMAN IN TEXAS — YOUR OFFICIAL EMCEE!

Bringing big personality, Texas-sized energy, and British charm! The Englishman in Texas is your festival emcee — keeping the crowd fired up and the action rolling all weekend long. Follow him on Instagram [@thatenglishmanintexas](https://www.instagram.com/thatenglishmanintexas)

3

LIVE FROM TFC: WALK-IN TALK PODCAST

Experience the #1 Food & Beverage Podcast in the World — LIVE at TFC! Walk-In Talk brings you inside Food Sport with exclusive interviews, chef stories, champion conversations and behind-the-scenes action all weekend long.

4

TEXAS CORNHOLE LEAGUE REGIONAL TOURNAMENT

The Texas Cornhole League joins TFC with the largest regional tournament in Texas! Watch some of the top professional players battle it out live for big wins, bragging rights and championship glory!

5

TAMUCC SAND VOLLEYBALL PAIRS TOURNAMENT

Texas A&M–Corpus Christi brings the action to TFC with a Sand Volleyball Pairs Tournament! Catch teams battling it out on the sand for high-energy competition, big plays and championship bragging rights!

6

TEXAS-SIZED EATING CHALLENGES

Come hungry and bring your appetite! Watch brave competitors go bite-for-bite in high-energy eating contests featuring festival favorites, big portions and even bigger bragging rights. Think you can handle the challenge?

SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2026
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS
[TEXASFOODCHAMPIONSHIP.COM](https://www.texasfoodchampionship.com)



MASTERCLASSES

TEXAS FOOD CHAMPIONSHIP KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

1

TEXAS TAILGATE FAN EXPERIENCE

Learn it. Grill it. Share it. Top chefs teach grilling techniques while fans cook alongside them for the crowd. Then, People's Choice crowns a winner and everyone comes together to feast!

2

BEHIND THE APRON

Go beyond the plate with top chefs, culinary experts and Food Sport champions as they share their journeys, industry knowledge, winning techniques and the secrets they've learned behind the apron.

3

CHEF'S STAGE LIVE

Get up close to the action as top chefs cook LIVE! Watch incredible dishes come together while learning professional techniques, kitchen secrets and insider tips you can take home and make your own.

4

THE ART OF THE POUR

Sip, learn and discover from top mixologists and beverage experts as they showcase cocktail techniques, creative pairings and insider tips through interactive classes and tasting experiences throughout the festival!

5

THE TEXAS CIGAR EXPERIENCE

Sit back, light up and experience the art of the cigar with premium selections, expert-led sessions, pairing insights and cigar education — all in a relaxed Texas-style atmosphere built to savor the moment.

6

THE CHAMPIONS CLASS

Learn from the best of the best! Go inside the journey, techniques and winning mindset of an exclusive two-time World Food Championships winner and discover what it takes to become a champion on the world stage.

SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2026
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS
TEXASFOODCHAMPIONSHIP.COM



WAYS TO EAT

TEXAS FOOD CHAMPIONSHIP KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

1

FOOD TRUCK ALLEY

Come hungry and explore Food Truck Alley, featuring a variety of local and regional food trucks serving full meals, savory bites, sweet treats and festival favorites available for purchase throughout the weekend.

2

TEXAS TAILGATE FAN EXPERIENCE JUDGING

Taste it. Judge it. Crown it! Sample dishes prepared during the Texas Tailgate Experience, then cast your vote alongside fellow fans to help determine who earns the People's Choice title!

3

CHEF SEMINARS

Learn it, watch it, then taste it! Join talented chefs as they share techniques, recipes and culinary knowledge while preparing dishes LIVE — with opportunities for guests to sample the finished creations.

4

PRODUCT SAMPLING

Taste your way around TFC! Participating brands and partners will be serving complimentary samples, bites and beverages throughout the festival, giving you the chance to discover new products and flavors.

5

TEXAS CHEF'S TABLE - MULTI COURSE EXPERIENCE

An exclusive upgraded dining experience limited to just 16 guests per seating. Enjoy an intimate, chef-driven multi-course meal featuring thoughtfully crafted dishes, incredible flavors and an up-close culinary experience unlike anything else at TFC.

