

The Schiele Museum of Natural History
Hot Pepper Eating Contest 2023
Contest Rules, Entry Form, Waiver & Release

TO ENTER PLEASE CAREFULLY READ THE OFFICIAL RULES AND ENTRY FORM INCLUDING THE WAIVER OF LIABILITY PROVISIONS AND COMPLETE AND SIGN THIS DOCUMENT. YOU MUST SIGN THE BOTTOM OF EACH PAGE AND FILL OUT THE ENTRY FORM IN ORDER TO COMPLETE THIS DOCUMENT AND ENTER THE CONTEST.

OFFICIAL CONTEST RULES

The rules for the Hot Pepper Eating Contest must be followed throughout the entire event, and any contestant that breaks the following rules will be immediately disqualified.

1. The contest will be open to the first 8 people to register. You must be 18 years or older to register and have a valid form of ID that proves your date of birth.
2. A waiver must be signed in order to participate in the contest.
3. The objective of this competition is to eat all of the pepper on your plate and answer the relevant trivia question correctly and quickest. Bottled water, dairy, and vegan dairy equivalents will be provided to each contestant, but no outside beverages will be allowed.
4. The contest will consist of 3 rounds in total. Contestants will be in pairs in a bracketed versus standoff. To win each round the contestant must thoroughly chew their pepper for 15 seconds, swallow the pepper, and be the first of the pair to write down the answer to the trivia question asked by the announcer.
 - a. Contestants will be provided the pepper and the announcer will start a 15 second timer where the contestants must thoroughly chew their pepper. Once the 15 seconds are over the contestant will swallow their pepper and the announcer will read off the first trivia question. Once the announcer finishes reading off the trivia contestants will write down their answer to the trivia. Once finished with the trivia, contestants will raise a flag indicating their completion.
 - b. Any contestant to spit out/throw up any and/or all parts of the pepper will be immediately disqualified. All pepper parts must be swallowed and entirely consumed; excluding stems if applicable.
 - c. If a contestant seeks water or dairy relief they will be eliminated. Contestants will not be allowed to seek relief between rounds.
 - d. The person eliminated each round will be determined by a panel of 4 judges that are unrelated and who do not have any bias towards any of the contestants. Each judge will be assigned to one pair of the 8 contestants and using a stopwatch, the judges will time each contestant pairing.
 - e. The trivia will be loosely related to peppers, spices, or heat. If a contestant incorrectly answers the trivia, they will be eliminated. In the event that both contestants in a pair answer the trivia incorrectly they will be asked trivia questions until one answers correctly and the quickest.

Contestant signature: _____ Date: _____

5. Each round will be initiated by an announcer and will begin when the announcer says start. Contestants must not touch their plate or any of the peppers on it until the round is initiated by the announcer. If a contestant picks up and/or starts consuming any of the peppers before the round is initiated, then that person will be immediately disqualified from the contest.
6. The only person not to be eliminated will be the winner of the Hot Pepper Eating Contest. This person will receive the grand prize and a certificate showing that he/she is the winner.
 - a. In the event of a tie at any level, the tied contestants will complete a more difficult round of pepper related trivia.
 - b. In the event of the elimination/disqualification of both contestants in the final round, the contestant that won the previous round with the shortest trivia time will be crown winner.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISKS AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY

1. I acknowledge and agree that I am age 18 years or older.
2. I acknowledge that I do not have a nightshade plant family allergy; tomatoes, potatoes, peppers, eggplants, etc., as peppers are in this family and could result in the same allergic reactions.
3. I acknowledge and fully understand that I will be engaging in activities that may involve the risk of damage to personal property and myself, including serious injury such as choking, vomiting, feeling nauseous or dizzy, intestinal distress, heart related injury and possible loss of life. I acknowledge that I am voluntarily entering the Hot Pepper Eating Contest, and I assume all of these risks. Further, I acknowledge there may be other risks not known or not reasonably foreseeable at this time.
4. I assume all of the foregoing risks and accept personal responsibility for all expenses, medical or otherwise, following such damages, injury, disability or death.
5. I RELEASE, WAIVE, DISCHARGE and COVENANT NOT TO SUE the Schiele Museum of Natural History and Planetarium Inc. of the City of Gastonia, any of the respective administrators, directors, officers, agents, employees, contractors, other participants, sponsoring agencies, sponsors, advertisers, and if applicable, owners and lessors of the premise used to conduct the Schiele Museum Hot Pepper Eating Contest from any liability to me, my heirs and next of kin for any and all claims, demands, losses, expenses or damages on account of damage to personal property or injury caused or alleged to be caused in whole or in part by the negligence of the Releasees or otherwise. I further agree that if, despite this release and waiver of liability, assumption of risk, and indemnity agreement, I, or anyone on my behalf, makes a claim against one of the Releasees as a result of my involvement in the Schiele Museum Hot Pepper Eating Contest, I WILL INDEMNIFY, SAVE, and HOLD HARMLESS each of the Releasees from any expenses, attorney fees, loss, liability, damage or cost which any of the Releasees may incur as a result of such claim or demand.
6. This waiver may not be modified in any way. If part of this waiver is determined to be invalid by law, all other parts of this waiver shall remain valid and enforceable.

Contestant signature: _____ Date: _____

FINAL AUTHORITY

The Schiele Museum of Natural History and Planetarium Inc. of the City of Gastonia and associated contest judges have sole and complete discretion regarding all contest related matters. All decisions regarding disqualification of a contestant(s) shall be subject to the sole and complete discretion of the Schiele Museum of Natural History and associated contest judges.

I AGREE TO NOT CONTEST THE OUTCOME AND ANY PART OR ASPECT OF THIS CONTEST.

CERTIFICATION AND SIGNATURE:

I CERTIFY THAT I HAVE CAREFULLY READ AND AGREE TO COMPLY WITH THE ABOVE RULES, REGULATIONS, WAIVER AND RELEASE. I FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT AND HAVE SIGNED IT FREELY AND WITHOUT INDUCEMENT OR ASSURANCE OF ANY NATURE. I HEREBY RELEASE, INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS THE SCHIELE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY HOT PEPPER EATING CONTEST TRUSTEES, EMPLOYEES, AGENTS AND ASSIGNS FROM ANY AND ALL LIABILITY, DAMAGE, AND CLAIM OF ANY NATURE ARISING OUT OF OR IN ANY WAY RELATED TO MY PARTICIPATION IN THIS CONTEST. IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY, I DO HEREBY AUTHORIZE AND CONSENT TO ANY MEDICAL TREATMENT OR CARE DEEMED ADVISABLE. MY SIGNATURE BELOW INDICATES MY UNDERSTANDING AND ASSUMPTION OF RISKS AND MY VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION IN THE EVENT. I AGREE THAT THIS WAIVER SHALL BE CONSTRUED AND ENFORCED IN ACCORDANCE WITH NORTH CAROLINA LAWS, AND I AGREE THAT THIS WAIVER AND RELEASE FORM IS INTENDED TO BE AS BROAD AND INCLUSIVE AS PERMITTED BY NORTH CAROLINA LAWS SO IF ANY PORTION HEREOF IS HELD INVALID, THE BALANCE SHALL CONTINUE IN FULL LEGAL FORCE.

This form is necessary for every contestant participating in the Schiele Museum Hot Pepper Eating Contest. You will not be allowed to participate without this form completely filled out and signed.

Participant's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone Number: (____)-____-____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Contestant signature: _____ Date: _____