



In Partnership with the Kansas State Fair!!

September 18th—20th
Kansas State Fairgrounds

Version 2 (7/23/2026)

Dear Scouts and Scouters-

Welcome to CTK4: State Fair Showdown – Best of America!

This year's event marks an exciting new chapter as we partner with the Kansas State Fair to bring one of Scouting's most unique outdoor cooking competitions to an entirely new level. Throughout the weekend, patrols will test their creativity, teamwork, and outdoor cooking skills while competing in a series of high-energy culinary challenges inspired by America's greatest state fair traditions. From sunrise breakfasts to championship desserts, every meal is an opportunity to earn points, impress the judges, and prove that your patrol has what it takes to become the 2026 CTK Champion.

The weekend will feature:

- Patrol cooking competitions for every meal
- Creative mystery ingredients and surprise twists
- Fun midway-style challenges and competitions
- The return of our exciting Grand Cookoff Challenge, where selected patrols will compete live before fair spectators and judges in the ultimate cooking showdown

Whether you're a first-time competitor or returning to defend your title, CTK4 is designed to challenge every Scout while reinforcing the Patrol Method, leadership, planning, and outdoor cooking skills that make Scouting unique.

The information in this Leader's Guide will help you and your Scouts have a fun filled and safe weekend event!

- Check-in will begin at 5:00 p.m. on Friday. The unit must bring and maintain the completed A&B health form for each participant.
- The venue charges our event per tent per night. Please take this into consideration.
- All meals are planned and prepared by patrols.
- The Scout handbook contains checklists for camping gear. This event will be held rain or shine!
- Units are encouraged to prepare and display duty rosters and menus in their campsite
- Units must provide two-deep leadership. All adults onsite must have current Safeguarding Youth. **Non-BSA registered adults may not spend the night.**
- This event is for Scouts BSA Troops and Crews. Webelos are allowed to attend the event with an attending Troop.

The Scoutmaster and Senior Patrol Leader should review the entire leader's guide for important information, schedules, and planning assistance.

Welcome to CTK4... where the heat is on, the competition is fierce, and only one patrol will earn the title of State Fair Champion.

Registration:

Registration should be completed on Black Pug. All attendees, including adults, must be registered.

- Regular Registration: \$35 (This includes Gate Access to the Fairgrounds on Saturday)
- Adult Safety Volunteer: \$25
- Optional Friday & Sunday Gate Access: \$5 per day

Registration closes September 4th, 2026

First Aid:

First aid assistance will be available at headquarters. Each troop or crew should discuss cooking safety before attending and should have a first aid kit for minor injuries.

Safety Regulations:

Fires: All fires should be in a provided fire ring or a burn barrel at least 18 inches off the ground. No ground fires will be allowed. In the event of a burn ban, fires will not be allowed. Troops should include back up cooking methods if intending to cook with fire. In addition:

- All fires must be fully extinguished and coals disposed of properly
- Units should bring their own firewood
- Fires must be monitored at all times until the fire is “cold out”

Cooking: All appropriate safety precautions should be taken.

- Charcoal is **NOT** an allowed cooking method.
- If cooking with oil in any way, we must have 1 Class K fire extinguisher per every 5 stoves in camp. We are working on providing these, but ask for you to reach out if you have one available for us to use.

Food Safety: Each unit is responsible for knowing and adhering to all food safety guidelines including, but not limited to:

- Safe storage and handling of food
- Cross contamination
- Safe cooking temperatures (as food will be served to judges, all units should bring and use a food safe thermometer)
- The three pot sanitizing/dish washing method recommended by the BSA
- Prevention of food-borne illness

Allergies: ***Units should declare all food allergies or dietary restrictions when registering youth and adults for this event.***