6

TASTE OF TEXAS WEEKEND PASS

Turn TFC into your own food tour! Use tasting vouchers at participating food trucks, vendors and select BBQ & Live Fire competitors as you follow the Taste of Texas Map across the festival.

SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2026
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS
TEXASFOODCHAMPIONSHIP.COM



WAYS TO DRINK

TEXAS FOOD CHAMPIONSHIP KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

1

FESTIVAL BARS - PRESENTED BY WATERSTREET

Grab your favorite drink without missing the action! Waterstreet presents bars throughout TFC serving beer, wine, cocktails, spirits and refreshing non-alcoholic options available for purchase all weekend.

2

BEHIND THE BAR CLASSES

Learn from the experts behind the pour! Join top mixologists and beverage professionals for interactive sessions exploring cocktail techniques, spirits, flavor profiles and the secrets behind crafting the perfect drink.

3

BEVERAGE TASTINGS

Sip, taste and discover! Explore guided tastings and unique pours from featured beverage partners while learning about the flavors, craftsmanship and stories behind what's in your glass.

4

PRODUCT SAMPLING

There's always something new to try! Enjoy complimentary samples from participating beverage partners, including specialty drinks, premium waters, sparkling beverages, energy drinks and other refreshing products throughout TFC.

5

TEXAS CHEF'S TABLE - MULTI COURSE PAIRING

An exclusive upgraded experience limited to just 16 guests per seating. Enjoy an intimate multi-course Chef's Table where thoughtfully crafted dishes are paired with specially selected beverages for an elevated culinary experience.

6

VIP CHAMPIONS CLUB

Experience TFC at another level! VIP guests enjoy an open bar featuring premium beer, wine, spirits and specialty cocktails, all inside an elevated, air-conditioned Champions Club experience.

SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2026
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS
TEXASFOODCHAMPIONSHIP.COM



WHAT CAN KIDS DO?

TEXAS FOOD CHAMPIONSHIP KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

1

KIDS ARE ALWAYS FREE!

Bring the whole family! Kids 17 & younger receive FREE admission to TFC, giving families three days to experience Food Sport, live entertainment and Texas-sized fun together.

2

KIDS ZONE - PRESENTED BY BRICKS & MINIFIGS CORPUS

A festival destination built just for kids! Explore games, activities and interactive entertainment designed to keep younger festival fans playing, exploring and having fun throughout the day.

3

JUNIOR CHEF CHAMPIONSHIP

Watch the next generation of culinary talent take the stage! Young chefs ages 12-17 step into the Food Sport arena to showcase their creativity, skills and passion for cooking.

4

GAMING TRAILER

Game on! Kids can step inside the Gaming Trailer for an interactive gaming experience, challenge their friends and take a break from the Texas heat between festival adventures.

5

BOUNCE, BUILD & PLAY

Let them burn off some energy and get creative! Kids can jump and play in the bouncy houses, build something awesome with LEGO, and enjoy hands-on activities designed for nonstop festival fun.

6

LITTLE CHAMPIONS SOFT PLAY

A welcoming soft-play area for younger children and children with special needs, offering a comfortable space to play and explore — plus Parent Charging Stations so grown-ups can recharge their devices while the little ones recharge through play.

SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2026
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS
TEXASFOODCHAMPIONSHIP.COM



COMMUNITY IMPACT

TEXAS FOOD CHAMPIONSHIP KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

1

THE NEXT GENERATION FUND | TEXAS TABLE OF HOPE

Invest in the next generation of culinary talent! Texas Table of Hope raises funds to provide scholarships, grants and educational opportunities for aspiring chefs, helping turn their passion for food into a future filled with possibility.

2

THE PICNIC TABLE PROJECT | CCISD

CCISD High School students are building ALL picnic tables at TFC! Guests can purchase one and take it home after the event, with 100% of proceeds helping send students to SkillsUSA competitions and build tomorrow's skilled workforce.

3

THE LIFESAVING DRIVE | COASTAL BEND BLOOD CENTER

Make a lifesaving impact at TFC! Donate with the Coastal Bend Blood Center during our on-site blood drive and help ensure lifesaving blood is available for patients and families throughout our community.

4

TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY | WEST SIDE MINISTRIES

Support West Side Ministries by donating everyday essentials like soap, deodorant, baby diapers and other hygiene products at TFC. Your donation helps provide basic necessities to individuals and families in our community.

