

2026 AMERICAN ROYAL WORLD SERIES OF BARBECUE®

SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 4 | AMERICAN ROYAL NEW CAMPUS

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AMERICAN ROYAL ASSOCIATION

A Kansas City tradition since 1899, the American Royal is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization whose mission is to be the nation's leader for food and agriculture education, events, and engagement. The American Royal provides opportunities for nearly half a million youth and adults from around the world to engage in high-quality events and experiences, including nationally competitive livestock shows, the world's largest barbecue competition, regional and national equine shows, youth and professional rodeos, and elementary and secondary education outreach. Support from partners, members, and volunteers help the American Royal achieve its vision of a world where food and agriculture are celebrated, and all generations are committed to its future.

STAFF

Email is the preferred contact; however, you may also call and ask for the appropriate extension.

General Inquiries & Team Information

BBQ@americanroyal.com

Main American Royal Line: 816-221-9800

BARBECUE TEAM

**Please email bbq@americanroyal.com
for all inquiries. All BBQ Team will
receive this email.**

*During the event, all team communication is to run
through the provided phone number/hotline in the
onsite team packet.*

VOLUNTEERS

The World Series of Barbecue® relies on its committed American Royal volunteers to help create a remarkable event for all teams. Volunteers will be notably dressed and will be able to provide useful information to teams.

Each team will be assigned a "Team Ambassador" for the weekend. This volunteer's role is to make sure you have all your event information and are there to answer any and all questions.

**PLEASE STOP AND SAY THANK YOU TO ANY AMERICAN ROYAL
VOLUNTEERS YOU PASS! WITHOUT THEM, THE BARBECUE
WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE!**

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TEAM REGISTRATION

TEAM REQUIREMENTS

- All groups (individual or corporate) that wish to have a space at the World Series of Barbecue® must apply online, pay in full for their space and turn in at least one meat to the Open Contest. All groups are considered teams.
- Failure to turn in a protein during the Open Meat is subject to team/chief cook disqualification for future years.
- All Contestants/Teams must have an appointed agent or Chief Cook with full authority to represent the Contestant/Team in its business with the Royal.
- The Chief Cook at the event must match the one that has signed up on the application. If there is a change in the chief cook after the time the application has been submitted, please contact the American Royal Barbecue team at bbq@americanroyal.com.
- Team competitors may NOT judge the same contest they are participating in. There are no exceptions to this rule. This is for all team members, not just the chief cook. For example, if your team is competing in open sides, you may not have a team member judge open sides.

ONLINE REGISTRATION

All participants must apply via the application link on the website and pay for their space in full to be considered a contestant/team. All applications are subject to review and acceptance by the American Royal. Decisions made by the American Royal are final and not appealable. Teams may edit their own accounts based on the deadlines listed in the "IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES" section on the next page of this packet. Requests past these deadlines will need to be emailed to the barbecue team at bbq@americanroyal.com.

REGISTRATION PAYMENT PROCESS & OPTIONS

- Full payment via Credit Card – at the time of registration
- Full payment via Check – to be mailed to the American Royal offices

For teams opting to pay via check: Finishing your team's online registration without payment does not complete your registration. Registration data will be held until payment is received. Team space assignments will NOT be made until the check payment is received. It is strongly recommended to send the check immediately after you register if you would like your space honored.

ONLINE REGISTRATION TIPS – BEFORE YOU BEGIN

- If you participated in 2025 or years prior, pull your registration before beginning as a reminder of your purchases.
- Be prepared with your team information including Chief Cook's contact, Team Name, Space Size, etc.
- Visit our website before registering and review the New Team Information packet and Creating a Registration information sheet.
- Online registration can take anywhere from 20 – 45 minutes.
- Forget something? Need to change something? No problem – make sure you make an account at the end of the registration and then you can log back in and make any needed adjustments.
- Put the deadlines/cut off dates in your calendar.
- There will be a \$100 late fee for teams who register after **August 17, 2026** (new registrations only – not edits).

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WHAT IS INCLUDED WITH REGISTRATION?

- Entry into the Open Meat Contest
- Two (2) Vehicle Tags for vehicles within team space
- Two (2) Overnight Team Parking Passes
- Team weekend wristband allotment
- One (1) 2026 American Royal Crown Pin
- One (1) 2026 World Series of Barbecue Bull Pin

IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES

DATE (11:59 CT)	IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING DEADLINES
July 15, 2026	• Final registration balance due (balance must be paid in full or risk registration cancellation) • Last day to cancel registration with a full refund (minus \$10 convenience and processing fee)
August 3, 2026	• Last day to cancel registration and receive a refund (minus \$200 cancellation fee and \$10 convenience and processing fee) • Refunds of additional items are at the discretion of the American Royal team, depending on any costs already incurred
August 17, 2026	• Last day to add electric (availability after this date is based on AR Committee discretion) • Late registration fee of \$100 will be applied to new registrations (if available)
Mid-late August	• First version of the team map will be published and sent out
September 11, 2026	• Deadline for registered teams to add or edit parking/vehicle passes, weekend wristbands, single tickets, pre-order ice, trash, portos, hand washing stations, etc.

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2026 RATES: TEAM SPACE & ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR PURCHASE

SPACE OPTIONS

- Space A (20x25) – 4 wristbands included - \$400
- Space B (20x50) – 8 wristbands included - \$1000
- Space D (25x40) – 8 wristbands included - \$1000

ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE ON SITE

These items are available for walk-up purchase and delivery - prices on site will be higher than on the registration form.

- Ice
- Portas/Handwash stations - based on availability
- Straw & Electrical – based on availability

FIRST TIME TEAM?

If it is your first time joining at the BBQ – we recommend reading the quick 3-page event overview found on our website. This will help give some high-level guidelines to what you need to know before you begin.

WHAT SIZE SPACE SHOULD I GET?

Our rule of thumb is to account for 7-10 sq ft per person that you expect will be at your space when it is at max capacity. Don't forget about the size of your vehicle(s), pit/smoker, equipment, RV, tables, chairs, coolers, etc. as these all must fit within your team's space. Space needed varies based on the size of all extra equipment. If you are having a party, please account for your entertainment and bar/serving areas.

ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

- Electrical Drop (20 AMP) – \$125 each
 - Limit 3
 - Prices will increase - see deadlines
 - Must bring 100-150 ft extension cord
- Electrical Drop (50 AMP) \$250 each
 - Limit 1
 - Prices will increase - see deadlines
 - Must bring 100-150 ft extension cord
- Trash Box with 3 Liners - \$20 each
- 3 Trash Liners pack - \$10 each
- Ice Bag (24lb) - \$8 each
 - \$10 each on-site
- Team Parking Lot Passes - \$16 each
 - Limit 2
- Single Entry Tickets - \$20 each (team pricing)
- Weekend Wristbands - \$25 each
- Porta Potty - \$150 each
- ADA Porta Potty - \$200 each
- Hand Washing Station - \$175 each
- American Royal Crown/BBQ Bull Pin - \$6 each

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REGISTRATION TEAM TYPES

EVENT PARTICIPANT TEAM

Teams whose primary function of participation is competing in the barbecue competition and NOT hosting an event/party as a business event. These teams/spaces do not charge their guests for items inside the space. If they do host a party/event, it is provided and funded by individual team member and is not supported by a company or corporation.

CORPORATE FUNCTION TEAM

Teams that are corporately supported and have invited guests to their team space for an event/party and do not ask guests to pay an entry fee. Any teams receiving primary registration and/or weekend event funding from a company, sponsor, business and/or charity and/or any team using their registration and event expense as a deduction on their federal income taxes or to entertain business associates are considered Corporate Function Teams.

TEAM REGISTRATION CANCELLATIONS

DATE	TEAM REGISTRATION CANCELLATION POLICY
Through July 15, 2026	Full team refunds may be provided to the team, minus the \$10 non-refundable convenience and processing fee.
Through August 17, 2026	Entry fees associated with space and additional items, minus a \$200 cancellation fee + the \$10 non-refundable convenience and processing fee, may be refunded to the team.
After August 17, 2026	There will be no refund on space, or any additional items purchased.

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CONTEST INFORMATION

KANSAS CITY BARBECUE SOCIETY & TURN IN RULES

The American Royal is sanctioned by Kansas City Barbeque Society (KCBS). All items must be turned in at or before the scheduled turn in time listed. There will be no exceptions to this rule. If food is turned in after the scheduled time, it will not be judged and will be removed from the competition.

