



# Autism Society

## Greater Cleveland

Dear Friend:

The Autism Society of Greater Cleveland (ASGC) will host the 17th Annual ASGC Chili Cook-Off at the Holiday Inn Ballroom in Independence on Thursday, April 23, 2026 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Our 2026 event promises to be more exciting with celebrity judges, great food, entertainment, prizes and media coverage. All Entrants receive two complimentary tickets for this event. Additional tickets are \$30.00 per person in advance and \$40.00 at the door. Tickets are available online at [www.asgc.org](http://www.asgc.org). In years past the Chili Cook Off drew nearly 1,000 people and 40 professional and amateur chefs.

This is an invitation to compete as a Professional or Amateur Chef for this worthwhile event to raise funds to assist individuals and families living in Northeast Ohio whose lives are touched by autism. Participants are requested to complete the included Chef Participation form and Chef Waiver & Release of Liability form and submit and return by **Friday, March 20, 2026**.

Both Professional and Amateur Chefs are encouraged to submit entry applications. Upon receipt of this packet, please complete all forms and mail to the Autism Society of Greater Cleveland. Registration can also be completed online at [www.asgc.org](http://www.asgc.org). Retain a copy of the store receipt(s) for all meat ingredients used in your chili. These receipts must be submitted the night of the event. You are once again asked to bring 5 to 6 gallons of chili, provide serving utensils (3 oz), sterno fuel and chafing dishes to keep the chili hot the entire evening. No electrical outlets are available for this event. Chili should be fully cooked and hot upon arrival at the Holiday Inn.

Judging Criteria: Aroma, Color, Taste, Overall - Professional and Amateurs will be judged separately.

- Divisions/awards: Professional Chef and Amateur Chef -1st, 2nd, and 3rd place trophies; People's Choice -1st, 2nd, and 3rd place trophies.
- ASGC will provide bowls, spoons, napkins, and table linens.

ASGC is one of over 100 affiliates nationwide dedicated to increasing awareness about autism and the many challenges faced by individuals with autism and their families. Proceeds from this year's event will continue to help provide education, resources, advocacy, and social activities for those affected by autism.

Thank you for your support!

Holly Oster - Chairperson  
ASGC Chili Cook Off/ ASGC Board Member  
(216) 392-5152 (Holly) or (216) 556-4937 (ASGC)  
Email: [hollyoster21@gmail.com](mailto:hollyoster21@gmail.com)

Tax I.D. 34-1362536

## THURSDAY



**DATE:** Thursday, April 23, 2026  
**LOCATION:** Holiday Inn, 6001 Rockside Road, Independence, OH 44131  
**SET-UP:** 4:30pm

*Bring your **5-6 gallons** of your **BEST CHILI** – cooked **HOT**.  
Please bring a chafer or sternos (**there are no electrical outlets**).  
Free parking is available at the Holiday Inn. Drop off your chili to the  
friendly volunteer, park your car and come on back. Volunteers will  
steer you in the right direction to your table.*

**JUDGING:** 5:15pm (**PLEASE BE PROMPT**)  
**DOORS OPEN:** 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

**APRIL 23, 2026**

## PARTICIPATION FORM

There is **NO ENTRY FEE** for this event. Complete this form and return it to the address below.

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name you want on the sign for your table: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Entry (Name of Chili): \_\_\_\_\_

Check One: ☐ Professional ☐ Non-professional

### About My Chili:

☐ My Chili is VEGETARIAN

☐ YES, My Chili Contains NUTS or SEAFOOD. (ALLERGY ALERT)

List of Ingredients in my Chili: \_\_\_\_\_

- We need a copy of your meat receipt to show officials where purchased, please bring the night of event.
- The chili needs to be **HOT! when you bring it. (Bring 5-6 gallons of cooked, HOT chili.)**
- The Holiday Inn will provide: one table, linens, cups, spoons, napkins.
- You are welcome to decorate your spot and supply crackers and other garnish for your chili if you'd like. You need to supply containers for your garnish.
- Please **bring a chafer and sternos** to keep your chili hot (**no electrical outlets**).
- The information that you supply on this form will be printed in our program.
- Release of Liability: You will need to sign and return this form as well as the Liability Form in order to participate.

