



19th Annual Kids Que American Royal World Series of Barbecue® Saturday, October 3, 2026

The American Royal Barbecue Contest welcomes you as a contestant in the 19th Annual Junior World Series of Barbecue – the largest youth BBQ contest in the world!

Below is information you will need to compete. Each contestant and parent/guardian should read this information carefully. Please go over each item together so that everyone knows and understands the rules. If you have any questions, you may email bbq@americanroyal.com. Also, specific questions will be answered at the cooks meeting on Saturday.

ENTRY INFORMATION

There are two age group divisions – contestant must be at the age noted at the time of the contest, not the time of registration. KCBS rules apply unless otherwise noted.

Ages 6-10 will be provided hamburger meat.

Each entry will receive 1 ½ pounds of raw hamburger meat.

At least ¾ of a pound of the pre-cooked weight of the meat must be submitted in the box that was provided at check-in.

KCBS rules on garnish do **NOT** apply; there are no rules on garnish.

Ages 11-15 will be provided steak.

Each entry will receive one and only one steak.

The steak will need to be submitted in the box that was provided at check-in.

KCBS rules on garnish do **NOT** apply; there are no rules on garnish.

- All entries must be completed online using the Kids Que Registration form. No email, phone or faxed entries will be accepted.
- Entry fee per contestant is \$35.00. Each entry will receive 1 parking pass and two (2) wristbands; one for the child and one for the parent or guardian who will be assisting the child during the contest. These are for entry into the American Royal World Series of Barbecue grounds. Additionally, each entry will receive protein (based on age group category)
- **Registrations are on a first come/first served basis. There are 80 spots available and will fill quickly. (The past few years we had a wait list – register early!)**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday, October 3, 2026

1:30pm – Check-in

All contestants, parents and/or sponsors must be present at/before check-in time.

2:00pm – Cooks Meeting

Once checked in, children **must** stay within the sectioned off area.

Meat and boxes will be handed out at this time.

Grills and charcoal will be provided.

2:15pm – Start grills and begin cooking

3:15pm – Turn-in for ages 6-10 (Hamburger Meat)

3:45pm – Turn-in for ages 11-15 (Steak)

7:00pm – Awards Ceremony (part of Invitational Awards Ceremony)

ALL Kids Que participants will be invited on stage to receive a ribbon!

Schedule subject to change

Please note: a map with details will be sent to each participant prior to the contest date.

CONTEST RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Contestants will cook in a designated area using grills provided by the American Royal. After cooking is complete, grills should be left at the cook site for event staff to clean and collect.
- The American Royal will provide the protein, and all competition entries should use only the meat provided.
- A parent or guardian must remain with the child throughout the competition. To help keep the area safe and give each young cook enough room to work, space in the cooking area is limited.
- Each contestant may have one adult with them at their cooking space at a time.
- Because space is limited, folding chairs and other seating are not allowed inside the Kids Que cooking area. Parents and guardians who stay in the area will need to remain standing. Chairs may be kept outside the cooking space for use before or after cooking.
- Each participant may bring one storage container for supplies, which should fit underneath the participant's table.
- Entries should be turned in using the numbered containers provided by the American Royal.
- Slicing meat for presentation is optional. If needed, judges will be happy to slice the meat at the judging table.
- Judging will be based on appearance, tenderness/texture, and taste, following KCBS rules.
- Scores will range from 9 (highest) to 1 (lowest).
- For safety, all contestants and parents/guardians must wear closed-toe shoes.

PREPARATION

- Each child participant should prepare, cook, and present their own entry. This includes placing the meat on the grill, turning it, removing it, and adding garnish. Kids Que is designed to celebrate young cooks and give them the chance to showcase their skills, so children should be ready to complete these tasks on their own in order to participate.
- A parent or guardian may help with lighting the fire or slicing, if needed. Other than slicing, adults should not handle the food. Our goal is for each child to have the opportunity to do their own cooking and take pride in their work. If an adult steps in to do tasks the child is able to do, a verbal warning will be given. If it happens again, the child and adult will be disqualified and asked to leave the contest area. We appreciate your help in making this a fun and fair experience for every participant.
- Children who need ADA-related assistance are welcome and encouraged to compete. If additional support may be helpful, please contact the BBQ team in advance. Each child should first be given the chance to try the task on their own, and if assistance is needed, it should be limited to the minimum necessary while still encouraging independence and participation as much as possible.

SUPPLIES

What To Bring:

- Garnish
- Utensils/Knives
- Seasoning/Marinades/Sauces
- Gloves for Participant and Parent/Guardian
- Hot pads/Oven gloves
- Folding chair – **only** to be used outside the cooking area. May not be placed or used inside the cooking area.

What To Leave at Home/Prohibited Items:

- Protein – Must use protein provided by the American Royal
- Easy-Up/Pop-Up Tents
- Your Own Grill
- Flame Throwers/Torches
- Alcohol/Tobacco

What the American Royal Provides:

- Grills
- Charcoal (will be lit for you)
- Protein (Steak or Hamburger Meat)
- Clamshells for Turn-In

Kids Que Prize Money (in each age division)

- 1st Place: \$125
- 2nd Place: \$100
- 3rd Place: \$75
- \$1000 scholarship for winner of 11-15 age group

Kids Que Protein Provided by:



Kids Que Grills Provided by:



TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Event Cancellation Policy

The American Royal reserves the right to cancel an event for reasons beyond Force Majeure. If the American Royal cancels an event, registrants will be notified and offered a full refund of the fees paid directly to the American Royal minus any non-refundable processing fees. The American Royal is not responsible for any refund between the registrant and a third party vendor or for travel expenses.

Force Majeure/Event Cancellation

In case of cancellation of the contest or unavailability of the event due to any causes that are beyond the American Royal's control, including, without limitation, such causes as war, governmental action or order, act of God, fire, flood, severe storm, strike, labor disputes, or other similar causes ("Force Majeure Event"), this Agreement shall terminate, and the Contestant shall be entitled to the return of the fees for the Contest, less the prorated share allocated to the American Royal of the expenses incurred by the Royal in connection with the event as of the date of the Force Majeure Event. Refund of the Fees as provided in this section shall be the exclusive remedy of the Contestant against the American Royal in case the contest is cancelled or rescheduled through a Force Majeure Event. In the event of cancellation or unavailability for reasons beyond the control of the American Royal, Contestant releases and holds all claims for damage and agrees that the American Royal shall have no obligation except the above stated refund.