Below is a brief overview of KCBS rules and regulations. All Teams are required to read and thoroughly review the rules set forth by KCBS for the competition. Full rules can be found in your registration confirmation & posted on our website.

MEAT CATEGORIES

You must turn in at least six (6) separate and identifiable portions. Your entry must fit into the Styrofoam container provided with the lid closed. The Styrofoam containers will be provided by the event. You may not bring your own containers. The label with your team number must be on the top of the container. Meat may not be seasoned off site and will be inspected prior to the contest. All entries must be cooked on site and within your team's assigned space. No pre-cooked product will be allowed. Sausage may be ground off site. Garnish is optional; however, the lid must close on your container. Do not do anything to your entry that identifies that it came from your team. KCBS heat source requirements and meat preparation rules apply.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

OPEN & INVITATIONAL PORK SPONSOR



BRISKET SPONSOR



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COOKS' MEETING

At least one member per team is required to participate in the cooks meeting for each contest your team has registered for. At every KCBS-sanctioned contest, the KCBS Representative holds a cook's meeting to explain the rules for the cooks. The purpose of the cook's meeting is to welcome the competitors to the contest and go over the rules and turn-in times and answer any questions the cooks may have.

MEAT INSPECTION

Meat inspection is done to inspect all the protein and ensure safety as well as confirm it has not been prepped prior to the contest beginning. Meat inspection will follow all KCBS guidelines.

There are two reasons for meat inspections. The first is for **safety**, and to ensure the meat is properly handled and stored. The second is to ensure **fairness**. KCBS meats may not be precooked or pre-marinated prior to arriving at the contest or prior to the meat inspection.

- During meat inspection, an American Royal/KCBS representative will come to your team space at the time noted in the schedule.
- All competition meats must be inspected by the Organizer or its representative, prior to the cook preparing the meats for the competition.
- All meats must be stored at a temperature of 40 degrees or less.
- No pre-seasoned meat is allowed other than manufacturer enhanced or injected products, as shown on the label (EXCLUDING (but not limited to): Teriyaki, lemon pepper or butter injected). All meats must be raw when inspected and cannot be pre-cooked.
- The meats do not have to be in the original packaging and may be trimmed prior to meat inspection, but no meat may be seasoned, injected, or cooked prior to the inspection.
- During meat inspection, each team's prep area must appear sanitary, and teams must show possession of proper supplies to upkeep prep area sanitation.
- Inspector will inspect for compliance and if a team fails to meet requirements, Organizer shall refuse participation with no refund.

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OPEN MEAT CONTEST – REQUIRED BY ALL TEAMS

RULES & REGULATIONS

- All teams must turn in at least one protein to the Open Contest of the four main proteins. There are no exceptions to this rule. Teams not submitting at least one meat entry to the Open Contest are subject to disqualification to participate at the American Royal for future years.
- A contestant may enter any number of categories of meat by designating those categories on the application.
- There is no additional fee for any of the open meat categories (included in team space cost).
- Only one entry per meat/per team/per category is allowed.

CATEGORIES

- Main Categories (Count towards Grand Champion)
 - Chicken
 - Pork Ribs
 - Pork (pork shoulder or Boston Butt)
 - Beef Brisket
- Open Meat Ancillary Categories (*Do not count towards Grand Champion*)
 - Sausage

To be eligible for the award of overall Open Grand Champion of the American Royal World Series of Barbecue, a contestant must enter all four main categories (listed above).

OPEN MEAT SCHEDULE

- Meat Inspection: Saturday– begins at 8:00am
- Cooks Meeting: Saturday– 9:30am
- Turn-In Schedule: Sunday
 - Chicken – 12:00pm
 - Rib – 12:30pm
 - Pork – 1:00pm
 - Brisket – 1:30pm
 - Sausage – 2:00pm
- Awards Presentation: Sunday – 5:00 pm

OPEN MEAT PAYOUTS

OPEN MEAT – MAIN CATEGORIES	PAYOUT AMOUNT
Grand Champion	\$15,000
Reserve GC	\$8,000
Second Runner Up	\$4800
Third Runner Up	\$1825
Forth Runner up	\$1225
1 st (Chicken, Rib, Pork, Brisket)	\$1,550
2 nd (Chicken Rib, Pork, Brisket)	\$1,100
3 rd (Chicken, Rib, Pork, Brisket)	\$915
4 th (Chicken, Rib, Pork, Brisket)	\$600
5 th (Chicken, Rib, Pork, Brisket)	\$425
6 th – 10 th (Chicken, Rib, Pork, Brisket)	\$250
11 th – 15 th (Chicken, Rib, Pork, Brisket)	\$185
16 th – 20 th (Chicken, Rib, Pork, Brisket)	\$150
21 st – 25 th (Chicken, Rib, Pork, Brisket)	Call out & Ribbon

OPEN MEAT – SAUSAGE	PAYOUT AMOUNT
1 st (Sausage)	\$1,550
2 nd (Sausage)	\$1,100
3 rd (Sausage)	\$915
4 th (Sausage)	\$600
5 th (Sausage)	\$425
6 th – 10 th (Sausage)	\$250
11 th – 15 th (Sausage)	\$185
16 th – 20 th (Sausage)	\$150
21 st – 25 th (Sausage)	Call out & Ribbon

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SAUSAGE — ANCILLARY MEAT ENTRY

Sausage is seasoned minced or ground meat, typically pork, beef, or poultry. Sausage may be made from other proteins or various plant-based ingredients. Pre-cooked product is not allowed. Sausage may be ground and seasoned off-site. Only Sausage and KCBS legal garnish are permitted in the turn-in container. An entry must include at least six (6) separate and identifiable portions. The entry must fit into the provided turn-in container, and the lid must close. The label with the team number must be on the top of the container. Garnish is optional. Marking an entry in such a way as to be identifiable is illegal and will be disqualified. Legal KCBS heat source and meat preparation rules apply. All entries must be cooked on-site and within the team's assigned space.

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INVITATIONAL CONTEST – INVITE ONLY

RULES & REGULATIONS

- **2026 INVITATIONAL CONTEST QUALIFYING PERIOD:** The American Royal is extending an invitation to all teams who qualified from July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2026.
- The Invitational contest at the American Royal is by invite only.
- Teams that are competing in the Invitational must have won Grand Champion at a contest during the qualifying timeline (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2026) that included at least 15 competing teams the first year and 25 competing teams each subsequent year and be ran by an American Royal approved sanctioning body. International contests require a minimum of 10 teams participating and turning in all categories. (Pork, Chicken and Beef).
- **All Invitational Teams are required to participate in the Open Contest (Sunday Turn-In).**
- There is no additional fee for entering in the Invitational contest (entry is included in space cost).
- Only one entry per meat per team per category is allowed.
- For special circumstances or more information on International Invitational requirements, see the information posted on our website.

CATEGORIES

- Invitational Categories
 - Chicken
 - Pork Ribs
 - Pork (pork shoulder or Boston Butt)
 - Beef Brisket

All Teams competing in the Invitational Contest will be required to prepare all four proteins and will be considered for Invitational Grand Champion.

INVITATIONAL SCHEDULE

- Meat Inspection: Friday – begins at 8:00am
- Cooks Meeting: Friday– **2:00pm**
- Turn-In Schedule: Saturday
 - 12:00pm – *Chicken*
 - 12:30pm – *Ribs*
 - 1:00pm – *Pork*
 - 1:30pm – *Brisket*
- Awards Presentation: Saturday – 7:00pm

INVITATIONAL PAYOUTS

INVITATIONAL PAYOUT	PAYOUT AMOUNT
Grand Champion	\$12,000
Reserve GC	\$6,000
Second Runner Up	\$3,100
Third Runner Up	\$1,550
Forth Runner up	\$915
1 st (Chicken, Ribs, Pork, Brisket)	\$1,225
2 nd (Chicken Ribs, Pork, Brisket)	\$600
3 rd (Chicken, Ribs, Pork, Brisket)	\$485
4 th (Chicken, Ribs, Pork, Brisket)	\$365
5 th (Chicken, Ribs, Pork, Brisket)	\$300
6 th – 10 th (Chicken, Ribs, Pork, Brisket)	\$125
11 th – 20 th (Chicken, Ribs, Pork, Brisket)	Call out & Ribbon

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OPEN SIDES & DESSERT CONTEST – ANCILLARY CONTEST

RULES & REGULATIONS

- All side dish categories are optional and do not count towards Invitational or Open Meat Grand Championship.
- All side dish categories have an entry fee to participate.
- Only one entry per team/per category is allowed.
- Detailed rules on next page.

