

Kids Cookie Contest

Get ready for some sweet competition at our annual Church Family Picnic! We have two exciting divisions for our young bakers: the **Golden Spatula Challenge** for independent bakers and the **Ribbon Royalty Bake-Off** for those who want to bake with parental help.

Golden Spatula Challenge (Ages 7-12) - For the Trophy

This division is for kids who want to show off their independent baking skills! The winner will take home the coveted **Golden Spatula Trophy** for a year.

Rules for Independent Bakers:

- **No Parent Involvement, Period!** This is the most crucial rule for the Golden Spatula Challenge. Every step, from finding the recipe to baking and decorating, must be done solely by the child entering. We want to see their talent shine!
- **One Entry Per Child:** Each child can submit one type of cookie for judging.
- **Quantity:** Please bring at least **one dozen** cookies for the judges to taste.
- **Recipe, Photo & Backstory Required:** A printed copy of the recipe, a picture of your cookie, and a short story about why you chose this recipe are all required.
- **Cookie Presentation:** Cookies should be presented on a disposable plate or container with a label that includes the child's name and the cookie's name.
- **Judging Portion:** Please provide **five pre-cut, bite-sized cookie portions** for our judges. We recommend making each portion about the size of a quarter and strategically cutting it to include key ingredients like chocolate chips or nuts. This ensures the judges get a full sense of the cookie's taste and texture.

One Tough Cookie Baking Bonus! (Optional Bonus for Golden Spatula Challengers)

For the truly adventurous young bakers entering the Golden Spatula Challenge, this is your chance to earn bonus points and show off some serious culinary prowess!

- **Step 1: The Recipe Hunt (10 points):** Find a cookie recipe that is not a typical chocolate chip or peanut butter cookie. Think outside the box! Look for something unique or with interesting ingredients.
- **Step 2: The Practice Rounds:** Bake two separate batches of your chosen "tough cookie" recipe.
- **Step 3: Get Feedback:** Share your practice batches with family, friends, or neighbors. Ask for honest reviews and pointers on taste, texture, and appearance.
- **Step 4: The Grand Finale Batch:** Bake your final batch for the contest, incorporating the feedback you received. When you submit your cookies, include a brief, bulleted list of the feedback you received and what changes you made for this final batch.

Ribbon Royalty Bake-Off (Ages 4-12) - For Ribbons

This division is for kids who want to participate and learn with a little help from their grown-ups. Ribbons will be awarded based on effort, taste, and teamwork.

Rules for Team Bakers:

- **Learning and Fun:** This division is all about encouraging participation, learning new skills, and having fun baking together.
- **Honest Disclosure is Key:** When submitting their cookies, participants must provide a written statement about their baking process. For example: "I mixed the dough and put the cookies on the pan. My parent helped me with the oven."
- **One Entry Per Child:** Each child can submit one type of cookie for judging.
- **Quantity:** Please bring at least **one dozen** cookies for the judges to taste.
- **Recipe & Photo Required:** A printed copy of the recipe you used and a picture of your cookie are both required.
- **Cookie Presentation:** Cookies should be presented on a disposable plate or container with a label that includes the child's name and the cookie's name.
- **Judging Portion:** Please provide **five pre-cut, bite-sized cookie portions** for our judges. We recommend making each portion about the size of a quarter and strategically cutting it to include key ingredients.

Cookie Contest Drop-off Information

Welcome, young bakers! We're so excited to see (and taste) your creations. Please follow these instructions for a smooth drop-off:

- **When and Where:** Bring your cookies to the cafeteria between **12:30 PM and 12:45 PM**. Look for the sign that says "Kids Cookie Contest Drop-off." Judging will begin promptly at 1:00 PM.
- **Cookie Preparation:** For the judges, please have your cookies ready and pre-cut into bite-sized portions. Each sample cup should contain a piece of cookie roughly the size of a quarter. Remember to be strategic with your cutting so that each piece contains a good mix of ingredients.
- **Presentation Tray:** Bring your cookies on a tray, neatly arranged and ready for our church family to enjoy after judging. How you arrange and decorate your tray will be included in the presentation points.
- **What to Bring:**
 1. Your cookies, prepped for the judges and your dozen whole cookies on a presentation tray.
 2. A printed copy of your recipe.
 3. A title place card for your cookie entry. We suggest you create this by folding a 5x7 piece of paper in half to make a "tent card." This card should include the name of your cookie, a short description, and your first name and age. **Please do not**

include photos or your last name.

We can't wait to see your wonderful creations!

A Special Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

This cookie bake-off is a wonderful opportunity to help our kids grow, and we're so glad you're a part of it. As you've read in the rules, our judges will be using a specific set of guidelines, but ultimately, judging is subjective. There can only be one trophy winner.

To help your child have the best experience, we ask that you prepare them mentally and emotionally for the possibility of not winning the main trophy. We want every child to feel proud of their hard work, and we will be awarding ribbons for participation to celebrate their effort.

By coaching them beforehand, you can help them focus on the joy of baking and the valuable experience of trying something new. This is a great chance to teach them about tenacity and the importance of growth and improvement for next year.

Thank you for partnering with us to ensure our kids have the right perspective and can truly enjoy this fun-filled day.

Take a look at how the judges will score!

Golden Spatula Challenge - Judge Sheet

Child's Name: _____

Cookie Name: _____

Tough Cookie Challenge Participant? (Circle one): Yes / No (If Yes, add 10 points to total score)

Judging Criteria:

Criteria	1 (Needs Improvement)	2 (Good)	3 (Excellent)	Score
Taste	bland, unappealing	pleasant	delicious, unique	
Texture	too hard/soft, uneven	appropriate	perfect, consistent	
Appearance	messy, unappetizing	appealing	beautiful, professional	
Originality	common,	somewhat unique	creative,	

Criteria	1 (Needs Improvement)	2 (Good)	3 (Excellent)	Score
	uninspired		innovative	
Overall Impression	not memorable	good	outstanding, memorable	

Total Score (out of 15): _____

Bonus Points (if applicable): +10 (Tough Cookie Challenge)

Grand Total Score: _____

Judge's Comments: _____

Ribbon Royalty Bake-Off - Judge Sheet

Child's Name: _____

Cookie Name: _____

Parental Help Statement: _____

Judging Criteria:

Criteria	1 (Needs Improvement)	2 (Good)	3 (Excellent)	Score
Taste	bland, unappealing	pleasant	delicious, unique	
Texture	too hard/soft, uneven	appropriate	perfect, consistent	
Appearance	messy, unappetizing	appealing	beautiful, professional	
Effort	little effort evident	good effort evident	significant effort evident	
Overall Impression	not memorable	good	outstanding, memorable	

Total Score (out of 15): _____

Judge's Comments: _____

Disclaimer for Parents/Guardians:

We are so excited to have your child participate! Please understand that while every child puts

in tremendous effort, there can only be a few winners. We encourage you to prepare your child to know that simply doing their best is a huge accomplishment. Judging is subjective and based on the opinions of the judges. Every cookie baked with effort and love is a winner in our eyes!

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Good luck to all our talented young bakers! We can't wait to see and taste your incredible creations at the Church Family Picnic!