

**"BEST DAM CHILI IN THE KICKAPOO VALLEY" CHILI CONTEST
KICKAPOO VALLEY RESERVE WINTER FESTIVAL**

JANUARY 10, 2026

Guidelines for entering the chili contest:

- 1) Notify the Kickapoo Valley Reserve (KVR) that you will be entering the contest by **January 10, 2026**. Please provide the following information by contacting the KVR at (608) 625-2960 or kickapoo.reserve@krm.state.wi.us:
 - name of cook and, if applicable, business/organization you're entering on behalf of.
 - Name of Chili
- 2) ANY kind of chili is acceptable. For informational purposes, you can provide ingredients if you wish.
- 3) The use of quality ingredients and sanitary preparation methods is required since samples will be provided for consumption by judges and the public.
- 4) Prepare FIVE QUARTS of your chili. This is the amount that will be used for samples during judging. You may bring more if you wish for consumption that day.
- 5) Deliver entry(ies) to the KVR Visitor Center no later than **10:00 AM** on Saturday, January 10, 2026. Entries received after 10:00 AM will be eligible for the "Popular Vote" ONLY.
- 6) Have your chili in a crock pot or slow cooker. You will only have one hour prior to serving to heat your chili so please plan accordingly (i.e., no time to thaw frozen chili). No chili will be served or judged until it has reached the minimum safe-for-consumption temperature.
- 7) Please put your name on the bottom of your appliance. Appliances should be picked up by **3pm on Saturday, January 10, 2026**.
- 8) Two categories for judging:
 - "Popular Vote" – One chili will be selected by the public (one person, one vote) and recognized as the "Popular Vote". Judging will be done in a blind taste test. The public will pay a small fee at the door to taste all entries and vote.
 - "Judges' Choice" – One chili will be selected by a panel of three judges and recognized as the "Judges' Choice". Judging will be done in a blind taste test.
- 9) Winners will be posted and announced between 2:00 – 3:00 PM inside the KVR Visitor Center.
- 10) The overall "Judge's Choice" and the "Popular Vote" winners' names will be placed on the commemorative plaque, which is proudly displayed in the KVR Visitor Center.

Call or e-mail with any questions: (608) 625-2960 or kickapoo.reserve@krm.state.wi.us

Kickapoo Valley Reserve ▪ S3661 State Road 131 ▪ La Farge WI 54659