CATEGORIES

- Categories (Count towards Sides Grand Champion)
 - Baked Beans
 - Potato
 - Vegetable
- Optional Category (Does not count towards Sides Grand Champion)
 - Dessert

To be eligible for the award of overall Grand Champion of the Sides contest, a contestant must enter all three sides categories (listed above).

SIDES SCHEDULE

- Cooks Meeting: Friday – 2:30pm
- Turn-In Schedule: Saturday
 - 3:00pm – Vegetable
 - 3:30pm – Baked Beans
 - 4:00pm – Potato
 - 4:30pm – Dessert
- Awards Presentation: Sunday – 5:00pm

SIDES PAYOUTS

SIDES PAYOUT	PAYOUT AMOUNT
Grand Champion	\$1000
Reserve GC	\$600
Second Runner Up	\$425
Category Prizes	
1 ST (each category)	\$500
2 nd	\$350
3 rd	\$250
4 th	\$125
5 th	\$100
6 th – 10 th	\$60
11 th – 15 th	Call out & Ribbon
Dessert Prizes	
1 ST (Dessert)	\$1,225
2 nd (Dessert)	\$915
3 rd (Dessert)	\$600
4 th (Dessert)	\$300
5 th (Dessert)	\$185
6 th – 10 th (Dessert)	\$60
11 th – 15 th (Dessert)	Call out & Ribbon

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SIDE DISH CONTEST

The side dish contest categories are baked beans, potatoes, and vegetables. All participating side dishes must be prepared on site. The combined total of scores from each category will determine the overall champion. All regulations for safe handling of food and sanitation required by KCBS apply to the Side Dish Contest. Each team may have only one entry per category. Six judges will judge each entry. The scores for the Side Dish Contest will not be included in your regular American Royal Barbecue Contest scores. This is a separate competition. Specifics for each category are below:

Beans:

Beans must be shelled legumes. Examples not permitted in this category are green beans, peanuts, and coffee. Meat or other proteins or vegetables may be included in the entry, but beans must be the main ingredient. The entry may be scored accordingly if beans are not the main ingredient in the judge's perception. After check-in, any heat source may be used to prepare the entry. Garnish is optional. If used, garnish is open. Marking an entry in such a way as to be identifiable is illegal and will be disqualified. Edible garnish, i.e., bacon bowls, cored vegetables, bread bowls, etc., are legal but will not be considered for Appearance, Taste, or Tenderness when judging the entry. The container will not be considered when judging the appearance of the entry. Teams may provide six (6) separate portions or a single portion. If providing a single portion, the portion must be enough for six (6) judges. The entry must fit into the provided turn-in container, and the lid must close. The label with the team number must be on the top of the container. If the legality of an entry is in question, please contact a Contest Representative for clarification.

Potatoes:

All varieties of potato are legal entries in this category. Sweet potatoes or yams are not potatoes and are not allowed. Potatoes must be the main ingredient. Soups and stews are permitted as long as potatoes are the primary component. Meat or other proteins or vegetables may be included in the entry, but potatoes must be the main ingredient. The entry may be scored accordingly if potatoes are not the main ingredient in the judge's perception. After check-in, any heat source may be used to prepare the entry. Garnish is optional. If used, garnish is open. Marking an entry in such a way as to be identifiable is illegal and will be disqualified. Edible garnish, i.e., bacon bowls, cored vegetables, bread bowls, etc., are legal but will not be considered for Appearance, Taste, or Tenderness when judging the entry. The container will not be considered when judging the appearance of the entry. Teams may provide six (6) separate portions or a single portion. If providing a single portion, the portion must be enough for six (6) judges. The entry must fit into the provided turn-in container, and the lid must close. The label with your team number must be on the top of the container. If the legality of your entry is in question, please contact a Contest Representative for clarification before submitting.

Vegetables:

Meat or other proteins may be included in the entry, but vegetables must be the main ingredient. The entry may be scored accordingly if vegetables are not the main ingredient in the judge's perception. After check-in, any heat source may be used to prepare the entry. Garnish is optional. If used, garnish is open. Marking an entry in such a way as to be identifiable is illegal and will be disqualified. Edible garnish, i.e., bacon bowls, cored vegetables, bread bowls, etc., are legal but will not be considered for Appearance, Taste, or Tenderness when judging the entry. The container will not be considered when judging the appearance of the entry. Teams may provide six (6) separate portions or a single portion. If providing a single portion, the portion must be enough for six (6) judges. The entry must fit into the provided turn-in container, and the lid must close. The label with your team number must be on the top of the container. If the legality of your entry is in question, please contact a Contest Representative for clarification before submitting.

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DESSERT CONTEST

The Dessert Contest will be held during the Sides competition. You do not have to turn in an entry in a Side Dish Contest Category (Baked Beans, Potatoes, and Vegetables) to compete in the Dessert Contest. You may turn in any type of dessert you wish to compete in this contest – there are no dessert categories. Desserts may be prepared off-premises but cannot be “store bought.” Only one entry per team is allowed, and enough dessert must be prepared for six (6) judges. You may turn in either six (6) separate portions or one large portion. Garnish rules are waived. You are not required to present dessert in the Styrofoam container, but we are not responsible for returning trays, bowls, decorations, etc. to you following the end of the contest. You must affix the number from the Styrofoam container to a visible area of your entry. The scores for the Dessert Contest will not be included in your regular American Royal Barbecue Contest scores. This is a separate competition.

If you use a container of your choice – you must come and pick it up in the judging area after judging is complete. Containers that are not picked up will be discarded. No alcohol is allowed with dessert.

AWARDS PRESENTATION

- The Awards Ceremonies will be held on the main stage located on the Mainstage in the Barns by the Judging Area.
- Seating will not be provided. Teams are advised to bring chairs/seating for the Awards ceremonies on Saturday and Sunday.
- The American Royal reserves the right to not publicly announce or print team names that may be offensive.

PAYOUT SCHEDULE & INFORMATION

All domestic payouts will be postmarked within 10 business days post event and will be sent via check to the chief cook registered on file with the team registration.

International payouts will be handled on a case-by-case basis. If there are fees associated with an international payout, the fee will be absorbed by the team and taken out of the payout amount. International payouts will be processed within 10 business days post event, but the timeline is subject to change based on the final payout process available.

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TEAM SPACE INFORMATION

GENERAL TEAM SPACE INFORMATION

- Each team can only purchase one space.
- Two (or more) teams may not compete in the same space. One team per team space.
- Each space comes with an allocation of wristbands and the ability to purchase additional at a discounted rate.
- It is the responsibility of the team to purchase a space that is equipped for the number of guests, equipment, and vehicles (2) in that space. Teams are not allowed to have guests in the walkways or driveways of the layout and all guests must be within the confines of the space purchased. Failure to purchase the correct space for the guest size will result in events/parties being ended, guest being asked to leave, disqualification, and/or additional penalties.
- Each space will be marked/chalked in the corners and with your space number upon arrival.
- Each space comes with a team sign, which is delivered with your onsite team packet. Your team sign must be visible and displayed at all times throughout the event.
- Each team space is to be in the same condition at the exit of the event as the team received the space. Teams will be financially responsible for damage caused in their space during the days of the event. Teams causing damage to the electrical grid and/or water systems will be billed for the cost of repairs. No digging or staking is allowed on the grass and/or pavement. Teams causing damage to grass, or pavement will be billed for the cost of repairs.

SPACE ASSIGNMENTS

Contest space assignments will be made by the American Royal, to the best of our ability, in keeping with the preferences as to the location requested by the contestant. The American Royal reserves the right to make the final determination of all space assignments in the best interest of the contest. Space assignments on the map provided may vary according to size depending on permanent obstacles and emergency requirements.

Teams may not assign, sublet, or share their team space allotted without the knowledge and consent of the American Royal. No firm or organization that is not assigned to the respective team space will be permitted to solicit business within the contest areas. Contestants are only allowed to occupy their team space from Wednesday, September 30, 2026 – Sunday, October 4, 2026 only. **NEW for 2026** – teams are allowed to stay overnight Sunday. All vehicles must be removed from the property no later than **7:00 AM on Monday, October 5, 2026**.

