



**September 12, 2026:  
Official Rules and Entry Form**

Glen Ellyn Backyard Barbeque  
Cook-Off Presented by: AIROOM

### **The Rules**

1. The decisions of the GE Backyard BBQ Committee are final.
2. Each team will be made up of a head cook and as many assistants as the head cook permits.
3. First aid will not be provided.
4. Contestants must have a fire extinguisher. Use of gasoline or other auxiliary heat sources may result in immediate disqualification.
5. No soliciting for any reason.
6. No distribution of food to the public.
7. No refunds if contest is held.

### **Set-up**

8. All teams must first report to the staging area. Teams can arrive at the staging area at 7:30 am and will be released at 8:00 am to the competition area.
9. No drilling or hammering of stakes into pavement is permitted. **Teams are allowed to bring their own canopy, but must be weighted down.**
10. It is the responsibility of the contestants to see that their area is kept clean during and after the contest.

### **Equipment / Cooking**

11. Contestants must provide all equipment.
12. Water will not be provided.
13. No open pits or holes are permitted.
14. All charcoal and wood products must be extinguished and deposited in the assigned area.
15. All equipment must be removed and trash placed in the assigned area.
16. No electric grills/smokers permitted. Pellet smokers are allowed but we do not provide electricity and generators are NOT allowed.
17. Contestants must adhere to all electric, fire and other city, county, state, and federal codes.
18. No cooking, seasoning and/or marinating may begin until the Official Meat Inspector has inspected your meat. (Unless otherwise specified by these rules.)

### **Food / Turn-In**

19. Our judges follow the KCBS guidelines for judging, although we are not a sanctioned event.
20. For best ribs – pork only (spares and baby backs only – no country ribs).
21. For chicken - wild or farm-raised chicken, cornish game hen or kosher chicken are allowed, whole or parts.
22. A 9x9 Styrofoam “Clamshell” will be provided for each dish.
23. No marking of turn-in box.
24. Entries in each category must be able to accommodate six judges. An extra rib or two is recommended in case a judge picks up two that were not completely cut through – this can result in a judge(s) not getting a rib and having to score it a 1.
25. Meat and the protein portion of Best Dish must start out raw. No pre-seasoning or marinating is allowed, except sausage and bacon.
26. Once meat and other proteins have been inspected, it must not leave the contest site.
27. We will be staggering turn in times again this year. Turn-ins for best dish will be at 1:20 or 1:40, chicken at 2:20 or 2:40, and ribs at 3:20 or 3:40. THESE TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. Teams would be notified via email prior to the contest.
28. There will be a 5 minute window on either side of turn in times.
29. Garnish is completely optional - but if used, must follow KCBS rules.

### **Clean Up**

30. Please help us with proper disposal of all garbage and ashes, in the respective locations and receptacles provided. Dumping of trash in the ash barrels is dangerous and may immediately disqualify your team - no refunds. Help us make this a clean, safe and enjoyable event. Thank You!

**Most Important Rule of All... HAVE FUN!!**

**These rules may be subject to change prior to the Contest Date. Please see [www.glenellynbackyardbbq.org](http://www.glenellynbackyardbbq.org) for updates to these rules prior to the event.**



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### **BBQ Sauce • The Rules**

1. The BBQ sauce must be homemade.
2. The BBQ sauce may be pre-made in advance, or the day of. It may be fresh or cooked.
3. The BBQ sauce may be of any kind or texture (e.g. mustard, vinegar, tomato, thin, chunky, etc.)
4. Salsas and hot sauces are not permitted - it must be BBQ sauce.
5. Winners will be announced along with the other awards.

### **Blind Sauce Judging**

6. Contestants must supply the Glen Ellyn Backyard BBQ with 1 cup of sauce for blind judging.
7. A cup container will be provided in the morning and must be turned in at the judges' tent at 12 pm.
8. There will be a 5 minute window on either side of the turn in time.
9. Sauces will be assigned a number to assure anonymity.
10. Judging will be based on Appearance, Aroma and Taste.

### **People's Choice Sauce**

Judging starts at 2:00 pm and ends at 3:30 pm. (Times may be subject to change and contestants notified in pre-contest communications).

Contestants will be supplied with 1-oz. plastic cups to place samples into.

Peoples' Choice will be sampled at each contestant's booth.

Judges must show a sauce token to receive a tasting, but they do not give the token to the contestant, as they use the token to vote.

Once the judges have decided on their favorite sauce, they will place their voting token into a box (supplied by GEBYBBQ) located at the contestant's booth.

Judges may receive as many samples as they like from contestants. The more sauce you have to sample, the more likely you may be to win.

Sauce may be served with chips, bread or pretzels, but only the sauce should be in the cups provided.

