

15th Annual BLOOMIN' BARBEQUE & BLUEGRASS

Sevierville's fifteenth annual Bloomin' Barbeque & Bluegrass festival will take place May 17-18, 2019. This family-friendly event will once again bring barbeque cook teams from all over the United States to Sevierville to compete for \$17,500 in cash and prizes and the title of Tennessee State Champion in the Bush's Best TN State Championship Cook Off. Rounding out the event is toe-tapping bluegrass music, incredible arts and crafts, kids' games and the Mountain Soul Vocal Competition honoring Sevierville's favorite hometown girl, Dolly Parton.

Take a little time to visit with the barbeque cook teams you've seen on cable channels like the Food Network as you stroll through the "Que Zone." Then make sure you bring a lawn chair for the free bluegrass concerts with rising stars and legends of the bluegrass genre. Friday night's lineup includes Priscilla & Little RicKee ft. Louisa Branscomb, Jimbo Whaley & Greenbrier, Michael Cleveland & Flame Keeper, and Balsam Range.

Saturday's entertainment starts at 10am with performances from local dance troupes. The music begins around noon with scheduled performances by Mountain Ruckus (presented by Dolly Parton's Stampede), Dale Ann Bradley, Love Canon, Phil Leadbetter and the All-Stars of Bluegrass, and the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band.

On Saturday, the competition starts early. Watch as championship cook teams turn in their competition meats. Then stay for the announcement of BBQ champs at 4pm. During the competition, the teams will cook an estimated 2,832 pounds of meat including 20 pounds of pulled pork, 24 pounds of brisket, 5 pounds of chicken and 10 pounds of ribs each. Winning teams will receive recognition in Chicken, Ribs, Pork and Brisket as well as specialty categories like "Anything Bush Beans", "Anything Swaggerty's Farm Sausage", Sauce and Dessert.

A highlight of Bloomin' Barbeque & Bluegrass is the 15th Annual Mountain Soul Vocal Competition Finals held on May 18. Finalists from around the nation will sing their hearts out for a chance to win cash and prizes. This competition, the only one of its kind that festival organizers know of, honors the songwriting of Dolly Parton. Competitors, male and female, must sing a song written by Dolly Parton (there are over 3,000) and do so in their own style (rock, rap, country, bluegrass, swing, soul, etc.).

Admission to Bloomin' BBQ & Bluegrass and the concerts are free thanks to great sponsors, including the Sevierville Chamber of Commerce which encourages you to stay in Sevierville while visiting Bloomin' BBQ & Bluegrass. For great lodging and more information about Bloomin' Barbeque & Bluegrass, call (888) 889-7415 or visit us online at www.BloominBBQ.com.