The Cooking Competition Rules

1. This is a test of the patrol's cooking skills in a camping environment. Patrols may use whatever cooking method(s) they want within the event guidelines. (Charcoal is **NOT** allowed this year)
2. Adults may supervise and intervene in a safety situation, but should not participate in the preparation or cooking of food. (Adults may enter the adult competition!)
3. Each entry should be presented with a written copy of the menu.
4. Entries provided for judging should be a small portion (about 1/4 of the size of a youth portion) of the meal. A meal that includes several dishes (ex. an entrée, a vegetable, a grain) should include a taste of each food.
5. Patrols may enter as many or as few of the competitions as they wish. Each patrol may only submit one entry for each competition, however a troop may have more than one patrol.
6. Points will be awarded for each competition, the grand prize winner will be the patrol with the highest number of points. The Friday night Cracker Barrel is for bonus points only. These points will be used in the event of a tie.
7. Units are responsible for providing all food and cooking equipment, **with the exception of the Grand Cookoff Challenge (see below).**

The Grand Cookoff Challenge

1. This event will be held on the Lowen Stage inside the fairgrounds.
2. Scouts wishing to enter the Grand Cookoff challenge should indicate their interest at the time of Check-in.
3. Names will be randomly drawn and announced Saturday morning of who will be participating in the Iron Chef Challenge.
4. 2 patrols made of 5 random scouts will be able to compete live in front of an audience on a stage during the State Fair and our celebrity judges. (Scouts interested should indicate this during registration).
5. All cooking supplies and food for this challenge will be provided.
6. The winning patrol will be honored with a special award AND, of course, bragging rights!

Adult Safety Volunteer

1. With this event being held in town during the fair, we are asking for 6 adults to volunteer to be overnight safety watch on Friday and Saturday night. Volunteers will be eligible for a reduced registration cost. Your unit must still maintain 2 deep while you are helping with this. If interested in this, please contact Robby Sattelmeier or Aaron Archer for more information.

Kansas State Fair Partnership



We would like to thank the Kansas State Fair for this opportunity to partner with them to make this year's event possible. Their support has allowed us to bring the excitement and traditions of the State Fair directly into CTK4, creating a unique experience that combines outdoor cooking, Scouting, and one of Kansas' greatest annual traditions.

While you're here, we encourage you to take time to explore everything the fair has to offer. From livestock exhibits and agricultural displays to live entertainment, carnival rides, vendors, shopping, and incredible fair food, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Be sure to check out the daily entertainment and event schedule before you head out. You won't want to miss many of the exciting activities taking place throughout the weekend, including Russell Dickerson performing Friday evening at 7:30 PM on the Kansas Star Casino Grandstand stage.

Thanks to our partnership with the Kansas State Fair, CTK4 participants and their families have access to an incredible exclusive admission opportunity. On Friday the 18th and Sunday the 20th, gate admission plus an unlimited Midway Ride Wristband will be available for just **\$5 per person**, per day, a value of up to \$47 per day. The Midway Wristband provides unlimited rides for one person throughout the day, making this an outstanding opportunity to experience one of the Fair's biggest attractions at a fraction of the regular cost. We encourage everyone to take advantage of this generous offer and spend time exploring the rides, exhibits, entertainment, vendors, and everything else the Kansas State Fair has to offer during your CTK4 weekend.

Plan Your Visit

A complete schedule of concerts, exhibits, demonstrations, contests, and daily activities can be found by visiting the official Kansas State Fair schedule using the link below or visiting

<https://www.kansasstatefair.gov/events>

We hope you enjoy not only CTK4, but everything the Kansas State Fair has to offer. Thank you for helping make this weekend a memorable experience!

The Youth Cooking Competition consists of the following:

Friday Evening—Midway Mixer (Cracker-Barrel)

No trip to the fair is complete without wandering the midway and enjoying your favorite snack. Friday evening is all about hospitality, fellowship, and first impressions. Beginning at 9:30 PM, judges will visit each campsite as they stroll the "midway." Patrols wishing to compete should present a favorite cracker barrel snack inspired by classic fair treats or hometown favorites. Whether sweet, savory, or somewhere in between, creativity and presentation are encouraged.