Tokens will be collected at 3:45 pm. (Times may be subject to change and contestants notified in pre-contest communications).

A judge may buy more than one token and may vote more than once for any particular sauce or may make multiple votes.

**NOTE: When arriving, please ensure that you inform a GEBYBBQ greeter that you are competing in people's choice sauce. We will try to group best sauce contestants together, to ensure even exposure to the public.**

**These rules may be subject to change prior to the Contest Date. Please see [www.glenellynbackyardbbq.org](http://www.glenellynbackyardbbq.org) for updates to these rules prior to the event.**



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**STEP 1 - COMPLETE ENTRY FORM & CALCULATE ALL FEES**

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_
Head Cook: \_\_\_\_\_
Total Number of Team Members: \_\_\_\_\_
Address: \_\_\_\_\_
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_
Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: Bridge Communities, Inc.

Send by snail mail to:

Glen Ellyn Backyard BBQ
c/o Jeremy Johnson
774 Harding Ave.
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Category(ies) entered [please mark]

\_\_\_ Ribs, \_\_\_ Best Dish, \_\_\_ Chicken, \_\_\_ BBQ Sauce

Entry Fees are:

\$100 for ONE (1) category

\$125 for TWO (2) categories

\$150 for THREE (3) categories

\$175 for all FOUR (4) categories

To qualify for GRAND CHAMPION or RESERVE CHAMPION, you must enter ribs, best dish and chicken categories.

SAUCE: If you manufacture your own sauce or rub, and it is bottled and is commercially available, you may sell it at your booth for an additional \$75.

VIP PARKING ENTRY - LIMITED TO 20 ENTRIES:

Teams may choose to pay an additional \$50.00 for first access to the parking lot/competition area. This will ONLY be available for the first 20 teams that have registered and paid, on a first come, first served basis.

T-SHIRT(s): Pre-order GEBYBBQ 2026 Team T-Shirt(s)

Indicate Quantity of each style/size.

Sizes: Long Sleeve \_\_\_S \_\_\_M \_\_\_L \_\_\_XL \_\_\_XXL

Short Sleeve \_\_\_S \_\_\_M \_\_\_L \_\_\_XL \_\_\_XXL \_\_\_XXXL

\*\*Add an additional \$2.50 for every Men's XXL or XXXL\*\*

Ladies' Cut \_\_\_S \_\_\_M \_\_\_L \_\_\_XL

Total Categories Entered

1 @ \$100.00 total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

2 @ \$125.00 total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

3 @ \$150.00 total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

4 @ \$175.00 total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sauce Sales in Booth

1 @ \$75.00 total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

VIP Parking Entry

1 @ \$50.00 total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Team T-Shirts

Long Sleeve T-shirts @ \$30.00 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Short Sleeve T-shirts @ \$20.00 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Extra for each XXL size @ \$2.50 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Extra - each XXXL size @ \$2.50 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Ladies' Cut T-Shirts @ \$20.00 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Charitable Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENTRY FORM FEES \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*T-Shirt Order Deadline is July 1, 2026

STEP 2 - READ WAIVERS, SIGN & RETURN THIS PAGE WITH PAYMENT

Each contestant of the Glen Ellyn Backyard Barbeque Cook-Off agrees to pay the non-refundable entry fee. The entire entry fee must be paid in full at time of registration submission. The Glen Ellyn Backyard Barbeque Cook-Off Committee retains the right to refuse any application for any reason.

Waiver of Liability, Covenant Not to Sue, Indemnity and Hold Harmless Agreement:

In consideration of accepting this entry to participate in the Glen Ellyn Backyard BBQ (the event), I, the undersigned, intending to be legally bound for myself, my next of kin, my heirs, my personal representatives, my executors and my administrators, hereby waive, discharge, release and covenant not to sue Bridge Communities, Inc., the Glen Ellyn Backyard BBQ Committee, their employees and other volunteers of the event, their agents, successors and assignees for any and all negligence, gross negligence and all other causes of action for injuries and any other damages suffered by me in, or relating to, the event. I further agree to indemnify, save and hold harmless Bridge Communities, Inc., the Glen Ellyn Backyard BBQ Committee, their employees and other volunteers of the event, their agents, successors and assignees for injuries and any other damages suffered by me in, or relating to, the event.

Media Release:

In consideration of accepting this entry to participate in the event, I, the undersigned, hereby grant full permission to Bridge Communities, Inc., the Glen Ellyn Backyard BBQ Committee, their employees, other volunteers of the event, their agents, successors and assignees, to use any photographs, video-tapes, motion pictures, recordings and any other record of, or relating to, the event that include me, the undersigned, for any legitimate purpose.

I Hereby Agree to the Conditions Stated Above: (Your Payment and Signature Signify Your Acceptance of these Terms)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_