Space is honored on a first come, first serve basis. Space requests will be honored based on what is available at the team's time of registering. Due to the size and scope of the contest, all teams will have neighbors right next to them. Therefore, the option to have certain sides/all sides of the team space open may not be available.

The layout changes every year. You may have neighbors this year even if you did not the year prior. You are responsible to section off your own space if you choose to do so. No walls or dividers will be provided.

The American Royal respects and will do its best to honor all requests made by teams based on location in previous years. Please note that since the layout always differs year to year, the overall layout of the space will be based on the available ground for the team.

The layout process will begin after the deadline of July 15, 2026. Teams can expect to see a version of the layout in mid to late August.

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Spaces will be available on pavement and gravel. Your team is responsible for leaving the space as it was when you arrived. Additionally, any damage done to anything within your space is the liability of the team.

IMPORTANT: Teams must purchase a space that fits the needs of the amount of people, equipment and vehicles occupying that space. This includes your entire setup (rigs, overhangs, trailer hitches, portas, tent weights, etc.). If there appears to be space near you that is “open”- you may NOT incorporate this space into your team area or use this space. You may only use the space purchased and marked. Any team found expanding outside of their purchased booth space will be subject to additional penalties and potential disqualification. If your team has overflowing people in your space and your guests flow into the walkways or driveways, your guest(s) will be asked to fit within the space allocated/paid space. If the space continues to overflow, your guest(s) may be asked to leave, the party/gathering may be ended/shut down, and penalties may apply at the discretion of the American Royal. All roadways must remain clear for safety vehicles throughout the weekend. There is NO exception to this rule. There may be teams touching 2-3 sides of your space – please respect your neighbors’ space at all times.

LOAD-IN/LOAD-OUT

- **LOAD-IN:**
 - Begins on Wednesday at 8:00am and continues through noon (12:00pm) on Friday.
 - All teams **MUST** be on the grounds by noon (12:00pm) on Friday & extra vehicles must be out of the competition perimeter/exited the grounds. Do not arrive to American Royal grounds after 12:00pm on Friday attempting to load in. If you are late, you will not be allowed to load in until 1am Saturday morning.
 - Gates will re-open for vehicle traffic at 1:00am on Saturday and remain open until 8:00am Saturday morning.
 - No early load in allowed. If you arrive prior to load in time, you will not be allowed into the AR grounds until the time of load-in (Wednesday at 8:00am). You may be asked to leave the grounds until the time of load-in due to the setup and team marking occurring.
 - Please limit each team’s vehicles to be the two (2) within your team space and limit a maximum of four (4) additional vehicles that will go to the Team Overnight Lot. Any additional vehicles may be asked to leave the premises and return when public gates open and park in general parking.
 - **Rental RVs:** If you plan to have a rental company deliver an RV or camper to your site without you present, you must let the BBQ team know in advance no later than September 21, 2026. Make sure your rental company knows the space number & location, as there may not be anyone available to guide them to the space. RVs may be delivered on Tuesday, September 29, from 12:00pm – 7:00pm. Please do not arrive prior to noon, since we will still be setting up and your space may not be clear. If your RV is delivered on Wednesday or Thursday, please make plans to meet the delivery driver at your space.
- **LOAD-OUT:**
 - Begins after the final turn-in on Sunday (2:30pm). Teams **MUST** be off the property by 7:00am Monday.
 - **DO NOT DRIVE YOUR VEHICLES IN/OUT/AROUND THE GROUNDS DURING TURN IN HOURS** (11:00am – 2:30pm).
 - It is suggested to begin to break down your team space early Sunday and have it completely broken down by 5:00pm. The awards ceremony is at 5:00pm and teams begin leaving once this is complete (estimated 1.5 – 2 hours).

Refer to Gate schedule for additional information

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UPON ARRIVAL ON SITE

- Know your team's **SPACE NUMBER & LOT LOCATION** before arrival.
- We recommend you enter the gate closest to your Lot Location as noted on the map shared with you.
- Drive directly to your space and begin load-in.
- Your Team-Assigned Ambassador will come to your space while you are loading in to provide you with your team packet and team sign.

I'M DONE LOADING IN. NOW WHAT?

- Pick up your Styrofoam Containers from KCBS Check-In Inside the Barns
- Time your walk to/from turn-in
- Read and review the team packet
- Move your extra vehicle(s) to the Team Overnight Lot
- Make friends with your neighbors!

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PRE-PURCHASED ITEMS – DELIVERY/PICK UP INFORMATION

EMAILED PRIOR TO EVENT

- Single Entry Tickets – emailed digitally

ITEMS MAILED PRIOR TO EVENT

- Vehicle Tags – must have tag to enter grounds

ITEMS DELIVERED TO TEAM SPACE

- Portable Restrooms/Hand Washing Stations – upon arrival, in space
- EventWorks & AAA Rental Items (by end of day Thursday)
- Pre-Purchased Beverage from Levy (specifics provided in order form)
- On-Site Team Packet & Team Sign - delivered day of load-in (see below)

ITEMS IN ON-SITE TEAM PACKET (DELIVERED BY AMBASSADORS)

- Weekend Wristbands
- CHITS for Pre-Purchased Items
- Pins (American Royal & Bull Pins)
- Electrical Tags

WHAT ARE CHITS?

CHITs are vouchers for pre-purchased items.

If you pre-purchased items through the American Royal, you may receive CHITs in exchange for that item (Ice, Trash boxes and Trash Liners). The CHIT will allow you to receive an exchange for your item either at Walk-Up Location (In the Barns) or to call team hotline number for delivery of your item.

ELECTRICAL

PURCHASED ELECTRICAL

- Team spaces do not come with electrical
- Each team is allowed to purchase up to 3 20amp electrical drops or 1 50amp drop, on the team registration form.
- Teams that purchase electrical are required to bring at least 100-150ft of extension cord to reach their team space.
- Electrical may not be turned on until Wednesday, September 30, at 5:00pm. Depending on weather conditions and other variables, electricity may not be available to your space until later.
- Note: Only 20amp and 50amp services are available for purchase.

ELECTRICAL PRICING

20amp Drop (3 max.)	\$125/20 amp drop \$150 after 9/01 (if available)
50amp Drop (1 max.)	\$250/ 50 amp drop

Requests after September 1 will be granted based on availability. Electrical may be available on site for adding on, but it is **not guaranteed**. The cost of electrical on site will begin at \$150 20amp per drop on-site, if available. 50amp power will be \$300, if available.

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ON-SITE ELECTRICAL PROCEDURES

- Teams who purchase electrical will receive a tag for each drop purchased that is specific to their team space number. The tag(s) will come in your on-site welcome packet delivered by your Team Ambassador. Each tag must be placed on your electrical cord to denote that you have paid for electric.
- If an unauthorized cord (unpaid/no tag) is found plugged in, it will be pulled.
- Electrical usage will be monitored by the American Royal officials and unauthorized use will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

IMPORTANT ELECTRICAL INFORMATION

- Outlets are single 120V circuits. They **CANNOT** be combined to make a 220V circuit.
- The American Royal may use different types of equipment to supply power to your area. This equipment may have other types of outlets on them, but these other outlets **MAY NOT** be used under any circumstances.
- Please note that up to 100-150 feet of power cord may be necessary for your connection. Teams are responsible for providing their own extension cords. ****Please make sure all cords are 12-3 gauge with ground** to help alleviate power surges and outages.
- Each 20amp or 50amp is an outlet – not a hookup! Some motorhomes/cookers do require multiple outlets. Please ensure that you have purchased the correct number of outlets!

GENERATORS — PERSONAL

- Contestants may bring and set-up personal generators without the aid of a different commercial electric company. If you choose to bring your own generator, no service/fuel/maintenance will be provided from the American Royal. Contestants who bring their personal generator must be self-sufficient.
- If your team is providing your own generator, quiet generators are preferred. Ideally, please have your generator exhaust vent out the top of the generator, not the side.
- It is recommended that teams powering an RV or running equipment requiring more than a 20amp purchase of service either bring their own generator or rent a generator (see below).

Please note – It is incredibly important to set up your campsite with the safety of yourself and your neighbors in mind. If you are bringing your own generator, you must keep all carbon monoxide sources at least 6ft away from any sleeping or sitting areas. Please visit our website for additional Carbon Monoxide Safety Information.