5

TEAMS FOR TFC | YOUTH SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS

Help local athletes chase bigger goals and achieve the success they dream of! Support youth sports teams at TFC through donations that help fund equipment, travel and competition opportunities.

6

COOKING FOR A CAUSE | AGAPE RANCH

Support Agape Ranch through a special Culinary Battle raising funds for foster children and families across the Coastal Bend — helping ensure every child has love, support and a place to call home.

SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2026
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS
TEXASFOODCHAMPIONSHIP.COM



SHOP & DISCOVER

TEXAS FOOD CHAMPIONSHIP KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

1

TFC MARKET PLACE - PRESENTED BY GROW LOCAL

Shop, explore and discover the TFC Marketplace presented by Grow Local South Texas, featuring local businesses, makers, artisans and unique brands with products and one-of-a-kind finds to take home.

2

TEXAS-MADE PRODUCTS

Shop with some serious Texas pride! Discover locally made goods, specialty foods, handcrafted products and unique finds from businesses, makers and creators representing the best of the Lone Star State.

3

CULINARY MARKET

Bring a taste of TFC home! Shop sauces, seasonings, rubs, specialty foods, kitchen products and culinary finds from local makers and brands that know their way around the kitchen.

4

TFC OFFICIAL MERCH

Take home a piece of championship weekend! Shop official Texas Food Championship apparel, hats, gear and collectibles and show your TFC pride long after the final champion is crowned.

5

BRAND EXPERIENCE

More than a booth! Explore interactive partner experiences, demonstrations, product showcases, sampling, giveaways and activities from the incredible brands helping bring the Texas Food Championship to life.

6

MEET THE MAKERS

Meet the people behind the products! Connect with local makers, growers, artisans and entrepreneurs, hear their stories, discover what they create and support the businesses that make South Texas unique.

SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2026
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS
TEXASFOODCHAMPIONSHIP.COM



FAN EXPERIENCES

TEXAS FOOD CHAMPIONSHIP KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

1

COOK IN THE ARENA

Think you can cook under pressure? Fans will have opportunities throughout TFC to step into the arena, fire up the grills and compete in live cooking challenges — no professional experience required.

2

TEXAS TAILGATE EXPERIENCE

Learn it. Grill it. Share it! Cook alongside talented chefs as they teach grilling techniques and competition secrets, then serve the finished creations to the crowd as fans help crown a People's Choice winner.

3

BECOME THE JUDGE

This time, your taste buds have a say! Select experiences throughout TFC give fans the opportunity to sample incredible creations, cast their votes and help determine who walks away with the People's Choice title.

4

TAKE THE E.A.T. JUDGE CERTIFICATION

Go from fan to certified Food Sport judge! Take the E.A.T. Judge Certification at TFC, learn how to evaluate Execution, Appearance and Taste, and earn the opportunity to sit at an official judging table.

5

TEXAS-SIZED EATING CHALLENGES

Think you've got the appetite to compete? Jump into one of our Texas-sized eating challenges, go bite-for-bite against fellow festival guests and see if you have what it takes to conquer the challenge.

6

YOU'RE PART OF TFC

At TFC, the fans aren't just watching from the sidelines. Cook. Taste. Judge. Learn. Compete. Celebrate. However you choose to get involved, there's a way to become part of the action and create your own TFC story.

SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2026
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS
TEXASFOODCHAMPIONSHIP.COM



PLAN YOUR DAY

TEXAS FOOD CHAMPIONSHIP KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

1

GATES OPEN

Come early — you'll want the whole day! Gates open at 10:00 AM daily, giving you plenty of time to explore Food Sport, entertainment, food, drinks, shopping and experiences across TFC.

2

OPENING CEREMONIES & PRESENTATION OF COLORS

Join us as we officially open the Texas Food Championship with our Presentation of Colors, honoring our country and those who serve before kicking off an unforgettable day of Food Sport, entertainment and Texas-sized excitement!

3

FESTIVAL OF ACTIVITIES

From the moment gates open, there's something happening everywhere! Catch Food Sport competitions, live music, tastings, chef experiences, shopping, family activities and interactive events throughout the day.

