



OFFICIAL FIELD GUIDE

**APRIL 3-4, 2026
AT THE EIFFEL TOWER**

Your participation in Paris Steak Wars means so much to us. Thank you for being a part of it. We never expected this event to grow to what it is today. That growth is because of you.

We have listened to attendees and teams over the years and developed strict rules for the steak teams and the steak competition. Please follow them.

Paris Steak Wars is a friendly competition, and while not a sanctioned steak cook-off, there are high stakes!

We ask that you carefully read the following rules in their entirety for your safety, the safety of others, the enjoyment of the competition, and the benefit of the Downtown Food Pantry. Let's all be winners!

*If modifications are made to these rules, teams will be notified as soon as possible and provided with the updated version.

**YOUR
STAFF
CONTACTS**

KRIS ESTEP: 903-517-9694
LEA EMERSON: 903-423-2108
BRITTANY BARNEY-BURNS: 915-525-2075
KACY SMYERS: 903-905-2565

EVENT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY: THE TAILGATE PARTY

TIME	DETAILS
12pm	TEAM CHECK-IN OPENS
3pm	HAPPY HOUR BEGINS
5pm	ALL VEHICLES REMOVED FROM STEAK ARENA
6pm	TEAM MEETING
	BURGERS SERVED (by donation)
7:30pm	FLEETWOOD X BEGINS
9pm	EVENT END

SATURDAY: MAIN EVENT

TIME	DETAILS	LOCATION
7:30am	STEAK SELECTION	JUDGES TENT
8am	TEAM PHOTOS BEGIN	AT TEAM SPOT
9am	APPETIZER JUDGING	LOVE CIVIC CENTER
10am	GATES OPEN	MAIN ENTRANCE
	APPETIZERS SERVED TO PUBLIC	
11am	STEAK JUDGING BEGINS	JUDGES TENT
	TEAMS RECEIVE PUBLIC STEAKS	
11:50am	PRAYER/NATIONAL ANTHEM	MAIN STAGE
12pm	STEAKS SERVED	
1pm	STEAK JUDGING ENDS	
2pm	RAFFLES/PEOPLES CHOICE ENDS	
3pm	AWARDS	MAIN STAGE

BAND SCHEDULE

TIME	DETAILS
10:20am	STONEY MUSGROVE BAND
11:50am	NATIONAL ANTHEM
12pm	COMMON GROUND
1pm	THE ALTERNATIVES

STEAK JUDGING SCHEDULE

TIME	DETAILS
11am	GROUP 1
11:10am	GROUP 2
11:20am	GROUP 3
12:10pm	GROUP 4
12:20pm	GROUP 5
12:30pm	GROUP 6
12:40pm	GROUP 7

*****IMPORTANT INFORMATION*****
MEAT IS VERY EXPENSIVE THIS YEAR

Everything you and your team members are a part of, do, and do not do impacts the beneficiary of this event. There are a few important items that tend to get overlooked each year.

Listen, we know this event is fun and we get to hang out with our people and enjoy the day. It's a monster to plan and raise funds for this day, all while praying for great weather.

All of this is for the beneficiary. With your help, the three items below can make or break this event.

Please, we need your help!

#1 SIZE MATTERS:

As you know, size matters in almost all things. Each year, some of you make huge cuts of steak to serve to the public. The expense of steak is at an all-time high this year. Please cut smaller, bite-size pieces for the public. If you are one that stands there and stabs 3 pieces with your toothpick and hands it to someone, that is not helping the beneficiary. Plus, that means you will run out of steak quicker.

#2 TIME MATTERS:

No matter how many times we say don't serve before noon, some of you begin early. We've seen teams out of steak by 12:15-12:30 p.m. We have walked past teams at 11:00-11:30 a.m. with steak out ready to serve. This does not help the beneficiary. Peak wristband sales typically occur between 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. If we have teams serving early, it changes a lot of dynamics to the event.

#3 QUANTITY MATTERS:

Please do not cook all of your public steaks at the same time. In the past, this is another reason for teams being out of steak so early. Spread it out.

Team Check-in, Setup, and Meeting:

Paris Steak Wars 2026 will be located at the Eiffel Tower
(2025 S. Collegiate Dr.)

TEAM CHECK-IN OPENS AT 12PM (NOON) ON APRIL 3.

Enter the parking lot at North Entrance and follow the route around the back of the Love Civic Center. You will approach the check-in tent and a staff member will direct you to your team spot.

It is strongly encouraged that you set up your tent on Friday afternoon/evening during our Steak Wars Tailgate event. Teams **MUST** be completely set up by 6:30am Saturday morning.

Overnight security will be onsite following the tailgate, and will remain onsite through the duration of the event on Saturday.

*Paris Steak Wars is not responsible for lost/stolen/damaged personal property at any time of the event.

Due to safety concerns, Teams' vehicles will not be allowed in the Steak Arena until after Paris Steak Wars has concluded and when you have been notified you can enter the steak arena to clean up your area. If you've elected to use a trailer in your team spot, you need to arrive earlier on Friday for set up as you can understand the logistics to this.