GENERATOR — RENTALS

- If your team will be renting a generator, all generators must be rented through our exclusive partner – **Foley Electric**. Generators rented through Foley will receive service throughout the weekend.
- If your team has an existing relationship with another electrical provider, please contact the American Royal team at bbq@americanroyal.com to discuss prior to the event. Outside electrical partners will not be allowed on the premise unless specifically approved by the American Royal team prior to the event. If other vendors are found on site without approval, those generators will be removed and charged back to the team, resulting in a possible team penalty.

PORTABLE RESTROOM & HANDWASHING RENTALS

- Team spaces do not come with a restroom or a handwashing station.
- Public restrooms will be available throughout the premises. Public restrooms are not to be used for the cleaning of cooking equipment/supplies.

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- Porta-Potties, ADA Porta-Potties, and/or handwashing stations for team spaces are available to rent within your team's application. These amenities are only available through the American Royal's approved and exclusive vendor, United Rentals. Teams may not bring in your own porta through another vendor, and if found, it may result in a penalty against the team.
- Rented portas and handwashing stations will be in your space upon arrival. You may move these within your space based on your personal preference, however, it is recommended to put them in the front/entrance of your space for servicing. (See next bullet point.)
- Toilets/portas will be serviced early Saturday morning IF AND ONLY IF they are placed within five (5) feet from the front of your team space. If your toilet is placed within the team space and not accessible, it will not be serviced. If your porta is gated off, locked, behind equipment, unable to find, inaccessible to pump, it will not be serviced.
- Portas will be serviced between 2:00am – 7:00am on Saturday morning only.

WATER

WATER STATIONS

- Water will be available in limited locations. Please bring containers and/or hoses to transport water to your area.
- Connection of a hose at any water faucet should not exceed 10 minutes at a time. All teams are required to have a bucket of water or other sterilizing agent location in the team cooking area. No water will be delivered to any team spaces.
- Teams may not run a hose from the communal water station to their team space.

GRAY WATER

- Dumping of gray water cannot be done on the grass or general grounds. Specific dumping areas/containers will be marked for teams to dump gray water during the event.

WASTE/TRASH/TEAM SPACE CLEAN UP

TRASH BINS/BAGS

- Team spaces do not come with trash bins. It is your team's responsibility to purchase trash boxes and liners or bring your own. Each trash box purchased comes with three liners. This can be pre-purchased at the time of registering. Trash bins will also be available for purchase on site.

TRASH PICK-UP

- Teams may leave trash for pick-up on Friday and Saturday night only. **Teams must have their trash placed at the corner/outside edge of their team space by 12:00am (midnight) to be included in the trash pick-up.** If teams do not have trash placed at that location/at that time, their trash will not be picked up, and it is then the team's responsibly to move the trash to the appropriate dumpster.
- It is the team's responsibility to take the trash bags out of the trash boxes and/or other receptacles and to place them outside of your team space for pickup.

Trash left at team space after midnight will NOT be picked up. If your team misses the designated trash pickup, it is the team's responsibility to locate a dumpster & to dispose of trash.

DUMPSTERS & ASH BINS

- Throughout the grounds of the event, all waste is to go into the waste compound. Each waste compound will consist of a dumpster, ash bin, grease bin, and gray water container.
- Trash is never to be placed in gray water containers. Cigarette and cigar butts are also considered trash and debris.
- Hot Coals are NOT to be thrown on the ground. All hot coals are to be placed into the ash bins.

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TEAM SPACE CLEAN UP/CLEAN UP PROCEDURES

- All teams/sponsors/vendors must exit the premises by 7:00 AM on Monday morning with their designated team space completely clean.
- Your space is to be left as it was when your team arrived. Any leftover items, debris, trash, etc. left in your space will result in a fine. Any additional clean up that must be done by the American Royal staff and volunteers to clean your space will result in a fine. There is NO exception to this rule. LEAVE NO TRACE!
- **Any trash, event equipment/décor, debris, or straw (see below), etc. left on the grounds in your team space will result in a fine of \$250 per 500 sq. ft.**

TENTS

GENERAL TENT RULES & NOTES

- Team spaces do not come with tents.
- It is recommended to drop or not install tent (rented or personal) walls if the winds are greater than 20mph.
- It is recommended to drop all “pop-up” tents if winds are greater than 20mph.
- Tents must fit inside your selected space. Your tent may not be in walkways and/or other teams’ specified space.
 - Please ensure if you are bringing your own OR if you are renting tent(s) that you have the appropriate size tent to fit correctly within your team space.

PERSONAL TENTS

Contestants may bring and set-up personal pop-up/easy-up canopy tents without the aid of a commercial tent company, up to 100 sq. ft. If you choose to bring your own tent, you may not dig/stake into the ground at any location inside the American Royal grounds (grass or pavement). It is required to weigh down all sides of your personal pop-up/easy-up canopy tent. Teams that have damaged the ground in their team space will be liable and responsible for any necessary repairs. This will be determined by American Royal authorities.

All tents/canopies MUST BE flame retardant. Please have the paperwork/certificate(s) that validate your tents’/canopies’ flame retardancy inside your tent at all times. **Fire extinguishers are required for each tent.**

RENTED TENTS

If you choose to rent a tent, this must be done through the American Royals exclusive tent vendors: **EventWorks and AAA Event Rentals**. All equipment rentals (tables, chairs, tents, etc.) must be done through EventWorks or AAA – no other rental company may be used/contracted. Teams that do wish to rent equipment will contract and rent through EventWorks or AAA directly. The rental form is posted on the team registration, your confirmation email, and online.

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APPROVED/EXCLUSIVE VENDORS

- **EventWorks or AAA Event Rentals**
 - Teams can rent all event items including tents, tables, chairs, décor, etc. through EventWorks OR AAA Event Rentals. No other event rental company may be on the American Royal property.
 - Orders must be placed directly with EventWorks or AAA. Order form can be found on the team registration site & on the American Royal website.
- **Foley**
 - All rented generators must be provided by Foley. Refer to the electrical section of this packet for more information.
 - Orders must be placed directly with Foley. Order form can be found on the team registration site & on the American Royal website.
- **Levy – Beverage pre-purchase**
 - All pre-purchased and on-site beverage will be managed by Levy. They will deliver directly to your site.
- **Diamond Event Management**
 - Provides food servers, event staff, set-up labor, security, etc.
 - All staffing will be managed by Diamond Event Management.
 - Orders must be placed directly through Diamond Event Management.
- **Security**
 - The American Royal will provide event security throughout the weekend to help maintain Team & guest safety.
 - Teams that use staff to act as guards, bouncers, or entrance monitors must ensure those individuals are unarmed and hired or provided by the team. Teams that prefer to hire unarmed security must coordinate directly with the American Royal's onsite security company.
 - Armed guards are not necessary and are not permitted in team spaces. The American Royal will provide appropriate event security, and no weapons are allowed on the grounds. Any special request for armed security must include a specific reason and be approved by the American Royal and KCKPD before the event.

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TEAM SPACE RULES & REGULATIONS

PROHIBITED ITEMS & ACTIONS

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- Firearms, explosives, and weapons of any kind (including conceal and carry)
- Illegal substances
- Flying objects (specifically drones/quadcopters)
- Transportation equipment other than a vehicle (see list)
- Obscene music

PROHIBITED ACTIONS

- Driving vehicles in the on the grounds between 12pm – 1am on Friday night is prohibited. This includes moving vehicle to/from other team spaces.

ACCESSIBILITY APPROVED ITEMS

- Wheelchairs, mobility aids, and/or other power-driven mobility devices for those with disabilities
- Service animals

There are NO EXCEPTIONS to the prohibited items and actions listed above.

If any team/team member violates these rules, appropriate penalties and actions will be taken at the discretion of the American Royal and/or the Kansas City Kansas Police Department.

PROHIBITED TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT

- Golf carts
- Gators
- Motorized coolers
- 3 or 4 wheelers
- Motorcycles
- Bicycles
- Rickshaws
- Skateboards
- Rollerblades
- Scooters (manual or electric)
- Birds/Lime/etc.
- Segway's
- Hover boards
- Buses
- Semi/Freight truck

Found/used items will be confiscated.