4

THE FINALE

Finish the day BIG! Gather at the Grand Stage for our nightly headliner, cold drinks and high-energy entertainment as we turn the final hours of TFC into one big Texas-sized celebration!

5

GATES CLOSE

Festival grounds close at 10:00 PM Friday & Saturday after a full day of Food Sport, live music, incredible food and entertainment. Wrap up your day at TFC, then get ready — because the celebration doesn't have to end when the gates close!

6

TEXAS FOOD CHAMPIONSHIP AFTER PARTY

Keep the party going after TFC! Head to select Corpus Christi locations for official after parties featuring live entertainment, great food, cold drinks and more Texas-sized fun as we celebrate well into the night.

SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2026
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS
TEXASFOODCHAMPIONSHIP.COM



PARKING & SHUTTLES

TEXAS FOOD CHAMPIONSHIP KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

1

VIP & ADA Parking

Located immediately to the left and right of the venue. Must have a valid VIP or Handicap parking pass to access the parking lot.

Address: 602 S. Shoreline Drive, Corpus Christi, Texas 78401

2

General Admission Parking

Free Parking is located at Whataburger Field. Shuttle service runs every 15 minutes starting one hour before gates open, and stops one hour after gates close.

Address: 734 E. Port Ave, Corpus Christi, Texas 78401

3

The TESLA Experience

Park at GA Parking Lot at Whataburger Field, then ride to and from the festival in style with complimentary Tesla Test Rides, courtesy of your local Tesla dealership.

Address: 734 E. Port Ave, Corpus Christi, Texas 78401

4

Vendor/Competitor/Volunteer Parking

Vendor/Competitor/Volunteer Parking is available across the street in an unpaved lot. A valid Vendor or Competitor badge is required for access. **Subject to availability.**

Address: 601 S. Shoreline Drive, Corpus Christi, Texas 78401

5

Rideshare (Lyft, Uber, Taxis, Limos)

A designated pickup and dropoff location has been made available for any rideshare programs immediately next to the VIP parking lot.

Address: Kinney Street & Shoreline Blvd, Corpus Christi, Texas 78401

6

Downtown Parking

There are many downtown options for paid and free parking lots within walking distance of the Texas Food Championship.

Address: Downtown Corpus Christi, Texas 78401

SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2026
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS
TEXASFOODCHAMPIONSHIP.COM



PACK SMART. COME READY

TEXAS FOOD CHAMPIONSHIP KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

1

WHAT TO BRING

Come ready for a full day on the Bayfront! Bring sunscreen, sunglasses, a hat, comfortable shoes and a portable phone charger so you can stay comfortable and connected throughout TFC.

2

CHAIRS & SEATING

Get comfortable and stay awhile! Small folding lawn chairs are welcome at TFC and may be used in designated areas. Please keep chairs clear of walkways, competition areas and other restricted spaces.

3

BAGS & PERSONAL ITEMS

For a safer and faster entry, clear bags are strongly encouraged. Small personal bags and clutches are permitted, and all bags are subject to security inspection upon entry. Oversized bags, backpacks and coolers are prohibited.

4

OUTSIDE FOOD & DRINK

Come hungry and thirsty! Outside food and beverages are not permitted inside TFC. With food trucks, festival bars, tastings, samples and culinary experiences throughout the grounds, there will be plenty to enjoy all weekend long.

5

PETS & SERVICE ANIMALS

For the safety and comfort of our guests, pets are not permitted inside the festival grounds. Trained service animals are welcome in accordance with applicable ADA requirements.

6

WEATHER & FESTIVAL READY

TFC is an outdoor Texas festival, so dress for the weather and plan accordingly! Stay hydrated, wear sunscreen and come prepared to enjoy a full day of Food Sport, entertainment and festival fun.

SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2026
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS
TEXASFOODCHAMPIONSHIP.COM



WE'RE HERE TO HELP

TEXAS FOOD CHAMPIONSHIP KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

1

INFORMATION & GUEST SERVICES

Need help while at TFC? Guest Services is conveniently located behind the Main Stage for festival information, schedules, directions, accessibility assistance, Lost & Found and general guest support throughout the weekend.

2

FIRST AID & MEDICAL

Your safety comes first! On-site medical personnel and first-aid support will be available throughout TFC to assist with minor injuries, heat-related concerns and other medical needs that may arise during the festival.

