

APRIL 13TH, 2024

18TH ANNUAL

GUMBOGALA.COM

EPISCOPAL PLACE

# GUMBO GALA

- EST 2005 -  
BIRMINGHAM, AL



## TEAM INFORMATION



# ABOUT GUMBO GALA

## WHAT IS A GUMBO GALA?

Seventeen years ago, Episcopal Place Board members, staff, and volunteers created a fundraising event that would be unique and fun for the community and for the Episcopal Place residents it would benefit. Four couples from Louisiana had recently moved into Episcopal Place after losing their homes to Hurricane Katrina. Knowing how much they missed their food, music, and culture, Episcopal Place staff members developed the concept for the Inaugural Gumbo Gala in their honor. And the rest is Gumbo Gala history!

Gumbo Gala is a gumbo cooking competition featuring backyard and professional chefs. The event features a delicious array of gumbos from chicken and sausage to seafood and gator, live music & entertainment, cold cocktails and community pride! Gumbo Gala is a friendly competition amongst teams vying for the coveted "Silver Pot" and, of course, bragging rights!



[gumbogala.com](http://gumbogala.com)

# TEAM REGISTRATION

## Think You've Got the Best Gumbo? Prove it!

**Register online at [gumbogala.com](http://gumbogala.com)!**

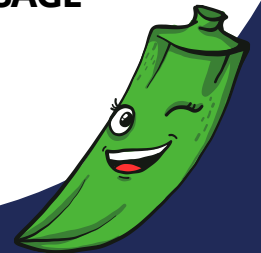
No two gumbo recipes are quite the same, a culinary fact that makes this Creole and Cajun favorite as versatile as it is delicious. The stew gets its biggest chance to shine at the 18th Annual Gumbo Gala, a one-day cook-off held by Birmingham's Episcopal Place. Gumbo teams from the region gather around their simmer pots, with each one attempting to impress both crowds of samplers and the panel of judges who crown each year's winners.

## Select your Team Category

PROFESSIONAL  
BACKYARD CHEFS  
STUDENTS

## Select your Gumbo Category

CHICKEN AND SAUSAGE  
SAUSAGE  
SPECIALTY



*[gumbogala.com](http://gumbogala.com)*

## Coordinate with your team members ahead of time to ensure that you have the following items!



- Gas Burner
- 2 tanks of propane gas
- Any tools needed to connect gas to burner
- Pot(s)
- Cooking utensils
- Small ladle for serving gumbo
- Towels & paper towels
- Garbage bags
- Decorations for your tent, for the Spirit Award
- Cell phone charger
- Chairs for team members
- Table cloths/covers for 6' or 8' tables
- Cooler of beverages & snacks for your team
- Ice for your cooler and/or ingredients
- Cash or Credit/Debit Card for beverages and food truck
- Any additional items your team plans to sell to raise money for Episcopal Place (bread pudding, baked goods, etc. The team that raises the most money for EP also receives an award.)

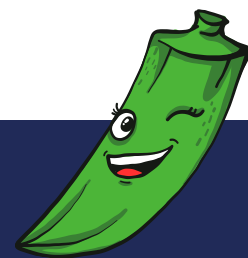
# SUPPLIES AND SET UP

## Episcopal Place will supply the following items for each team:

- 10x10 Space (inside a 10x20 tent, shared with another team)
- Team sign
- Two 6' tables
- Disposable spoons and cups for guests
- Disposable cups and lids to submit gumbo for judges
- Food safety gloves

## Helpful Load-In Information:

- Team load-in Saturday morning is 7:00-9:00
- During load-in please plan to drive to your site, quickly unload, and immediately park vehicle in parking lot. This will allow for a quick unload, and will help prevent traffic jams for other teams.



# EVENT DAY SCHEDULE

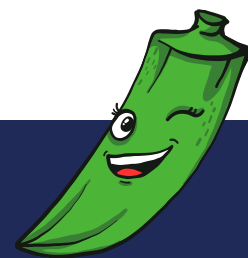
## Saturday, April 13

- 7:00 - 9:00 Team load-in
- 10:00 Mandatory cooks' meeting at Judges' area
- 12:00 Gates open to public
- 1:00 Professional Team turn-in at Judges' Tent
- 1:15 Student Team turn-in at Judges' Tent
- 1:30 Backyard Team turn-in at Judges' Tent
- 2:30 Volunteers pick-up People's Choice buckets from each team
- 3:00 Awards Ceremony at stage
- 4:00 Event ends

## Load in Access

Load in will begin at 7:00 AM Saturday. Please enter through the designated area as indicated on site map. Upon arrival, you will be directed where to drive for unloading at your site. While unloading, please park so that other vehicles can drive around you.

