



### Smoke In The Spring State Barbecue Championship At Osage City This Weekend

Seventy-two teams have entered the tenth anniversary Smoke in the Spring State Barbecue Championship, Friday and Saturday, April 12-13, at Jones Park in Osage City.

"This Kansas City Barbeque Society sanctioned event has expanded into one of the premiere barbecue contests in the Midwest," according to Corey Linton, director of the Osage City Parks and Recreation, event sponsor.

"Attracting teams and judges from 15 different states over the past nine years, Smoke in the Spring continues to grow while maintaining its down-home community atmosphere," Linton emphasized.

Advertised and promoted heavily on The BIG 94.5 Country and 580 WIBW, with The BIG 94.5 Remote Broadcast scheduled Friday noon, this year's championships offer more than \$10,00 in cash and awards to the top teams.



There are four main categories including chicken, ribs, pork butt and brisket. Specialty divisions are cook's choice and desserts.

"Destination America's hit series 'BBQ Pitmasters' will be in Osage City to film an episode of our contest," Linton proudly announced.

"Each episode of 'BBQ Pitmasters' transports viewers in the competitive barbecue culture, proving barbecue is much more than just delicious food," Linton said. "It's a full-blown competitive sport.

"In the cutthroat world of high stake's competition and prize money, reputation and respect ride on the virtue of one perfectly glazed rib, or one lip-smacking bite of brisket," contended Linton (shown), who insists that sampling many of the entries is his personal

bonus to organizing the championship.

Judges include Myron Mixon, three time world barbecue champion who has won more than 180 grand championships, and Tuffy Stone, former Marine who is a classically trained French chef and winner of 30 grand championships, along with a special guest celebrity judge.

An added attraction is the "Taste of Osage City" at 5 p.m., on Friday April 12. "This is a showcase of the barbecue teams at the contest and provides an opportunity for the public to purchase competition barbecue," Linton said.

"It's mainly sampling, not full meals. I like to call it a large outdoor barbecue buffet. It's an opportunity for contestants to promote themselves for catering, and whatever else they have to offer," Linton explained.

Events continue Friday evening with live music by Backyard Legend playing until midnight. The Kid Q will also take place Friday evening, with ten and under and 11-16 divisions, for the youth barbecue contest.

On Saturday, April 13, the ninth annual Cruis'n and Cook'n Car Show will also be in downtown Osage City.

Details on all activities are available at [www.smokeinthespring.com](http://www.smokeinthespring.com).



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*"It ain't  
braggin'  
if you  
done it."*