



Greetings! You are invited to participate in the **8th Annual Downtown Alpena Chili & Chowder Cook-Off on Saturday, October 7, 2023** from 12 - 2 pm on Second Avenue.

The event will take place as part of the Shades of Fall festival, which includes kids' activities with Thunder Bay Arts, Sunrise Suds with the Fresh Palette, and Black Sheep Pub's Oktoberfest & Anniversary Party. Each year, our event draws hundreds of people to enjoy Downtown Alpena. Your participation would be an added highlight!

PARTICIPATE: Participate in an enjoyable "heated" competition and support a community festival that draws hundreds to Downtown Alpena.

COMPETE: Compete for Best in Show (\$250 cash prize), Best Chowder (\$200 cash prize), Best Chili (\$200 cash prize), Most Creative Recipe (\$100 cash prize), and Most Spirited Booth (\$100 cash prize).

ADVERTISE: Introduce hundreds to your business, group, or organization at the event and with media exposure including stories with local media, social media coverage, and more.

SUPPORT: Enhance your community profile by supporting a community event. Tip jars are also welcome and encouraged at each booth to help you raise money for your non-profit, team, or favorite local charity.

Booth space is limited, and we hope to make this our biggest and best year ever! We hope you will take a moment now and **fill out the attached application by October 1** and send it to Alpena Downtown Development Authority, 124 E. Chisholm, Alpena, MI 49707 along with your \$25 application fee made payable to Alpena DDA.

If you have any questions or prefer to send your application via email, please contact Anne Gentry, Executive Director, Alpena Downtown Development Authority at anneg@alpena.mi.us.

Best Regards,

Anne Gentry
Alpena Downtown Development Authority
124 E. Chisholm St., Alpena, MI 49707
anneg@alpena.mi.us | 989-356-6422



2023 Downtown Alpena Chili & Chowder Cook-off Entry Form

This letter constitutes an agreement between the following parties:

1. Business/ Group/ Organization Name: _____

2. Contact Person: _____

3. Email: _____ **Phone Number:** _____

4. Which are you entering? ____ Chili ____ Chowder

5. Chili/ Chowder Name: _____



I agree to abide by contest rules and regulations as stated



I hereby agree that I shall hold the City of Alpena, the Alpena Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and its elected or appointed officials and employees harmless from any and all claims, suits, damages, or loss of use resulting from any act or omission to act by the City of Alpena, the Alpena Downtown Development Authority, and its officers, employees, or agents arising out of, or in the course of my participation in the DDA Chili & Chowder Cook-off on October 7, 2023.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Amount Due: \$25

Email to anneg@alpena.mi.us or drop off: Alpena DDA, 124 E. Chisholm St. Alpena, MI 49707
Forms must be received by October 1, 2023

Downtown Alpena Chili & Chowder Cook-Off Official Rules

The Basics

1. \$25 registration fee is required.
2. All contestants are asked to cook a minimum of 5-6 gallons of chowder/chili, which will serve approximately 350 attendees. Contestants are welcome to set up tip jars at their station to help cover ingredient expenses.
3. Contestants may be amateur, professional, individuals, organizations, businesses, or any type of group.

Prepping Your Chowder or Chili

1. Chowder/chili must be pre-cooked in a certified kitchen and home-made. No canned or store-bought chowder/chili will be accepted. If you need help finding a certified kitchen to make your chowder or chili, there are several in the area. Please contact the DDA.
2. Contestants must ensure any meats used are USDA approved and thoroughly cooked and handled in accordance with USDA recommendations. Contestants may not use any home canned items.
3. Any type of chowder or chili will be accepted. Please provide an ingredient list at your station for those with food allergies.
4. Each registrant is allowed to offer a free complimentary side to their chowder/chili: bread, toppings, appetizer, etc. Registrants are encouraged to decorate their stations.

Information for the Day of

1. Contestants should arrive by 11:00 am and must be set up by 11:30 am. Each entry will be reviewed for freshness. Any entry deemed unacceptable will be removed from the contest and no refund of registration given.
2. Tasting opens to the general public at 12:00 pm. Tasting and voting will end by 2:00 pm, awards given shortly after.
3. Contestants are asked to stay at their table or provide a representative for the duration of the event. Volunteers may be available if needed.
4. Only clean muffin tins provided by the DDA should be accepted and filled by participants.

5. Contestants will be responsible for general clean-up of their area prior to leaving.
6. Contestants are not allowed to sell anything at their station, however they are permitted to accept tips or provide any information about their group.

Supplies

1. DDA will supply one 8' table, 2 chairs, an identifying sign, access to electricity, muffin tins (2 oz taste), spoons, and napkins. Participants are suggested to bring a crock-pot and extension cord to keep chowder/chili warm. Participants are encouraged to bring their own 10x10 tent.
2. There will be alcoholic (Social District) and non-alcoholic beverages available for purchase from downtown establishments.

Judging & Prizes

1. Winners will be chosen by a combination of popular vote and a panel of judges. Winners will be revealed at the end. All decisions by the DDA Chowder Cook-Off Judges are final.
2. Awards by popular vote: Those who attend the event and pay to taste (\$10) will receive a ballot to cast their vote for best chili and chowder. Ballots will be available at the registration table and must be turned in there.
3. Four awards will be announced:
 - People's Choice- \$250 cash prize
 - Best Chili - \$200 cash prize
 - Best Chowder -\$200 cash prize
 - Most Creative Recipe-\$100 cash prize
 - Most Spirited Booth- \$100 cash prize
3. Judges will not be allowed to compete in the contest.
4. Judges will consider: Flavor/Texture/Depth/ Aroma/Consistency/Visual.

Other reminders

1. Please remember this is a family event. Inappropriate or offensive signs, pictures, language, etc. will not be allowed.
2. The DDA Chowder and Chili Cook-off committee reserves the right to disqualify and/or remove a contestant from the contest in the event of any conduct that results in a serious breach of these rules or conduct deemed by the committee to constitute a hazard to attendees.