3

ACCESSIBILITY

TFC is committed to creating a welcoming and accessible festival experience. Accessible routes, restrooms and accommodations will be available throughout designated areas of the festival grounds.

4

FAMILY & SPECIAL NEEDS SUPPORT

Families can take advantage of designated spaces and resources, including our Little Champions Soft Play Area, created for younger children and children with special needs.

5

LOST & FOUND

Lost something during the festival? Lost & Found is located at Guest Services behind the Main Stage. Stop by for assistance, and please turn in any found items so we can help reunite them with their owners.

6

RESTROOMS & COMFORT

Restroom facilities are conveniently located throughout the festival grounds for easy guest access. Accessible facilities are also available, with upgraded premium restrooms inside the Champions Club for our VIP guests.

SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2026
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS
TEXASFOODCHAMPIONSHIP.COM



FAQ

TEXAS FOOD CHAMPIONSHIP KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

1

CASH OR CARD?

Both cash and major credit/debit cards are accepted throughout TFC at participating vendors, bars and experiences. Need cash? ATMs will also be conveniently located on-site throughout the festival weekend.

2

CAN I LEAVE AND COME BACK?

Come and go as needed! Re-entry is permitted throughout TFC. Guests with a Day Pass may re-enter only on the specific day their ticket is valid, while eligible weekend passes provide access according to their ticket type.

3

RAIN OR SHINE?

A little Texas weather won't stop the fun! TFC is a rain-or-shine event, and we've planned plenty of covered areas throughout the festival so guests can continue enjoying Food Sport, entertainment and experiences regardless of the weather.

4

WHERE CAN I FIND THE SCHEDULE?

There's a LOT happening at TFC! Find the complete daily schedule — including Food Sport competitions, live music, chef experiences, seminars and special events — online at the Texas Food Championship Schedule page.

5

NEED HELP?

We're here to help make your TFC experience great! Visit Guest Services behind the Main Stage for festival information, directions, schedules, accessibility assistance, Lost & Found or help with questions that come up throughout your day.

6

STAY CONNECTED

Don't miss a thing! Follow Texas Food Championship on Instagram and Facebook for daily festival updates, announcements and minute-by-minute event-day updates so you always know what's happening and where to find the action.

SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2026
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS
TEXASFOODCHAMPIONSHIP.COM



WAYS TO JOIN TFC

TEXAS FOOD CHAMPIONSHIP KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

1

COMPETE

Think you've got what it takes to compete? Step into the Food Sport arena and put your skills to the test in professional, home cook, junior, collegiate and fan competitions happening throughout TFC.

2

BECOME A JUDGE

Take a seat on the other side of the judging table! Apply to become a Food Sport judge, taste incredible competition dishes and help evaluate the creativity, execution and flavor behind each entry.

3

VOLUNTEER

Become part of the team that makes TFC happen! Volunteer behind the scenes or throughout the festival, meet incredible people and experience the energy and excitement of Texas Food Championship from the inside.

4

BECOME A VENDOR

Bring your business to TFC! Join our Marketplace and put your products, services and brand in front of thousands of festival guests while becoming part of an action-packed championship weekend.

5

BECOME A PARTNER

Put your brand at the center of Food Sport! TFC partners can connect directly with guests, create memorable activations, build brand awareness and support an event celebrating food, community and Texas.

6

PERFORM & PARTICIPATE

Think you belong on the TFC stage? We're searching for talented musicians, entertainers and performers ready to bring their energy to the Texas Food Championship and entertain thousands of festival guests.

SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2026
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS
TEXASFOODCHAMPIONSHIP.COM



THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF THE TEXAS FOOD CHAMPIONSHIP

TEXAS, IT'S TIME TO EAT.

Three days of Food Sport, live music, incredible food and unforgettable Texas-sized experiences. Come hungry. Bring the family. Experience the action—and watch Texas Champions begin their journey to the world stage.

EVERYTHING TFC. ALL IN ONE PLACE.

TICKETS

SCHEDULE

MAP

FOLLOW US



SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2026
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS
TEXASFOODCHAMPIONSHIP.COM

WIN IN TEXAS. REPRESENT TEAM TEXAS. TAKE ON THE WORLD.