

California Strawberry Festival

2018 California Strawberry Festival Berry Blast Off Rules

Deadline for recipe submissions April 6, 2018 (No exceptions)

About the Contest:

- Recipes for must be original and specify the use of strawberries without baking in the preparation (use of grill, fryer, stove-top permitted).
- Recipes must serve five (5) and must be able to be prepared and presented within 60 minutes.
- The recipe contest encourages the use of strawberries as a key ingredient and fresh ingredients as much as possible.
- No restriction on what type of strawberry recipe: (sauce, dessert, main course, dip, drink, jam, spread, appetizer, snack, etc.)
- Contestants may enter as many recipes as they wish, one entry per submission.
- Free ticket offer for recipe submission is limited to **one per person/one per family/one per residence**.
- The contest is open to any and all food lovers. Winner of Grand Prize must be at least 21 years of age.
- Participant may not enter the contest if they have previously won the Berry Blast Off two times or more.

Contestants should be mindful of the requirement that if selected as one of five semi-finalists, they compete in a timed "Iron Chef" approach that requires them to prepare their recipe at the following:

- Top 5 Semi-Finalists: Timed "Berry Blast Off" contest at the professional kitchen of the Courtyard by Marriott, Oxnard (600 East Esplanade Drive, Oxnard, CA 93036) Tuesday, May 1, 2018 at 11:00am where recipes are prepared and presented within a 60-minute time frame for judging. Dishes must serve five judges. Presentation is also a part of the overall judging. Media are invited to attend. Two finalists will be selected to go to the next level.
- Top two challengers to compete for Grand Prize at the actual California Strawberry Festival Saturday, May 19, 2018 (3250 South Rose Avenue, Oxnard, CA) in the Strawberry Promenade before an audience of Festival patrons.

Judging and Semi-Finals

Food professionals will consider qualifying entries to select five semi-finalists. Notification and details of Berry Blast Off participation will be made to the five semi-finalists by mid-April. Finalists must participate personally in the timed Berry Blast Off to be eligible for prizes. Festival provides required preparation/cooking utensils (stoves, sinks and refrigerators will be provided) and finalist provides ingredients except for strawberries (finalist provides receipts for ingredients for reimbursement).

Basis for judging

- best taste/flavor
- texture
- preparation ease
- presentation
- creative use of strawberries

Judging panel includes professional chefs, California Strawberry Festival Executive Committee members, and celebrity judges. The judging panel decision is final and binding. Media are invited to attend.

On stage participation during the Festival in the Strawberry Promenade is limited to the two contestants and any volunteer helpers must be those provided by the Festival. Family and friends of the contestants are not permitted on-stage during the event but are welcome to attend the presentation.

All recipes submitted as entries become the property of the California Strawberry Festival, a non-profit 501 c(3). By entering the contest, all participants consent to the commercial use of their name, picture, likeness and recipe for advertising and publicity/promotional purposes without further compensation. Contestants must also allow the Festival use of their recipe, with proper credit, for inclusion in the souvenir California Strawberry Festival Cookbook.