Breakfast— Farm Fresh

Kansas agriculture is at the heart of the State Fair. For this challenge, prepare a breakfast inspired by ingredients that can be found on farms and ranches across the Midwest. While there are no required ingredients, patrols are encouraged to highlight the fresh, wholesome flavors that have made Midwest farm kitchens famous. Eggs, sausage, bacon, potatoes, biscuits, gravy, fresh fruit, pancakes, cinnamon rolls, the possibilities are endless.

Lunch— Taste of the Fair

One of the biggest reasons people attend a state fair is the food. From giant turkey legs and smoked meats to fresh corn on the cob, loaded baked potatoes, barbecue, grilled sandwiches, and creative twists on classic favorites, fair food brings people together. For this challenge, patrols should prepare their interpretation of a favorite Midwest or American State Fair lunch. Whether inspired by your hometown fair or a famous state fair tradition, we want to see creativity, flavor, and outstanding presentation.

Dinner— Good Ole Home Cooking

Nothing says comfort like a meal shared around the table after a long day's work. From family recipes passed down through generations to hearty farm-style favorites, country cooking is built on simple ingredients, great flavors, and bringing people together.

For this challenge, prepare a complete country-style dinner that celebrates the traditions of home cooking. Whether inspired by family recipes, Midwest favorites, or classic comfort food, your meal should showcase excellent outdoor cooking techniques, creativity, and presentation while remaining true to the spirit of country cooking.

Think hearty, flavorful, and satisfying—something that would be right at home at the Kansas State Fair.

Dessert— Midway Masterpieces

For the final challenge, patrols will create an Edible Illusion inspired by their favorite part of the State Fair. Your dessert should look like something you would see while spending the day at the fair, but every part of your entry must be edible.

Following judging, patrols will move their desserts to the Dessert Midway, where every participant will have the opportunity to sample the incredible creations from across camp.

Adult Leader Competitions:

Don't worry, adults won't be left out of the fun! Adults will have some special events this year.

- Adults wishing to participate in the cooking competition will be able to enter the **lunch** challenge this year. Adult patrols must follow the same challenge as the Scouts!

Cub Scouts at Cutthroat Kitchen:

Cutthroat Kitchen is a good opportunity for Arrow of Light Scouts to join their partner Troop for a Troop level campout in what is typically good weather. Scout leaders should review the most current Age Appropriate Guidelines for Scouting Activities to ensure that the Guide to Safe Scouting is followed with all cooking activities. Younger scouts, or tag-along siblings are not allowed. Arrow of Light Scouts are not able to join the Grand Challenge

Event Area:

The main program area will be on the East side of the North Parking lot in the outlined area. No vehicles will be aloud in the program area. Trailers can be dropped off at your camp area. We are working on finalizing the parking arrangements. These will come out closer to the event.



CTK4

Schedule of Events

Friday:

5:00 PM– Check in begins

8:30 PM– SPL/Leader's Meeting at the HQ Tent

8:45 PM– Opening Campfire

9:30 PM– Cracker Barrel in your campsites

11:00 PM– Light's Out

Saturday:

7:30 AM Leaders Meeting

8:00-8:30 AM: Breakfast entries can be delivered to the judges

9:00 AM Opening Flags

9:15-11AM Morning Activities:

- The Grand Cookoff Challenge Drawing

12:30-1:00 PM: Lunch entries can be delivered to the judges

1-4pm: Afternoon activities

- Scoutmaster Coffee hosted by the Commissioners

5:00-5:30 PM: Dinner Entries can be delivered to the judges

6:00-7:30: The Grand Cookoff Challenge (The Lowen Stage)

8:30 PM: Dessert Cut off! All desserts must be delivered by this time!

8:45 PM: Dessert Time! Bring your mess kit and come try a dessert!

9:00 PM: Awards/Closing

10:30 PM: Lights Out

Sunday:

Once your campsite is packed up, this is the perfect day to enjoy the Fairgrounds with your Troop & Family!