

2026 SOUPFEST

FEBRUARY 7, 2026

Simmer up a kettle of soup and be prepared for hundreds at your doorstep!

PEOPLES CHOICE AND JUDGES CHOICE TROPHIES



SOUPFEST INSTRUCTIONS

- Prepare at least (1) 18-quart roaster full of soup. Quantity needed varies by location.
- You are responsible for providing foam or paper cups and spoons for sampling. We suggest a 2 to 4 oz. serving. No purchase is necessary for patrons to sample soups.
- **You are responsible for delivering your soup sample for the judges choice to the Chamber office no later than 11:30AM on Saturday, February 7, 2026.** An official numbered sampling container will be provided for you prior to the contest.
- **Begin serving soup samples at 12PM noon. NO EARLIER!** No paper ballots will be available. **Encourage people to cast their ballot on the Crosslake Mobile App!** All votes must be cast by 3PM.
- You must complete and display the "Soup prepared here" laminated 8 1/2" x 11" flyer provided by the Chamber near your soup serving station.

FOOD PREPARATION AND SERVING GUIDELINES

- **We insist that you to refer to the MDH Food preparation guidelines to ensure your soup is prepared, handled and served properly.**
- <https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/food/docs/pwdu/chilickofffs.pdf>
- One 18-quart roaster is capable of holding 144 servings, each measuring 4 ounces. In high traffic areas, plan for 2 roasters.
- Meat /Poultry/Fish used in your soup must be USDA graded or have been processed (wild game) at a licensed processing facility.
- NO - crock pots, steam tables or chafing dishes - 18 qt. roaster ovens with temperature control are recommended. Available at Crosslake Ace Hardware, mention the roaster is for SoupFest and get a \$10 discount!
- Your soup must reach a temperature of 165 degrees prior to serving and must maintain a temperature of 140 degrees for the duration of serving time. Use a thermometer to insure these temperatures!
- Your serving location must be located within the City limits of Crosslake. The Chamber can assist you in finding a location to serve your soup from. Participation exclusive to Brainerd Lakes Chamber members, WinterFest committee member businesses or not-for profit organizations only.
- No self serving of Soup allowed. You must ladle and serve the soup to your patrons.
- Serving utensils must be used for all condiments.

SOUPFEST CONTEST DETAILS

- You are competing in two categories. The Judges Choice and the People's Choice.
- One vote per person. Votes may only be cast by downloading and voting on the Crosslake App.
- We will have a panel of judges voting and awarding the traveling Judges Choice trophy for the best soup among all the entries regardless of category. You will also compete in either the People's Choice Culinary Division (restaurant) or People's Choice Amateur (non-restaurant) division. Event attendees will travel around to the competing businesses and vote for one favorite in each division. One vote per person. Traveling Golden ladles will be awarded to the Peoples Culinary Choice and Peoples Amateur Choice. The WinterFest Committee will deliver the trophies to the winning businesses and the results will be announced on www.Crosslake.com and Facebook/Crosslake as soon as possible (approximately 4PM on Saturday, February 1st. Winners will display trophies at their business for the year and surrender prior to next year's SoupFest.