FRIDAY EVENING MEETING:

In the past we have had the team meeting early on Saturday morning. This year, the team meeting will be at 6pm on Friday evening, inside the Love Civic Center's "big room". We encourage your entire team to be present at this meeting.

SATURDAY MORNING MEETING:

At least one member of each cook team is required to attend the Cook's Meeting at 7:30am on Saturday for steak selection.

This meeting will also be located at the Judges Tent.
Steak selection will be a snake draw.



Competition Rules:

Steaks will be submitted for judging at the designated turn-in tent in a container provided to you by Paris Steak Wars. You will be notified of your steak judging turn-in time at the cook's meeting.

- No outside steaks will be allowed for the competition. You will be immediately disqualified.
- Teams are encouraged to prepare samples, hors d'oeuvres, appetizers, etc. There is a separate Appetizer Competition that you do not have to enter. For those who would like more information, you can visit parissteakwars.com. We had a substantial number of teams that entered the appetizer competition in past years...it's kind of a big deal.

• Thank you for your help! And thank you to everyone who always asks to help cook more than requested. We could not do this without you.

- **Steak Usage:** The steaks provided by Paris Steak Wars are purchased with donations and sponsorships by local businesses and local donations in the Paris Community. The steaks provided are meant to be used solely for the purpose of Paris Steak Wars event either for the PSW public attendees or for the PSW competition. They are not for your personal consumption. Any unauthorized removal or personal use of event steaks, whether cooked or uncooked, is prohibited and you will be shamed publicly like the guys who added weights to the fish did. Remember, everything we do for this event directly impacts the Downtown Food Pantry as well as the future of Paris Steak Wars events. Toward the end of the event, if you have steaks left over, or are out of public steaks, please contact a member of our team and we will assist further. For anyone who has questions about this you may contact Kris at 903-517-9694.

- Grills are limited to the following: gas (propane), wood or charcoal (unless otherwise discussed). We will have barrels onsite to dispose of your used charcoal. (These barrels will be indicated on the map) Please, do not dump coals at your team spot when the event is over, you will be asked not to enter a team next year.

Steaks will be judged on the following criteria:

a. Taste b. Appearance c. Tenderness d. Doneness*

*Steaks must all be cooked to the level of medium. We describe the medium as – pink and moist in the middle of the ribeye. Not red or running. Doneness will serve as a tie breaker, in the event of a tie.

- No garnishes, foil, sauces, etc., should accompany your steak when submitted. Your steak must be turned in with NO cuts in the steak itself. Failure to comply with either of these rules will result in automatic disqualification.
- **Steak Selection:** Teams will be drawn at random to select their 2 judging steaks. Only one of the steaks will be submitted for judging.
- Adherence to steak turn-in time is mandatory. Late submissions will automatically be disqualified. You will be given your turn in time at the cooks meeting.

Safety and Other Guidelines:

- Absolutely no outside alcoholic beverages will be allowed. Failure to comply will result in expulsion from the cook off. Please drink responsibly. This event is designed to generate funds for a local nonprofit. Please be respectful at Paris Steak Wars during the entire event.
- No personal ATVs or golf carts.
- It is recommended that you have a fire extinguisher within your cook site.
- All decisions are final.
- The cook-off will be held rain or shine. No entry fees will be refunded due to inclement weather.

For further questions and for more information please contact Kris Estep at 903-517-9694 or by email kris@southmainiron.com

FAQ:

For the steak competition, can you tell me what place I got? Please reach out to Kris by text at 903-517-9694 the week after the steak competition to see where you placed if you didn't make the Top 3.

What do I serve my steak on to the public?

We will provide each team with sponsored toothpicks. Once those run out, as they normally do, we will bring you standard toothpicks. As far as what you place the steak bite-size pieces on, that's completely up to you. We have seen some pretty creative things in the past. Cutting boards, foil containers, or bowls are typically teams' go-to options.

You gave me 4 wristbands, and I have 6 people on my team. Can I get 2 more wristbands for my other 2 people?

Absolutely! The more the better. Additional wristbands can be purchased at the main entrance. Since it is a 4-man team, you will always be provided with 4 wristbands at no additional charge. But if you have more people, they will need to pay for their wristbands. Thank you for your donation!

What if it rains? Will you cancel?

NOPE. We cook in the rain like our ancestors did. Paris Steak Wars is a rain or shine event! **Note: Really bad weather, lightning, and storms, will be addressed with our teams and the public as soon as possible. This would be the most likely reason for a cancellation and we will always do everything in our power to keep everyone safe. No matter what.

I know my large team spot says 18x20. My trailer and tent is a couple of feet bigger. Does that really matter?

You have no idea how much this matters. As if planning all aspects of an event that brings in 4,000-5,000 people in a parking lot wasn't challenging enough, THE MAP to this event is planned months prior to the event date. Where teams will go, where vendors will be placed, stage, barricades, etc., is down to the inch in some cases. If you require a larger space than what you asked for, please request a larger space well before the event so we can make these changes then. Chances are if you are a foot outside your assigned team area, that means the guy next to you has less now.