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QUIET HOURS

- Thursday Night: 11pm – 7am
- Friday Night: 1am – 7am
- Saturday Night: 12am (midnight) – 7am
- Demonstrations or activities that cause annoyance to neighboring contestants such as flashing lights, noise, obstruction of walking space, or any prevention of ready access to nearby contest spaces will not be allowed.
- Use of stereos, live music, or amplifying equipment will not be allowed during the QUIET TIME period. Each barbecue team is responsible for seeing that QUIET TIME is enforced within their space.
- **The American Royal will strictly enforce the quiet times. Teams that do not respect the quiet times may be shut down, removed from the contest, reported to authorities, etc. All teams are to respect other teams/competitors at the event.**

DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD/GOODS/SERVICES

- The American Royal, World Series of Barbecue® is not a food sampling event. Giving food or drinks to the general public is prohibited. For the purpose of this regulation, the definition of “general public” refers to anyone outside the confines of your space. Teams are responsible for all guest inside the confines of their space.
- Teams may not sell food from their team space to the public. If teams are interested in selling food, email bbq@americanroyal.com.

SIGNAGE/MARKETING/SPONSORSHIP

- Teams will be provided a team sign from the American Royal – this must be displayed at the entrance of your space where it is easily visible. All teams are required to hang their team sign.
- Teams are allowed to display any signage or decoration *within* their contestant space.
- No team is allowed to hand out any literature or marketing items to the general public.
- **All spaces are strictly contestant spaces unless they have an event sponsorship agreement with the American Royal.**

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TEAM SPONSORS

The American Royal recognizes the need for teams to secure sponsors. In consideration of World Series of Barbecue event sponsors, teams may display their sponsors in the following manner:

- If a team has a sponsor that conflicts with an exclusive event sponsor, the display may be within the team space but not visible to the public (for example, inside team tent).
- All other sponsors may be displayed within the team space (this may be visible and must be displayed inside team space)

CONTEST WITHIN YOUR SPACE

Teams may host contests within their team space **with approval from the American Royal**. If your team is planning on hosting a contest, please email bbq@americanroyal.com. Some additional rules, fees, permits and/or restrictions may apply, and the BBQ team will assist and provide information if necessary.

SECURITY & ADMISSIONS

EVENT SECURITY

The American Royal will provide security on the contest grounds during the entire event (Wednesday – Sunday). This security is for the safety of the attendees/guests on the ground.

The American Royal does not in any way ensure the safety of said contestant space and disclaims any and all liability for damage to contestant spaces, contestants, and their guests through any means not within its control. If any security issues arise, please call the phone line provided with your contestant information upon your arrival.

INSPECTION

Security will inspect vehicles, RVs and all members entering the grounds to ensure there are no weapons on site.

Vehicle inspection is not optional – all teams/vehicles are subject to be inspected prior to entering the venue.

GAS & LIGHTING GRILLS

- Gas: If your team is bringing your own gas, it must come in an approved gas can.
- Lighting Stacks: Lighting stacks cannot be done on the ground/pavement.

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BEVERAGE/ALCOHOL

- Excessive use of alcoholic beverages may be grounds for disqualification.
- Under no circumstances shall alcohol be distributed to the general public by teams/contestants.
- Teams are responsible for all individuals that are within their team space.
- Any team serving alcoholic beverages to minors will face possible arrest in addition to penalties assessed by the American Royal.

REQUIREMENTS

- You are not required to purchase your alcohol through Levy. However, all alcohol purchases through Levy support the American Royal.
- Teams can work directly with Levy for the pre-purchase of beverages and equipment. Order form is located on the American Royal BBQ website
- Levy has worked with us to provide alcohol at cost, so pricing is comparable to liquor store pricing.

BEVERAGE SALES & EQUIPMENT

- Pre-purchase and on-site beverage sales will be available to all teams.
- Pre-purchased beverage and equipment will be delivered to team space (delivery time outlined on order form)

EVENTS/PARTIES WITHIN YOUR TEAM SPACE

If you are hosting friends, family and/or colleagues in your space for a gathering, teams are allowed to invite them for Friday night only.

Teams are responsible for the events and guests within their team space begin at load in through load out. This includes team members and invites guests to your space. All patrons must abide by the rules outlined in this packet and the team registration and it is the team's responsibility to ensure that all of their guests are abiding by these outlined rules.

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EVENT ACCESSIBILITY

- The World Series of Barbecue takes place on the grounds of the new American Royal Facility in Kansas City, Kansas.
- There is no parking on the grounds of the American Royal for guests/teams with the exception of the vehicles allowed to stay in team spaces all weekend. Designated handicap parking spaces will be available in the ADA lot in the General Public Parking lot and ADA compliant vehicles will drive guests from the parking lot onto the grounds to a drop-off location. There will not be additional ADA/Transportation provided inside the event on Friday and Saturday only.
- It is not the easiest area to traverse for guests with disabilities, but we do our best to make it as accessible as possible.
- The American Royal does not provide personal care, golf cart rides, or push service. We also do not rent wheelchairs.
- Be aware that the American Royal grounds are mostly paved. Lots C and A are paved, and Lot D will be hard packed gravel. Additionally, please keep in mind that some areas surrounding the barns and parking lots are still active construction zones. While they will be fenced off, there are still unpaved dirt and gravel walkways in some areas. If it should rain, there will be mud in some places.

VEHICLES & PARKING INFORMATION

TEAM VEHICLES — AMERICAN ROYAL GROUNDS

AMERICAN ROYAL GROUNDS DRIVING RULES

There is a 5-mph speed limit on the grounds of the American Royal. Drivers must yield to pedestrians and emergency vehicles. Please cooperate with all event staff and volunteers. Encourage cooperation and courtesy among your team members and fellow competitors.

Moving/driving your vehicles in the grounds and competition area is prohibited on Friday night for the safety of event guests.

Please be extremely cautious during load out on Sunday and Monday. Do not drive/move vehicles on the grounds during Open Meat Turn in (11am – 2:30pm).

AMERICAN ROYAL GROUNDS PARKING RULES

The only location to park a vehicle is within your team space.

During loading in, please keep parking outside of your team space to a minimum and have your vehicle parked as quickly as possible.

Fire lanes/lanes between team spaces MUST remain clear, and vehicles cannot be illegally parked in any of these spaces. Unauthorized or illegally parked vehicles will be towed at owner's expense, and a fine of \$100 will be levied. **THIS WILL BE ENFORCED.** All vehicles on premises must have proper team vehicle credentials displayed at all times. Lots will be swept throughout the course of the event.

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VEHICLES WITHIN YOUR TEAM SPACE

- You may keep one vehicle and one RV in your space as long as it fits entirely within the space. The intent of these vehicles is to load in, park and stay in your team space the remainder of the weekend. **Please consider these vehicles when you are choosing your space size.**
- Each team will be provided with vehicle tags for the two vehicles that are allowed within your team space. The tag will correspond with your space number – max two per team, no exceptions.
- This tag will not grant access in/out of the grounds during closed hours.
- This tag is not a parking tag for any other lot (Team Overnight Parking, General Public, Crown Lot, etc.)
- Beginning at 12:00pm on Friday, vehicles on the American Royal grounds without this parking pass will be towed at the owners/team's expense
- If your vehicle is on the grounds, with this tag but not in your team space, it is subject to tow. There are no "open spots" or other locations to put this vehicle on the grounds.
- At noon on Friday, once you are done loading in and your two vehicles are parked, you will be directed to move any additional vehicles off of the grounds and to general parking across the street. With the proper tag, those will be parked in the Team Overnight Parking Lot. See below for more information.

BRINGING AN RV?

If you are arriving in an RV, you will need to have your water tank full prior to entering the grounds. We do not have the water capacity to allow you to fill and dump your tanks. The major highways leading into the city have many truck stops along the way where you can fill up. Water is furnished solely for cooking and cleaning. All vehicles and RVs **MUST** fit entirely within designated contestant space.

PROHIBITED VEHICLES

Absolutely no golf carts, gators, or other motorized vehicles will be allowed to be provided by teams. All golf carts on the grounds are used specifically for barbecue operations and are marked as such. No team is allowed to bring a golf cart or any other unauthorized motorized vehicle. Any unauthorized motorized vehicles will be confiscated, and the team can potentially be disqualified from the contest. No buses (tour buses) or semis are allowed in your team space (no vehicles over 2-axels allowed)

TEAM VEHICLES — TEAM PARKING LOT/OVERNIGHT PARKING

- Each team will receive 2 Team Parking Lot/Overnight Team Parking for additional vehicles (not including those staying in your team space). Teams may purchase up to 2 more during the time of registration.

