

Community Advocates  
814 S. Westnedge Ave.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008



How good are  
*your ribs?*

**Special Event  
Competitions**

**Best Ribs &  
Kalamazoo Cook-off**



**August 4-6, 2011  
Arcadia Creek Festival Place**



## Community Advocates Ribfest

Ribfest is a major fundraising event for Community Advocates for Persons with Developmental Disabilities. Since its inception, Ribfest has raised over \$881,000 to support programs for people right here in our community. Specifically, the money raised through this event enables the agency to continue working to realize its vision that each person with a developmental disability participate fully in all aspects of community and determine his or her own future.

The 3-day event is hosted at the Arcadia Creek Festival Place in Downtown Kalamazoo. The event features eight national and local rib vendors who serve up some of the best ribs. There are two competitions as part of Ribfest. Individuals interested in participating may select one of the events to enter, but may not participate in both.

The Best Ribs in Kalamazoo is exclusively for restaurants located in Kalamazoo County. It was started nearly 12 years ago as a way to encourage local restaurants and catering companies to "show their ribs" and help the community understand that great ribs are available all year in the Kalamazoo area. This is exclusive to Kalamazoo County.



The second competition is for both professionals and those back-yard grillers. There are two categories including backyard (amateur) and professional. If you sell any one of the components (sauce or the ribs) you are considered a professional. There is a fee for participation and cash prizes for the top two winners.

## The Hog Trough Eating Competition

**Ribfest is sponsored by:**



This year, Ribfest will host the first annual Hog Trough Eating Competition. Contestants will compete to see who can eat the most rib dinners, sponsored by Park St. Market with support by Spartan stores. The dinners consist of 4 bones of ribs, 1/2 cup mac and cheese, 1/2 cup potato salad, and 1 roll. Contestants will have 3 minutes to eat as many dinners as possible. There will be 4 heats and the winner will be determined by number of dinners eaten. Unfinished dinners will be weighed and added to the total.

Participation is \$15 and is limited.



# Event Rules and Regulations

## Best Ribs in Kalamazoo County Restaurant/Catering Competition

**Date:** Thursday, August 4 at 8 p.m.  
**Fee:** Free  
**Note:** Limited to restaurants and catering businesses in Kalamazoo County

**Judges:** The National Rib Vendors (6 of them) along with two food critics comprise the panel of "judges." The judges, in a blind taste test, rate the ribs based on tenderness, texture, flavors, meat tenderness and the sauce richness. They also review the penetration of the sauce and how it complements the meat. Scoring is conducted on a scale of 1-5 and the overall top winner is determined by the number of points received.

**Contestant Process:** Contestants are asked to arrive at 7:30 p.m. to begin check in and receive review of rules and regulations. The following are the basic guidelines:

- 1 Bring a prepared full rack of ribs - you will need to bring your own chaffing dishes to keep your product to temperature.
- 2 The ribs can be served on your own platter as long as there is no reference to your company. Each judge will be served one rib (12 judges)
- 4 Judges will rate the ribs on a variety of factors - as indicated above.
- 5 Contestants are asked to arrive by 7:30 p.m.

**Benefits:** Contestants will be promoted on site on signage promoting the event on Thursday. WRKR promotes the event and they will highlight the participants of the event on the radio. On Friday they will announce the winners.

❖ Winners receive a trophy and are highlighted throughout the festival weekend.

## Kalamazoo Ribfest Cook-Off Competition

**Professional and Amateur Divisions**  
**Date:** Saturday, August 6 at Judging at 4 p.m.  
**Fee:** \$75 for professional/\$50 Backyard payable to Community Advocates

**Judges:** The National Rib Vendors together with representatives from the Southwest Michigan American Culinary Federation are the judges.

**Backyard Division Winnings:**  
 First Place receives \$100  
 Second Place receives \$50

**Professional Division Winnings:**  
 First Place receives \$200  
 Second Place receives \$100

### Entry Instructions:

- 1 This event is limited to the first 15 entries.
- 2 Participants bring their own cookers, meat, supplies, and serving tools and are limited to a 10 by 10 space.

**Rules - Complete rules will be sent, but the event process includes:**  
 Raw Meat Inspection -- Start at check-in with cold, untreated, raw meat. Pre-cooking, soaking, marinating, bringing etc. prior to check in will not be allowed.

Check in starts at 8 a.m. and meat must be ready for judging by 4 p.m. Contestants may come at any time before noon. Cooking must include the use of the grill. Judging will be based on meat texture, sauce, and presentation. Judging will be based on a blind taste test. Must provide 24 samples.

Participants may decorate their booth area but cannot extend outside their 10 by 10 area.

Please note that a complete set of rules, event location, and procedures will be sent to participating teams. For more information, please contact Deb Droppers at 269/388-2830 or email at: deb@eventkalamazoo.com.

### Ribfest Contact Information

Community Advocates Ribfest  
 814 S. Westnedge  
 Kalamazoo, MI 49008  
 communityadvocates.org for agency information

Deborah Droppers, Event Coordinator  
 269/388-2830 phone 269/388-3083 fax  
 deb@eventkalamazoo.com  
 ribfestkalamazoo.com | Facebook - Ribfest Kalamazoo



# 2011 Rib Cook-off Sign-Up Form



Please return this form by July 25 2011  
 (Kalamazoo Cook-off spots are limited)

814 S. Westnedge, Kalamazoo, MI 49008

Fax to: 269/388-3083 or e-mail to: deb@eventkalamazoo.com



<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Best Ribs in Kalamazoo Kalamazoo Co. Restaurants/Catering Co.</b> Free to participate.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Kalamazoo Ribfest Cook-off</b>	
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Professional Division</b>	<b>\$75.00</b>
			Participant sells/markets ribs and/or Sauce.	
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Backyard Division</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>
			Participant does not sell ribs and/or sauce.	

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Business \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

List Team Members, if applicable:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**WAIVER of LIABILITY:** In consideration of your acceptance of this entry form and fee, I, the undersigned intending to be legally bound, do hereby for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages I may have against Community Advocates, and their agents, successors and assigns for any and all injuries suffered to me in this event. I further grant permission to Community Advocates and/or agents authorized by them to use any photographs, videotapes or any other record of this event for any legitimate purpose.

Contestant agrees to subscribe to Community Advocats Ribfest rules and judging procedures.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Name Written \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_