



CAROLINA SMOKE-N-GRASS FESTIVAL BBQ TEAM APPLICATION

**February 21st thru February 22nd, 2025
Union County Fairgrounds, 120 Kirby St, Union, SC 29379**

Sanctioned and Judged by the South Carolina Barbeque Association (SCBA)

Applications are now being accepted for the 2025 Carolina Smoke-N-Grass Festival. Union County Coon Hunters Association and the Union County Tourism Board reserves the right for the final selection of cookers and participants. **Registration deadline is Friday February 14, 2025. (NOTE: Registration deadline is based on the USPS Postmark date)**

1) Dates/Times: Friday, February 21st (Quiet Night)

9:00 am – Facility Opens for Cook Teams
2:00 - 3:00 pm – Distribution of meat (1 case of Pork Butts per team)
4:00 pm – Cook's Meeting

Saturday, February 22nd

10:00 am – Pork Box Judging Begins
11:00 am – Rib Box Judging Begins (Optional participation)
11:00 am – Event Opens to Public (Pork served to public)
2:30 pm – Awards Presentation (on main stage)

2) Location: Union County Fairgrounds – South Carolina
Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. Union County Coon Hunters Association and the Union County Tourism Board reserves the right to deny any application, at any time.

Union provides electric hookups (110 V) and water connections. Set-up begins Friday February 21st at 9:00 am. There will be plenty of space for your use. You must have a suitable water hose for DHEC and any drop cords or accessories needed for your cooking. Please bring 150 feet of hose and electrical cords with you. Your site must be left in the same manner as you found it.

- 3) All contestants must adhere to all health, electrical, fire, and other codes applicable to this event.
- 4) For a 30 Amp service, there will be an additional charge of \$25.00.
- 5) By completing the agreement below, you agree that Union County Coon Hunters Association of South Carolina, Union County, the Union County Tourism Board, Union County Fairgrounds, Carolina Smoke-N-Grass Festival volunteers and the South Carolina Barbeque Association **WILL NOT** be liable for any loss or damage from any cause.

Rules and Regulations:

- 1) **Registration:** Each team must register upon arrival so that a cooking site may be assigned.
- 2) **DHEC and/or Fire Marshal Requirements:** Plastic or rubber gloves, meat thermometer, and five (5) gallon hand washing station with soap and paper towels must be available on your site. Each site should have a #10 fire extinguisher. Adequate space will be provided to each cooking team **20' x 30'** (If you're not bringing a trailer and if you can use a smaller space, please notate in the "Any specific requests" section on the Application Form). Event organizers will explain any new fire codes as applicable.
- 3) **Meat:** Only the meat issued, by the event organizer, shall be prepared and cooked on-site and submitted for judging and served to the public. All meat must remain on the team's site, once issued, and all remaining meat, not submitted to judges for turn-in, shall be made available for serving the public. All leftover meat will be collected by the event staff, approximately 30 minutes, prior to awards. Any "Throw Downs" is amongst the cook teams and SCBA, themselves.
- 4) **Cooking Fuels/Cookers:** Approved cooking fuels are wood, charcoal, propane or butane gas, or electricity. Any cooker, homemade or commercially manufactured, which fits the cooking site, will be allowed to compete. Electric or hand operated rotisseries or manual rotating shelves are also permitted.
- 5) **Cleanliness and Sanitation:** All teams are to maintain cook sites in an orderly, safe and clean manner. Good sanitary practices are to be utilized during preparation, cooking, handling and judging processes. The use of sanitary gloves is required at all times while handling food. Failure to use sanitary gloves could result in disqualification. Teams must prepare the meat under cover. Teams are responsible for cleanup of their site. Any violations shall be corrected immediately and/or the team may be subject to disqualification.
- 6) **Category:** The pork meat category is defined as pork, fresh and uncured. A case of refrigerated butts, per team, will be handed out Friday afternoon. You must provide all materials for your cooking needs. Union County Coon Hunters Association will provide 2 oz. cups, pints and/or quarts for guest sampling.
- 7) **Cook's Meeting:** All head cooks must attend a Cook's Meeting to be held on Friday, February 21st at 4:00 pm. Rules will be explained, and turn-in boxes will be distributed. Contact: Brian Gaston (864) 426-1347 if you are arriving late. NOTE: If all teams are present and all meat has been distributed, the Cook's Meeting may be moved to an earlier time, if communication can be made to all teams, in advance.
- 8) **Judging:** Judging will be conducted by South Carolina Barbeque Association certified judges. Blind judging will be used. No markings shall be allowed on any of the boxes submitted for turn-in to the judges.
- 9) **Meat Turn-In Time:** There will be an allowance of a fifteen (15) minute turn-in window. The turn-in window will begin ten (10) minutes before the top of the hour until five (5) minutes after the top of the hour. Any team that fails to have their entry submitted for judging due to failure to meet the turn-in time will be disqualified.
 - **Pork - 10:00 am (9:50 – 10:05 am)**
 - **Ribs - 11:00 am (10:50 – 11:05 am) Note: Rib participation is a team option.**
- 10) **Awards:** Awards will be given out on Saturday afternoon, at 2:30 p.m., following the judging process and scoring.