MAX NUMBER OF Overnight/Team Parking LOT TAGS PER TEAM = 4

- Additional tags may be available for purchase on site if there is space available. This is not guaranteed.
- Team parking lot/Overnight Team Parking Lot tags may not be passed from vehicle to vehicle or resold.
- All vehicles in this lot must have this pass. This lot will be swept throughout the weekend and vehicles found without tags will be towed.
- A tram for the Team Parking Lot/Overnight Team Parking Lot will be running Thursday – Sunday. This tram is meant to transport team members – please try to load in your equipment, food, beverage, etc. directly at your space instead of on the tram, as space is limited. The tram schedule will be provided in your team pre-event mailer with your vehicle's tags.

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GENERAL PUBLIC PARKING

General Public parking will be charged \$20 cash on site, if not pre-purchased, per vehicle during the following hours:

- Friday: 12:00pm – 9:00pm and Saturday: 11:00am – 4:00pm
- General public lots will not open early, and vehicles may not park in these lots prior to the times above.
- Teams may pre-purchase general public parking passes during registration. These will not be available on site for purchase.

Parking information subject to change

BAND & CATERING VEHICLE TAG

Band Catering Vehicle tag allows for entry/exit onto the grounds during specific hours. This pass allows Bands and/or Caterers to come and go into the grounds to your team space **to load in/drop off/load out equipment only**. The vehicle may not stay on the grounds. Band Catering Vehicle tags are available for purchase on registration form.

- Each Band Catering Vehicle Tag is valid for one vehicle

VALID HOURS

Vehicle tag is only valid and able to be used during the following times:

- Friday: 12pm – 6pm
- Saturday: 8am – 6pm

No vehicles with this pass are permitted on the grounds from 6:00pm – midnight.
You may exit/enter the grounds from 12:00am – 8:00am when the gates are open.

You may not drive around on the grounds during Turn-In Times (approximately 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM).

BAND & CATERING VEHICLE TAG IS NOT AN AMERICAN ROYAL GROUNDS PARKING PASS

This vehicle may not stay on the grounds. It is intended to drop/pick up items and then park in the Crown Lot.

If a vehicle is found parked with this tag on the grounds, it will be towed at the owner's expense

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VEHICLE GATE INFORMATION

- American Royal Grounds Gates: These “gates” are entrances to the American Royal grounds and allow vehicles on property. Team Spaces Access.
- Parking lot Access: Overnight team parking in the Crown Lot will be off the American Royal property. Access to these lots will be 24/7 and open for parking as long as your vehicle holds the correct parking passes.

Subject to change

DATE	TIME	AMERICAN ROYAL GROUNDS Team Spaces Access
WEDNESDAY	8:00am – 11:59pm	GATES OPEN FOR TEAMS LOAD INTO AR PROPERTY
THURSDAY	12:00am – 11:59pm	GATES OPEN FOR TEAMS LOAD INTO AR PROPERTY
FRIDAY	12:00am – 12:00pm	GATES OPEN FOR TEAMS LOAD INTO AR PROPERTY
	12:00pm – 3:00pm	GATES CLOSED – all vehicles from the AR property must park in space, park in parking lots, or leave premise. No vehicle access to AR property.
	3:00pm – 12:59am	GATES CLOSED – No vehicles in or out of AR property. No access to property.
SATURDAY	1:00am – 8:00am	GATES OPEN IN AM ONLY FOR TEAM TO Enter/exit property with tag. Teams must be back in team spaces by 8:00am. No exception after 8:00am (even with team space pass)
	8:00am – 5:00pm	GATES CLOSED – No vehicles in or out of property. No vehicle access to property.
	5:00pm – 11:59pm	GATES OPEN FOR TEAMS LOAD OUT OF TEAM SPACES ON AR PROPERTY.
SUNDAY	2:30pm – 11:59 pm	GATES OPEN FOR TEAMS LOAD OUT OF TEAM SPACES ON AR PROPERTY.
MONDAY	12:00 am – 7:00 am	GATES OPEN FOR TEAMS LOAD OUT OF TEAM SPACES ON AR PROPERTY.

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TICKETS & ADMISSION

TICKETS

TEAM DISCOUNTED EVENT TICKETS

- Teams have the opportunity to purchase discounted single day and weekend tickets.
- Tickets/Wristbands are non-refundable, non-transferable
- Team discounted single entry and/or wristbands may not be resold.

SINGLE ENTRY TICKETS -

- No single-entry tickets come with the purchase of a team space
- Teams may purchase tickets on their guests' behalf on their team account for the discounted rate. If teams do not purchase their guests' tickets, the guests will be responsible for purchasing tickets online when they become available
- Single entry tickets may only be scanned once and do not allow for re-entry. (Valid Friday only)

WEEKEND WRISTBANDS - DISTRIBUTED ON SITE

- Each team space purchase comes with an allocation of weekend wristbands.
- Included and additionally purchased wristbands will arrive with the team packet provided by the Ambassadors on site. You will be responsible for counting and signing off of your wristbands on site.
- Wristbands will not be provided to teams prior to the event unless on a case-by-case bases and approved by the American Royal team.
- Wristbands are valid Wednesday - Sunday and allow for event re-entry
- Wristbands must be securely on wrist to be considered valid. Holding/unworn wristbands will be denied entry.

TICKETS/INVITATIONS TO TEAM SPACE

- Each person on the grounds must have a valid ticket or wristband, produced by the American Royal, to enter the American Royal grounds beginning Friday.
- If your team is producing a ticket/invite to your specific space, you must include the verbiage: **THIS NOT AN ENTRY TICKET INTO THE BBQ/AMERICAN ROYAL GROUNDS**
- Preferred verbiage: This Ticket/invitation/wristband/etc. will only grant you access to Space # XXX/Team XXX. **THIS NOT AN ENTRY TICKET INTO THE BBQ/AMERICAN ROYAL GROUNDS.**

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AUXILIARY CONTESTS & EVENTS

KIDS QUE CONTEST

2026 marks the 19th Annual Kids Que Competition! Contestants range from the ages of 6-15, and these junior chefs have an opportunity to show their junior pitmaster skills. In the 6 -10-year-old division, contestants cook hamburgers; while in the 11 -15 year old division, contestants demonstrate their barbecue prowess by preparing steaks.

- Kids Que Competitors must be sponsored by a registered 2026 American Royal Open Contest team. Kids Que competitors must complete a separate registration found online – not part of team registration.
- **There is a max of 80 total spots for Kid Que and registration is on a first come/first serve bases.**
- Contest: Saturday 1:30pm – 4:00pm



THANK YOU TO OUR KIDS QUE SPONSORS!



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LEGEND OF THE ROYAL

The Legends Program at the American Royal is a loyalty program for teams who have participated in the World Series of Barbecue® for multiple years. Teams reaching the five (5), ten (10), twenty (20), thirty (30) or forty (40) year anniversary will receive a commemorative flag/banner – delivered to your team space.

All teams who have participated for at least twenty (20+) years will be automatically entered into the Legends Contest, which is a special sub-contest of the Open Meats Contest. Teams in the Legends Contest do not have to turn in additional proteins and are not charged any additional expense. The scores from the Open Meat judging will be used to rank the legends participants.

On the application, please enter the number of years your team has competed in the American Royal, including 2026, which will be verified and cross-checked with our records.

NOTE: We will NOT be counting the 2020 contest in the Legend year counts as the event did not occur.

INTERNATIONAL

INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE

The American Royal World Series of Barbecue will host an International Village. This is specific for teams that are traveling from outside the United States to compete. If your team would like to be placed in the International Village, please mark the selected box on the application and the American Royal team will verify your team registration. Teams in this area may be able to share supplies, equipment and items needed over the weekend, understanding that travel restrictions do not allow for all barbecue supplies to be brought to the contest.

INTERNATIONAL CONTEST

All teams who have indicated they are International teams will be automatically entered into the International Contest which is a special, sub-contest of the Open Meats Contest. International teams do not have to turn in additional proteins and are not charged any additional expense. The scores from the Open Meat judging will be used to rank the International participants.

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BARBECUE HALL OF FAME



The American Royal officially became the home of the Barbecue Hall of Fame® in 2012. Previous inductees to the Barbecue Hall of Fame include recognizable and notable figures in barbecue history. Read more about these previous inductees at www.barbecuehalloffame.com.

During the World Series of Barbecue, we will be honoring these inductees with a private Black Apron Ceremony and the 2026 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, held during awards on Saturday.

