2026 Restaurant, Caterer and Bakery Information

When:

Sunday, October 25, 2026
12:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Where:

The Birchmere
3710 Mt. Vernon Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22305

When your restaurant, catering service or bakery participates, you'll serve your best dish to 500 guests, vie with other local restaurants, bakeries and caterers for coveted awards, and support our neighbors experiencing homelessness.

How do I confirm participation?

1. Fill out both sides of the form

There are sections for your contact information, menu selection, supply requests, and gift card donation on the participation agreement form.

2. Scan and Return

Scan the completed form and email it to Michiko Yoon, MYoon@CarpentersShelter.org. Keep the hardcopy for your records and refer to it for information.

3. Promote

Share your decision to participate on social media.
Tag and follow us on Facebook, X(Twitter), Bluesky and Instagram.

CarpentersShelter
CarpentrShelter
Carpenters_Shelter
CarpentersShelter.BSky.Social

Contact:

703-548-7500
MYoon@CarpentersShelter.org
CarpentersShelter.org/Cook-Off

Mailing Address:
Attn: Michiko Yoon, Communications Specialist
Carpenter's Shelter
930 N. Henry St.
Alexandria, VA 22314

2026 Restaurant, Caterer and Bakery Information

WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT THE DAY OF THE EVENT?

Prepare 500 tasting-sized portions of the dish or dishes you submitted on your participation form.

NOTE: FOOD MUST BE PREPARED OFF-SITE.

10:00 AM Two restaurant or catering or bakery staff members arrive for set-up with food, chafing dishes, serving utensils, and extension cords.

Each restaurant/caterer/bakery will have one 6 ft. table with tablecloth, a sign featuring the name of the restaurant/caterer/bakery, sternos, fire extinguishers and the number of napkins, plastic cutlery, and disposable plates/bowls requested on the participation form.

Carpenter's Shelter volunteers will be available to help with set-up and event logistics.

11:30 AM **RESTAURANTS/CATERERS/BAKERY COMPLETE SETUP.**

12:00 PM General entry begins.

2:30 PM Cook-Off 2026 Awards are announced.

Our panel of celebrity judges will select the winners of Best Savory Dish and Best Sweet Dish. Carpenter's Cook-Off 2026 attendees will vote for their favorite dish and the winner will receive the People's Choice Award. Attendees under age 18 will also vote and the winner will receive the Kid's Choice Award.

The winning restaurants, caterers and bakeries will be announced during the event, receive a plaque award, and get a special mention in our Cook-Off 2026 website page and in post-event communications.

3:00 PM Event ends and clean-up begins. Garbage bags will be provided.

4:00 PM **THE BIRCHMERE MUST BE VACATED.**

2026 Restaurant, Caterer and Bakery Participation Agreement

Please fill out, sign and return form to confirm participation in the Carpenter's Cook-Off 2026.

Restaurant, caterer and bakery **space is limited** so act fast to secure your spot!

Restaurant/Caterer/Bakery Expectations:

- Signed Participation Agreement
- Completed Menu Selection and Order Form
- High resolution restaurant/caterer logo
- Tasting portions for 500 people
- Two staff to serve on October 25th
- Serving utensils (e.g. tongs, ladles)
- Chafing dishes, as needed
- Power extension cords, as needed
- Submit 500 discount flyers or certificates that will be placed in the swag bag (optional)

Carpenter's Shelter Will Provide:

- Restaurant/caterer/bakery name and logo featured on website, email, social media, program, poster, etc.
- One 6 foot table with a tablecloth
- Sign with restaurant/caterer/bakery name
- Sternos
- Fire extinguishers
- Napkins, plastic cutlery, plates and bowls, as requested
- Volunteer assistance, as needed

Participation Agreement

Name of restaurant/caterer/bakery: _____

Contact Person: _____

Email Address: _____ Telephone: _____

Physical Address: _____

_____

Facebook: _____ Instagram: _____ X (Twitter): _____

Bluesky: _____

Special Opportunity

7,096

and counting followers on social media

The first 5 restaurants to submit their forms by August 14th will receive...

- Shout-out to Carpenter's Shelter's 7,096 and counting followers on Facebook, Instagram, X (Twitter), and Bluesky
- A prime location at The Birchmere
- Restaurant, caterer or bakery name, 25-word description, link to website in our September E-News to 4,062 sponsors and donors, mention in Volunteer Vine to 2,008 volunteers, and featured on our website slider

2026 Restaurant and Caterer Participation Agreement

Carpenter's Cook-Off 2026 Menu Selection:
Please list the dish(es) and provide a brief description.

_____

_____

_____

Please write a number, even if it is 0, on each line. Ex: 500 napkins.

_____ Plastic Forks
_____ Plastic Spoons
_____ Plastic Knives
_____ Small Plates
_____ Small Bowls
_____ Napkins

_____ I will need access to an electrical outlet. (Only three tables available near electrical outlets.)

Receive extra promotion by donating a gift card to our silent auction!

YES! We would like to donate a $ _____ gift card.

☐ A Carpenter's Shelter staff member can pick it up on or after _____ (Month/Day).

☐ We will mail it to you by September 24th, 2026.

By signing below, I agree to the terms and conditions set out by Carpenter's Shelter and agree to participate in the Carpenter's Cook-Off held on **Sunday, October 25th** at 3701 Mt. Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22305.

Contact Person (Print): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

PLEASE SCAN AND RETURN THIS FORM to MYoon@CarpentersShelter.org by August 28, 2025.