

Let's Have a Food Show!!!! What you need to know about participating in the 2023 Food Show

Theme: **Christmas at Home and Around the World:** Choose a recipe that is a Christmas favorite with your family OR choose a Christmas/Hanukkah recipe that you found from another country. Be prepared to discuss with judges your knowledge of the recipe, where you found it, why you chose it, etc.

1. The show is December 8, 2023. Be at the Cecil Auditorium with all your "show" materials at 6:00. Your food should be prepared and ready.
2. Set up your dish and display by 6:30. Cloverbuds may have a helper. All other ages will set up their own displays. Judging begins at 6:30.
3. You will have **half** the length of an 8 foot table to set up your display. Your display should include a table cover, appropriate decorations, your finished dish of food, a place setting (plate or bowl, silverware, napkin, etc.) to show the judges you know how to set a table, **and a copy of your recipe** so judges can ask about ingredients and method. You will also have a small plate (can be paper) with a fork for each judge. Judges are the only ones who will be tasting at this point. (Note: depending on the number of participants we have, you could be able to have a whole table to yourself.
4. Judges: Each participant should have 2 judges who will come visit your table separately. Remain seated and quiet until a judge arrives at your table; then stand and greet your judge with an extended hand to shake hands and introduce yourself. (If a judge is concerned about the virus, we may skip the handshake.) The judge will ask you a few questions about your dish, your display, and yourself! One benefit to having a theme is to have more to discuss with the judge. Some questions a judge could ask you include:
 - Why did you choose this dish?
 - What was the first step in preparing this dish? ("First, I washed my hands" is always a good answer!)
 - Tell me about your family and on what occasions this dish appeared on your table. (Or something about the theme)
 - What was the most difficult part of making this?
 - Is there anything nutritious about this dish?

Do you like to cook?
(and so on...)

(Judges ask you questions to give you a chance to speak, share your experiences, and to get to know you. Plus, most judges are really interested in learning new things and tasting new foods!)

Each judge will taste the sample you have provided for them. Definitely invite them to do that! They may taste while you are talking, etc.

5. When both your judges have left your table, you may sit and relax and wait patiently and quietly for all the judging to finish. I will let you know when everyone is finished. Then we will take the finished dishes that should be almost full of food, except for what the judges tried, and bring them to the long serving table on the stage. When we are ready, we will all line up and taste small amounts of each dish. Do not take down your display until all judging is completed. Some judges like to go back to the participants and their displays.

More!

1. A food show is a great introduction to a formal presentation with judges and questions, but it is still low-stress.
2. Your appearance is always important. You can dress in nice school clothes. Sunday dress is not required, but it is welcome. If you have a costume that goes along with your food and table decorations, that's always a nice touch. Neat and clean are always good standards!
3. I know that "Beverage" is a category on most score sheets, but we'd like to limit beverages to the Cloverbud age group only, please. Choose a recipe that fits your age and skill level for best results.
4. While we taste the food, judges will add up your scores and determine some overall prizes like "Most Creative," "Best in Show," and so forth.
5. Ribbons and other awards will be given out when everyone is ready.
6. Please ask questions as you need to. This will be the first Food Show for many of you. You may email me at carolyn.frances.jones@gmail.com Or call or text me at 336-596-6470. I'd be glad to talk with you!
7. **Remember that registrations are due by Nov. 27 at 5:00. Drop them by the county office or email them to Mr. Matt or me. Remember to email Mr. Matt a digital copy of your recipe by Nov. 27 so he can put our "cookbook" together.**

Happy Cooking! Mrs. Carolyn