2026 Inductees: Carey Bringle, Mark Lambert, Ben Lang, Malcom Reed

2026 Legacy Inductees: Toots Cason, Charlie Stamey, Arthur Watts

2025 Inductees: David Klose, Roy Perez, Donny Teel, Helen Turner

2024 Inductees: Danielle Bennett, Rick Browne, Steve Grady, Ed Maurin

2023 Inductees: Bryon Chism, Flora Payne, Dave Raymond, & Darren Warth

2023 Legacy Inductees: Bill Arnold, Columbus B. Hill, Rick Schmidt

2022 Inductees: John Markus, Ed Mitchell, Joe Traeger, Lee Ann Whippen

2022 Legacy Inductees: Bobby Mueller, Karen Putman, Adam Scott

2021 Inductees: Ollie Gates, Meathead Goldwyn & Rodney Scott

2021 Legacy Inductees: Arthur Bryant & Lyttle Bridges Cabaniss

2020 Inductees: Joe Don Davidson, Aaron Franklin, Desiree Robinson

2020 Legacy Inductees: James Lemons & Warner Stamey

2019 Inductees: John "Big Daddy" Bishop, Wayne Monk & C.B. Stubblefield

2018 Inductees: Tuffy Stone, Tootsie Tomanetz & Charlie Vergos

2017 Inductees: Jeff Stehney, "Famous Dave" Anderson & Melissa Cookston

2016 Inductees: David Knight, Ardie Davis & Chris Lilly

2015 Inductees: Ed Fisher, Steven Raichlen & Paul Kirk

2014 Inductees: Henry Perry, Ray Lampe & Pat Burke

2013 Inductees: Adam Perry Lang, Myron Mixon & George A. Stephen Sr.

2012 Inductees: Guy Fieri, Henry Ford & Johnny Trigg

Legacy Inductees: Fred Gould, Dr. Rich Davis, Gary and Carolyn Wells, Speed Herring, Mike Mills & John Willingham

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

All scheduled events and times subject to change. Teams are welcome to load in starting Wednesday at 8:00am

THURSDAY

TEAM & CONTEST EVENTS	
8:00am – 11:59pm	Team Load In Continued
8:00am – 5:00pm	Styrofoam/Clam Shell Pick up
Throughout Day	Delivery of Trash Boxes
Throughout Day	Delivery of Straw
5:00pm	Electrical Turned on
End of Day	Rented Tents Install complete

FRIDAY

Friday is the appropriate evening to host events/parties within your space

TEAM & CONTEST EVENTS	
8:00am – 12:00pm/noon	Team Load In Continued
8:00am	Invitational Meat Inspection Begins
8:00am – 5:00pm	Styrofoam/Clam Shell Pick up
Throughout Day	Delivery of Trash Boxes
12:00pm/Noon	<i>Gate Closes – All Team Cars in spaces or moved to team lot or GA lot</i>
2:00pm	Invitational Cook's Meeting
3:00pm	Gates Open for Team Guests arrival
2:30pm	Open Side Dish Cook's Meeting

FRIDAY PUBLIC EVENTS

3:00pm – Gates open to team & party guests

3:00pm – 11:00pm – Private parties; Food Vendors and Bars open

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SATURDAY

TEAM & CONTEST EVENTS	
12:00am	Team Trash Pick up
12:00am	Quiet Hours begin
2:00am – 7:00am	Portable Toilets will be serviced
8:00am – 5:00pm	Styrofoam/Clam Shell Pick up
8:00am	Open Meat Inspections Begin
9:30am	Open Cook's Meeting
12:00pm – 2:00pm	Invitational Judging • 12:00pm – Chicken • 12:30pm – Rib • 1:00pm – Pork • 1:30pm – Brisket
1:30pm – 4:00pm	Kids Que • 1:30pm Cooks Meeting & Check in • 3:15pm- Ages 11-15; Steak • 3:45pm- Ages 6-10; Hamburger
3:00pm – 5:00pm	Open Sides Judging • 3:00pm – Vegetables • 3:30pm – Baked Beans • 4:00pm – Potatoes • 4:30pm – Dessert
7:00pm	• Invitational Awards Ceremony

SATURDAY PUBLIC EVENTS

11:00am – Gates Open to Team Guests

SUNDAY

TEAM & CONTEST EVENTS	
11:30am – 3:00pm	Open Meat Judging • 12:00pm – Chicken • 12:30pm – Ribs • 1:00pm – Pork • 1:30pm – Brisket • 2:00pm – Sausage

SUNDAY EVENTS

5:00pm – Open Awards Ceremony (Open Meat & Sides)

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TERMS & CONDITIONS

STATE & LOCAL REGULATIONS

HEALTH AND SAFETY

City Health Regulations prohibit dispensing food to the public unless it is for a private party during which you are serving family, friends, or other invited guests within your team contestant space. The only exception to this rule is if your team is an official "Royal Tour" or Party of the Year participant/host. It is the responsibility of each team to ensure they are admitting and serving their invited guests ONLY and that no alcoholic beverages are being served to underage guests. In the event of a food-borne illness being reported, please be prepared to provide the Kansas Health Department with a copy of your guest list which will be used to notify all concerned.

The American Royal will update the information shared with teams in regard to the Health and Safety rules and restrictions. This includes but not limited to guest limits, cleanliness of space, cooking and turn in procedures, etc. It is each team's responsibility to ensure that their space is clean and allows for enough space for the safety of their guests.

ORDINANCES

The Agreement shall in all respect be governed by the laws of the State of Kansas and applicable ordinances. To ensure the safety of all participants, fire regulations, health and other applicable ordinances must be followed.

INSURANCE & LIABILITY

LIABILITY

Teams are liable and responsible for the actions and activities that occur within their space. This includes, but is not limited to: team members, guests, equipment, and damage to the facility grounds.

In consideration of your accepting this entry, I, the undersigned, intending to be legally bound, hereby for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, waive and release any and all claims for damages I may have against the American Royal Association, the Kansas City Barbeque Society, their representatives, successors, and assigns, for any and all injuries suffered by me in this event. Further, I hereby grant full permission to the American Royal Association and/or agents authorized by them, to use team name, any photographs, video tapes, motion pictures, recordings, and any other record of this event for any legitimate purpose.

INSURANCE

Neither the American Royal, KCBS, nor the representatives, will be responsible for any injury, loss or damage that may occur to the Contestant, the Contestant's employees or guests or property from any cause whatsoever. It is the Contestant's responsibility to protect machinery and contestant space so that no injury will result to the public, visitors, guests, or persons or property. All property of the Contestant is understood to remain in the Contestant's care, custody, and control in transit to, from, or within the confines of the contest Area subject to the Rules and Regulations. The Contestant, upon reading this agreement which is a requirement prior to entering the grounds, expressly releases, holds, keeps, and saves harmless and indemnifies the forgoing names, organizations and committees and individuals from all claims for such loss, damage, or injury. Contestants are advised to carry insurance to cover any of the above.

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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.

SUCCESSOR INTEREST

This Agreement shall bind the respective parties and their successors in interest.

TEAM PACKET & RULES UPDATE

CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS

The Royal reserves the right to make changes to these rules. Any matters not specifically covered herein are subject to decision by the Royal. The Royal reserves the right to make such changes, amendments and additions to these rules as considered advisable for the proper conduct of the contest with the provision that all Contestants will be advised of any such changes in writing.

VIOLATION OF RULES

Violation of any of the rules outlined in this packet may be grounds for disqualification and could result in disqualification in future contests. Interpretation of these rules is the responsibility of the American Royal and is not appealable. The American Royal reserves the right to prohibit the display of any article that, in its opinion, is not in keeping with the nature and character of the contest, or the American Royal Association.

All teams are responsible for enforcing the rules and regulations of the contest. Non-permitted activities include damage to fences, moving of fences, changing of boundary markers, and unauthorized entry onto the grounds, operating a vehicle by a team member or team guest on the grounds during unauthorized times, parking of a vehicle by a team member or team guest on the grounds in an unauthorized area. Teams are responsible for their guests at all times.

UPDATED TEAM PACKET

Please check back for the most updated version of this document. Teams are required to review and follow the rules and requirements provided in the most recent version of the Team Packet. It is the team's responsibility to review the most recent team packet which will be posted on our website. Teams will sign off that they have read and agree to our terms and conditions on their registration. If our terms/conditions update, teams may be required to review new/updated terms and re-sign.