

2026 Great TASTE of a Fair

Vendor Guidelines



The Great TASTE of a Fair (GTOAF) competition is on **Wednesday, September 16**, the day before Opening Day, from **10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.** Winners of each category will go on to compete in the FAIRest of Them All that evening between 4 and 6 p.m. FAIRest of Them All judging will take place **at each category winners' booth.**

NEW IN 2026! MUST READ

Due to the volume of entries, we have reformatted this event. GTOAF will now take place under the special event tent located on the Bandshell Lawn.

Vendors will be required to be present for the entire duration, from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

- You will be assigned an 8-foot table and two chairs
- **There will not be any power, gas, or water hook ups available.** You will need to do any necessary cooking at your booth. You can plate/assemble your samples once you arrive.
- Tasters will arrive at the tent at 10:30 a.m. After a brief welcome, they will begin sampling.
- Tasters will come to your table, retrieve their sample of your item, and take it back to their own table to enjoy
- While there will be 20 individuals tasting your item, only a small number of those individuals will be judging and scoring. Tasters who are not judging will be there to create content for dissemination on social media, tv, print, etc. Think of this event as equal parts competition and promotion.
- You can utilize your table space and the space under your table as you like. You cannot spread to neighboring tables.
- Be prepared to discuss your item/booth with tasters! They will be curious.

CATEGORIES

1. Sweetest of the Sweet: Items in this category should be breakfast items, desserts, or sweet snacks.
2. Slice of Savory: Items in this category should be items that are savory or anything that contains meat.
3. New to the Scene: Items in this category should be items that you are serving at the Oklahoma State Fair **for the first time**.
4. Sips & Swigs: Items in this category must be beverages.

APPLICATION

Applications will be accepted July 27 at 10 a.m. through August 10, 2026, at 5 p.m. central time.

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)

Each vendor is eligible to enter one item per category. Entry items **must** be approved menu items. **We accept a limited number of entries, no exceptions.** Slots are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Only one entry form per booth is necessary.

Applicants will be required to provide the following information for each entry item: item name, category, how long you have been serving the item at the Oklahoma State Fair, and a brief item description. Please include possible food allergens.

Application acceptance and additional day-of details will be sent via email on or around September 1. Final category decisions are at the discretion of the GTOAF committee.

DAY OF COMPETITION

GTOAF will take place on September 16, the day **BEFORE** Opening Day, from 10:30 a.m. to approximately 12 p.m.

You must prepare at least TWENTY (20) samples and ONE (1) regular size portion of your item.

The samples should be at least two bites in size. The regular sized item is for presentation purposes. This needs to be a realistic version of the item served to fairgoers. No special treatment, just the best food you can make! Tasters often use the presentation serving for pictures/video that may be broadcast in news stories, posted on social media, or printed.



JUDGING, RESULTS, & PUBLICITY

The judging panel for GTOAF is made up of local “celebrities” (members of the media, food bloggers, and restaurant owners) which could provide opportunities for on-camera demos and special-interest stories, so be prepared.

Scores will be tallied at the conclusion of the event. Judges will be scoring based on taste, execution, presentation, and overall appeal. Decisions of the judge’s panel are final and may not be contested.

The first-place winner of each category will be contacted between 2 and 3 p.m. on September 16. Each of the winning vendors will then prepare their winning item to present to our special FAIRest of Them All judge(s) between 4 and 6 p.m. This portion of the competition will take place at YOUR booth.

IMPORTANT: All judging decisions should not be released until the Oklahoma State Fair makes an announcement, which will be made no later than 10 a.m. on September 17. The official winner announcement will be made by both the Oklahoma State Fair and our judges.

AWARDS

Each vendor will receive a participation banner to hang in their booth. First place in each category will receive \$300 and a trophy. Second place in each category will receive \$150 and a trophy. Third place in each category will receive \$50 and a trophy.

Trophies will be delivered as soon as possible. Cash prizes will be delivered before the close of the Fair.

FAIREST OF THEM ALL

First place items in each category will be eligible for this award. Once results have been tabulated, the first-place winners will be contacted between 2 and 3 p.m. on September 16.

Between 4 and 6 p.m. on September 16, the FAIRest of Them All judge(s) will head to the vendor booths to taste the item. The FAIRest of Them All winner will receive a FAIRest of Them All trophy, in addition to their category trophy.

Winners will be featured on the Oklahoma State Fair website, social media accounts, mentioned in the GTOAF press release and eblast, and will likely be contacted by media outlets for coverage of their winning item. **The FAIRest of Them All winner may be asked to provide ~150 servings of their winning item at the Oklahoma State Fair Chairman's Party at 5 p.m. on Thursday, September 17. The winner will be compensated for this service if asked and accepts.**

PLEASE NOTE: *The Great TASTE of a Fair competition may be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances or at the discretion of Oklahoma State Fair, Inc. management.*

CONTACT

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