

Manitoba International Cook-Off 2025



Date: October 11th 2025

Location: Birds Hill Provincial Park - Group use area 2, Site 3

The International Cook-Off 2025

Event Overview

The *Manitoba International Cook-Off 2025* is a fun, team-based culinary challenge celebrating cultures from around the world—real or imagined! Participants will create a three-course menu, cook outdoors, and present their dishes to a panel of judges. Creativity, teamwork, and cooking methods will be scored, with awards presented at the end of the day.

Registration Information

Deadline to Register: September 29th, 2025

Cost: \$3 per participant

How to Register:

- Submit your team name and country of choice (real or fictional).
- Small teams are encouraged for more hands-on cooking opportunities, but team size is flexible.
- If more than one team is entering from a unit, each team must register separately for judging purposes.
- Cost: \$3 per participant.

Event Programming & How It Works

Preparation (Before the Event)

Once teams are registered, you will receive by email:

- A list of required mystery ingredients (at least one item is to be used in at least one dish)
- Your team's scheduled start time

Plan your menu! Each team must prepare a three-course menu:

- Appetizer
- Entrée
- Dessert

Be prepared to answer questions about your chosen country during judging. Know your facts! Bonus points will be awarded for:

- Using a variety of cooking methods
- Creativity presentation
- Originality in dishes and flavour combinations

Day of the Event - Saturday October 11th

Check-In

Registration opens at 10:00 AM at the shelter. Teams must check in at least 15 minutes prior to their assigned start time.

At check-in, each team will receive:

The International Cook-Off 2025

- Event rules
- Judging rubric
- Assigned cooking/set-up area
- Dixie cups for meal sampling and sharing between teams after judging

Setup

Teams can take as much time as needed to set up their cooking area. No prep or cooking may begin until:

- The team's assigned start time
- Final rules review by the Camping and Outdoor advisors.

Teams will have 4 hours and 40 minutes to complete all cooking and preparation.

Note for Guiders:

Youth must prepare and cook 100% of the meals themselves. You may assist only in cases of safety concerns (e.g., knife handling, fire use). You may also prepare lunch for your unit separately during the event.

Cooking Area & Supplies

Each team will have access to:

- 1 picnic table
- 1 fire pit (if no fire ban is in place)

Teams are responsible for bringing:

- All food and ingredients
- Food presentation items for judging
- Cooking and serving supplies
- Cleaning supplies
- Firewood (if cooking over fire)
- Optional: extra tables or overhead shelters

Please follow Leave No Trace principles during and after the event.

Judging

- Judging takes place at the shelter by a panel of 4 judges.
- Each team will have **12 minutes** to present:
 - All three dishes (must fit on a 7" dessert plate unless liquid-based)
 - Explanation of ingredients and cooking methods

Scoring categories include:

- Presentation
- Cooking methods

The International Cook-Off 2025

- Teamwork
- Creativity

Sampling & Social

After judging, teams will share samples with one another using provided Dixie cups and learn about other countries and their menus. Teams may choose to dish up their meal samples prior to this set time if they have some down time in-between.

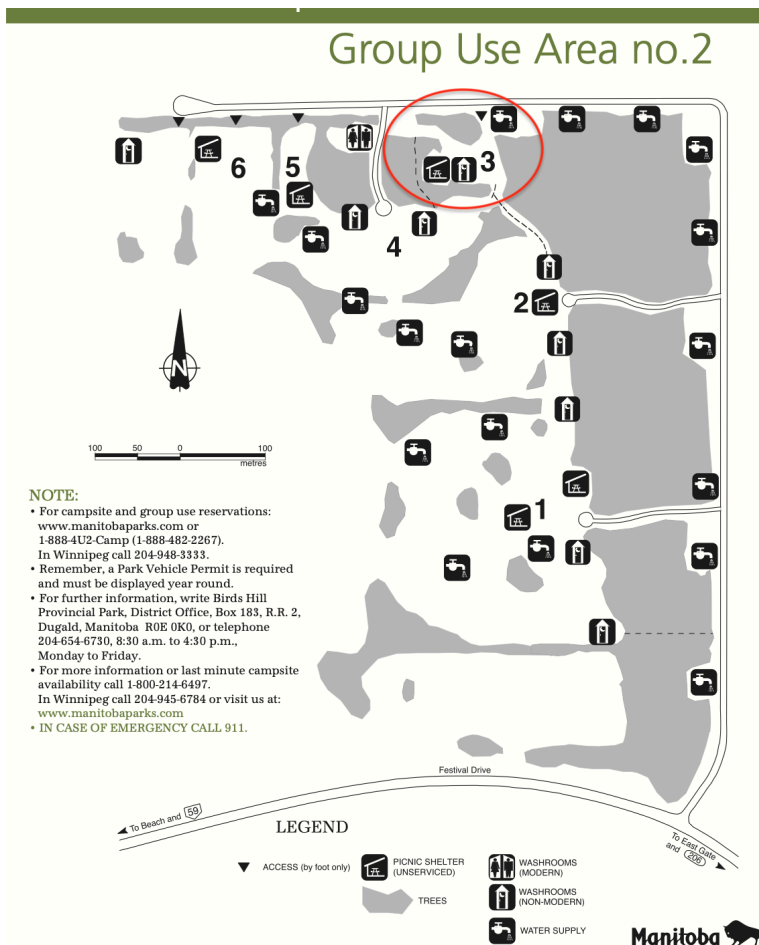
Awards & Recognition

Awards & recognition will begin at 5:30pm under the Shelter. During this time, units will learn their overall score, receive their participation crests and various specialty awards will be awarded. Feedback will also be provided during this time.

Logistics

Drop-Off & Pick-Up

Parents should park and walk youth into the site.



Overnight Camping

Units are welcome to camp both the Friday and Saturday night. Overnight camping will take place in the same group use site as the Cook-OFF. Units will be responsible for completing and submitting their own paperwork for camping. If units are camping the Friday night, arrival must be after 6:00pm and departure on Sunday is 10:00am.