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Steaks only part of menu at state's second cook-off

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How does this sound? A steak dinner, live music, art show and a stroll through a display of more than 80 classic cars - all for \$20.

Twenty-dollar entertainment isn't easy to come by, so consider the Oklahoma Championship Steak Cook-Off a great deal, for a good cause.

It's being billed the largest steak dinner in Oklahoma and with good reason. Fifty teams will each cook 40 steaks - that's 2,000 16-ounce ribeyes if you're keeping count.

Before they start cooking for the masses, each team will participate in the other aspect, the cook-off arena, of the event. For it, each team will pull out its best seasoning and grilling secrets to prepare a 16-ounce ribeye for a panel of six judges. One team will be named the winner and receive a \$2,500 prize. Last year's winning team, the Smolen, Smolen and Roytman law firm, will be back to defend its title.

Last year was the first year for the cook-off, and it's already attracted more attention than some food events and festivals that have been around for years.

It could be because it supports some of Tulsa's most well-respected nonprofits, including the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma, Habitat for Humanity, Camp New Hope and Iron Gate.

Or, it could be even simpler. Just ask Tripp Haggard, one of the event's organizers.

"Oklahoma is beef country, and we like our steak," he said.

Haggard also attributes the large number of participants to the fact that anyone can participate - no special equipment or years of knowledge are required.

"Almost everybody thinks they can grill a steak. The thing is, can they do it better than everybody else? Hence the challenge," he said.

Haggard said organizers wanted the cook-off to be about more than steak, especially for those who aren't big meat eaters.

"You can also taste free samples during the 'anything but beef' competition, enjoy great live music and watch the grill masters do their thing," he said.

Oklahoma Steak Cook-Off

Saturday at Sixth Street and Cincinnati Avenue

11 a.m.: Vintage car show

Noon: Live music. art show begins

12:30 p.m.: Appetizer sampling and contest

5:30 p.m.: \$20 steak dinner

7 p.m.: Winners of the steak competition announced

Tickets can be purchased at tulsaworld.com/oksteakcookoff, at Trinity Episcopal Church or on the day of the event, while they last

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Associated Images:



The Oklahoma Steak Cook-off will benefit area nonprofits, including the Community Food Bank and Iron Gate. Courtesy

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