**Please move your vehicle immediately after unloading. Moving your vehicle immediately after unloading will help eliminate traffic jams for all teams.**





# JUDGING

## Turning in gumbo for judging

Gumbo Gala staff will provide each team with turn-in containers at Judges' Tent, 8:00-10:00. Please do not mark the cups or containers. Only the special code number will identify each team. Garnish is allowed at each team's discretion, and it must fit inside the turn-in container, with lid secured. Each team may only submit one type of gumbo for the competition.

**Backyard teams at 1:00, Student teams turn in gumbo at 1:15 and Professional teams turn in gumbo to Judges' at 1:30.**

**Once judging begins, no other submissions will be permitted.**

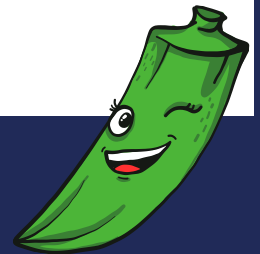
## Mandatory cook meeting @ 10AM

All teams must have at least one representative present at the Judges' Tent for this meeting.

**(Turn-in containers will be available for pick-up at the judges' tent 8:00-10:00.)**

## People's Choice Award

All teams will compete for the People's Choice Award. Each guest will receive one ticket to vote for their favorite gumbo. The People's Choice tickets will be retrieved by staff & volunteers at 2:00.



*gumbogala.com*

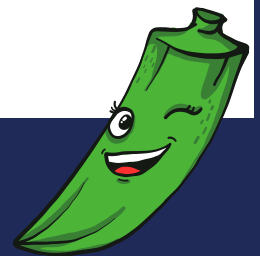
# GENERAL INFO.

## Coolers, beverages, ice and food

Gumbo Teams are encouraged to arrive for load in with their own coolers and snacks. Alcoholic beverages may be purchased from Ghost Train Brewing. It is important to note that teams are prohibited from selling or giving them to guests. There will be both alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages available for sale beginning at 12:00.

## Water access and clean up

- Water supply is located along back side of Ghost Train Brewing
- Leftover gumbo should be taken home with team members. Please refrain from dumping leftover food at event.
- Decorations should be taken home. Please do not leave decorations, structure, etc. onsite.





## Beverage and food safety

Gumbo Gala will follow safety regulations established by the Birmingham Fire Safety Department and the Jefferson County Health Department. Cook teams must comply with safety rules by doing the following:

- Ensure propane tanks, gas hoses, and other equipment are in good working order and have no leaks. The hose must be UL or CSA listed and for use with LP gas.
- Keep all cooking equipment/burners outside of tent. No cooking is permitted under tent.
- Hands and cooking utensils must be washed and sanitized.
- A limited number of disposable food handling gloves will be provided by Episcopal Place and should be worn while preparing and serving gumbo.
- Cooks should wear hats and pull back long hair.
- Meats and other perishable ingredients must be stored in a cooler.

- Keep your team's area as clean as possible. Trash cans will be located throughout the site.
- If beer is part of your recipe, do not pour partially consumed beer in gumbo. Teams may bring beverages for their own consumption, but should not distribute to guests.
- Reheating Gumbo & Food Items - the Health Department recommends that food being reheated at Gumbo Gala be brought to a temperature of at least 165 F within 30 minutes. Teams must supply their own thermometers.

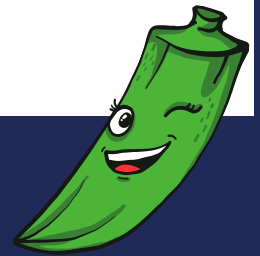
## Propane tank safety

Please be prepared to secure your tank inside a milk crate per the Fire Marshall's request. Additionally, please note that ALL gas tanks and ALL burners must be placed outside of your tent. Teams are encouraged to bring a fire extinguisher if they have one readily available. Note that there will be no additional burners/cookers on site to borrow. Please have a back-up if you think it is needed.

# IMPORTANT NOTES

## Other notes

- Teams should prepare at least 10 - 12 gallons of Gumbo.
  - Episcopal Place will provide disposable spoons and bowls for guest samples.
  - Please fill bowls only 1/4 to 1/2, to stretch your gumbo supply!
  - The gumbo must be made by the team. Gumbo may be prepared ahead of time and reheated, but cooking on site is preferred. Most teams bring all ingredients chopped and ready for the pot.
  - Teams should bring chairs, all cooking equipment, and utensils.
  - Tent sites are assigned by Episcopal Place and cannot be changed on event day.
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- Each guest will receive ONE SPOON at the entrance gate, in an effort to be more earth friendly and reduce waste. Guests will be asked to keep their spoons throughout the event. A limited number of extra spoons will be given to each team in case a guest drops their spoon. Thank you for helping us be more earth friendly!
  - Each team will have a 10x10 area, just as in previous years. Please plan decorations accordingly. Staples are prohibited as they will damage the tent canvas.



THANK YOU!