First Place	\$ 1500.00 and a Trophy
Second Place	\$ 1000.00 and a Trophy
Third Place	\$ 500.00 and a Trophy
Fourth Place	\$ 250.00 and a Trophy
Fifth Place	Trophy

Carolina Smoke-N-Grass Festival Application Form

Date Received: _____ *Approved:* _____ *Not Approved:* _____

(Please Print)

Official Team Name: _____ **Pitmaster:** _____

Address

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Telephone: (Cell # where you can be reached on-site): _____

Email: _____

Any specific requests:

BBQ Entry Fee: \$ 225.00
(30 Amp Service Requirement) \$25.00 (additional)

Total Due: _____

If paying by check, make check payable to: Union County Coon Hunters Association. No entry application is considered without check.

Participant's Agreement:

The undersigned agrees that he/she will be responsible for any loss of damage to his/her equipment/cook site during the Carolina Smoke-N-Grass Festival. He/she agrees to abide by all rules as set forth by the Union County (SC) Coon Hunter Association and the Union County Tourism Board as explained with this application. My signature below and enclosed payment indicate that I understand that failure to abide by these rules and regulations may result in my participation in future events with Union County (SC). All participants grant Union County Coon Hunters Association, the Union County Tourism Board and its assigns, licensees, affiliates and successors the right to use their image, likeness, voice, actions and/or statements in all forms in perpetuity.

Application fee must accompany this application. This is a rain or shine event – NO refund due to weather. Registration fees are non-refundable under all circumstances, once accepted into the contest.

Conditions:

Union County Coon Hunters Association (SC) and the Union County Tourism Board reserves the right to reject any application. If your application is not accepted, your money will be refunded. Refunds of the application fee will not be made once you have been accepted into the contest. Any photographs or videos taken of your team on-site becomes the property of Union County Coon Hunters Association (SC) and the Union County Tourism Board and may be used for promotional purposes.

By signing the application, contestants agree to indemnify and hold Union County Coon Hunters Association of South Carolina, the Union County Tourism Board, Carolina Smoke-N-Grass Festival volunteers, South Carolina Barbeque Association, and all sponsors harmless from any and all claims made against same; including without limitation, all costs, liabilities, judgments, expenses, damages or reasonable attorney's fees, arising out of, or in connection with: (1) any structure erected by Contestant; (2) any apparatus, equipment or personal property used by Contestant; (3) any act or omission to act of Contestant, and its invitees, and (4) any claims made on account or resulting from Contestants participating in the contest. Any legal action concerning this contract will be conducted in Union County, South Carolina.

By signing this agreement, my team and I fully agree to and will adhere to the Rules and Regulations.

PITMASTER's SIGNATURE: _____

Mail your application, signed conditions, and fees payable to: Union County Coon Hunters Association

Mail to:
285 Askew Circle
Union, SC 29379

Any questions should be directed to:
Brian Gaston (864) 426-1347
TBGaston78@yahoo.com