



## BURGER BATTLES – TEAM INFO

*Fundraiser benefitting the Lake Martin Area United Way*

### **What is Burger Battles?**

**It's a burger competition and fundraiser!** All proceeds will go to support the Lake Martin Area United Way's 2025 Annual Campaign to help fund our community initiatives and programs, 26 partner agencies, and other services we provide to help our neighbors.

**COMPETITORS:** there will be 2 divisions: **Restaurant Pros and Tailgaters (Backyard Grillers)**. There will also be **Beef and Other** (non-beef, game, or veggie) categories to be judged as well as a **"People's Choice"** voting!

**FOOD SAFETY:** All grillers **MUST** follow Food Safety Guidelines which will be provided to all teams as outlined by the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH). Any teams failing to adhere to the guidelines will be eliminated from the event.

Agreement to participate locks down a grilling location/tent thus preventing another griller from participating so there will be no refunds issued in the event of a cancellation or no-show. With this being our first year hosting this event, the number of teams will be limited. All proceeds go to supporting local charities and programs of the Lake Martin Area United Way.

Fire up the grill and show off your grilling skills while supporting a great cause!

**JUDGING:** Burgers will be judged based on the following criteria:

- Taste – burgers should be cooked according to ADPH guidelines and taste good, not too salty, bland, or overcooked
- Appearance – burgers should be visually appealing
- Toppings – this is up to you, but toppings should complement and enhance the burger
- Flavor, originality and presentation

*This is a blind, judged competition where the judges do not know the team names, only a pre-assigned number when samples are taken to them for judging.*

**PEOPLE'S CHOICE COMPETITION** – Attendees are given 1 ticket at the gate that they will use to vote for their favorite burger. Attendees will have the opportunity to purchase additional tickets for \$1.00 each. People's Choice containers will be picked up at 4:30 PM by staff/volunteers and votes counted. Winners will be announced at 5:00 PM.

**BEST DECORATED TENT AWARD** – An anonymous judge will walk the cook sites and choose the winner based on Team Spirit, Cook Site Theme, and Décor. HAVE FUN and SHOW YOUR SPIRIT! Winners will be announced at 5:00 PM.

**BURGERS FOR JUDGING & SAMPLES FOR PEOPLE'S CHOICE** – United Way will provide each team with a container to use to turn in your burger sample. **Burgers should either be cut into 4 pieces (sample size = ¼ burger) or Slider Size cut in half (sample size = ½ slider).** At the scheduled time, the teams will place their burger sample in the designated container. An assigned United Way staff member or volunteer will pick up the burger and mark it with your team number.

**ONCE JUDGING BEGINS, NO FURTHER ENTRIES WILL BE ALLOWED.**

**COOKING SAFETY** – **ALL cooking must be done outside of the tent, whether you are using propane gas tanks, charcoal, Blackstone, or grill surfaces.** NO cooking is permitted under the tent. GRILLS are provided BY THE TEAM and NOT supplied by United Way.

**OTHER NOTES:**

1. Teams must prepare the equivalent of 40 burgers (cut into sample sizes as described above)
2. Each guest will receive one sample per team tent. Samples will be presented in the containers provided to you by United Way.
3. United Way will provide sample containers, napkins, gloves and paper towels, along with trash receptacles for both the grill team and guests.
4. Burgers must be cooked and assembled on-site. Please refer to the Cook-Off Guidelines for further details.
5. Teams should bring their own chairs, ALL cooking equipment including grills and cooking utensils, and ALL your own ingredients.
6. Meat and other perishable ingredients must be stored in a cooler at proper temperatures.
7. Hand washing sink will be provided and on-site.
8. Please keep your area clean. Trash cans will be located throughout the event location.
9. Garnishes are not required and are at the discretion of each team.

**PRIZES:** \$250 People's Choice and \$250 Judges Choice Winners (1 each for Restaurant/Pro and Tailgater/Backyard Grillers)

**Questions?** Please contact Stacey Jeffcoat at 256-307-3949 or Courtney Layfield at 256-329-3600

*All entry fees are a donation and therefore tax deductible as permitted by IRS Guidelines. An official letter acknowledging your donation will be provided to you from the Lake Martin Area United Way. Tax ID # 63-0888608.*