**Questions:** Contact Holly Oster at 216-392-5152 or 216-556-4937 or email: hollyoster21@gmail.com

**Form Due by Friday, March 20, 2026 to:**

Autism Society of Greater Cleveland  
Attention: Holly Oster  
5415 E. Schaaf Rd  
Independence, Ohio 44131



# **ASGC 17<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF APRIL 23, 2026**

## **CHEF WAIVER & RELEASE OF LIABILITY**

I \_\_\_\_\_, for myself and any who may claim through me, including my employees, agents, assistants, heirs, successors or assigns (together, "ME"), in consideration of the privilege of participating in the "Autism Society of Greater Cleveland Chili Cook-Off" (the "Event"), hereby assume all risk of personal injury or damage to Me, and forever release, waive and discharge The Autism Society of America™, The Autism Society of Greater Cleveland, Holiday Inn, 6001 Rockside Road Independence, OH and their parent, subsidiary and affiliated companies, their respective shareholders, officers, directors, agents, employees, and assigns, and the Board Members for Autism Society of Greater Cleveland Chili Cook-Off, every member of such Committee individually, all workers, volunteers, sponsors, donors, and anyone else, individual or organization, in charge of or connected with the Event (all of the preceding parties being referred to together as the "Released Parties").

This Release applies to any and all liability or expense (including defense costs, legal fees and claims for damages of any nature whatsoever, including, but not limited to, any claim of loss or damage to property or death or injury to persons) arising out of the set-up, operation, maintenance, or break down of the Event, including but not limited to (i) food borne illness arising from the preparation or ingestion of any product served at the event, (ii) any act or failure to act in furtherance of Event operations, or (iii) any other claims that might arise between Me and the Released Parties in connection with said Event.

I further release and agree to indemnify the Released Parties from all claims or liability from any accident, injury, damage or loss incurred or suffered by Me, anyone in my charge or care, or any third parties in connection with the Event, no matter what the nature of such claims (which may include costs, charges, expenses, legal fees, or any other loss or expense incurred by the Released Parties), which claims result from acts by Me, whether such acts were intentional, accidental or negligent, which caused or contributed to the cause of such accident, injury, damage or loss incurred or suffered.

I certify that I have read and understood this Release and the Participation Form provided to Me with this Release, as well as the Autism Society of Greater Cleveland Chili Cook-Off Rules, also provided to Me with the Release and agree to all terms and conditions contained in such documents on behalf of myself and my team members.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Questions:** Contact Holly Oster at 216-392-5152 or 216-556-4937 (ASGC) or email: [hollyoster21@gmail.com](mailto:hollyoster21@gmail.com)

**Please complete this waiver and return by Friday, March 20, 2026 to:**

Autism Society of Greater Cleveland  
Attention: Holly Oster  
5415 E. Schaaf Rd  
Independence, Ohio 44131

# Autism Society of Greater Cleveland Chili Cook-Off Rules/Guidelines



## Chef Guidelines:

1. Our main focus is to have fun while raising funds for the ASGC.
2. Categories and rules are established as guidelines to ensure fair competition.
3. Chefs/teams are encouraged to market their product (or restaurant/catering business) but you can't sell anything.
4. Decorate your table space, add garnishes, or whatever adds to your award winning chili.
5. Two persons per entry. You will receive two complimentary tickets for your table and a gift.
6. Chefs are responsible for supplying: chili and garnishes, serving utensils, bowls for garnishes, chafing dishes and sternos to keep chili warm. **NO electrical outlets are available.**
7. ASGC will provide: table space, tasting bowls, napkins and spoons.
8. Chefs must sign and return completed Participation Form and Waiver & Release of Liability forms to Holly Oster, Chairman, ASGC Chili Cook-Off, 5415 E. Schaaf Rd., Independence, OH 44131 **by Friday, March 20, 2026.**
9. All entrants participate at their own risk. The Holiday Inn Rockside, Autism Society of Greater Cleveland Chili Cook-Off Board, volunteers and guests are not liable for losses or damages resulting from participating in this event.

## Set-Up/Tear Down

1. Plan on arriving promptly between 4:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. **Check in with Jim Wotowiec.**
2. Judging begins at 5:15 p.m.
3. Event opens to Public: 6:00 p.m.
4. Fire extinguishers will be available.
5. Teardown will begin at 9:00 pm. Thank you in advance for cleaning up your table space and surrounding area.
6. There is limited space at the exit. Please move your vehicle when you are done loading.

## Judging

1. Judging will take place from 5:15 – 5:45 p.m. Please be ready at your table.
2. Tables not manned may be disqualified at the Judge's discretion.

**Sponsorship levels for the event start at \$150. Please see enclosed form.**