

**25th Annual Rufus B. Lee Gumbo Cook-off**

**Cooper Riverside Park May 20, 2022**

**5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

**The Propeller Club, Port of Mobile, will host the 25th Annual Rufus B. Lee Gumbo Cook-off at Cooper Riverside Park on May 20, 2022, from 5:00 to 8:00 pm.** The Gumbo Cook-off recognizes National Maritime Day, a day annually set aside to recognize America’s maritime industry, and especially those who serve at sea. The Gumbo Cook-off celebrates Mobile’s waterfront, on the waterfront, which serves as the featured attraction for the event from scenic Cooper Riverside Park. The Cook-off also highlights GulfQuest, the National Maritime Museum of the Gulf of Mexico, and all proceeds from the event will go to support GulfQuest.

The Gumbo Cook-off will feature maritime displays, activities for kids, music, and, of course GUMBO! Tickets to attend are $15 for 13 and over, and will include gumbo, beer and soft drinks. Registered teams will compete for the best tasting gumbo as decided by a distinguished panel of judges. Food service establishments have the option to participate non-competitively with recipe samples other than gumbo.

**KIDS ACTIVITIES:** GulfQuest will have games and art projects for kids. Free hot dogs and popcorn will be available while supplies last (for kids of all ages).

There are three ways to participate in the Gumbo Cook-off (and you can participate in any or all): as an Attendee, as a Sponsor, and as a Team.

**ATTENDEES**

All attendees will be given event wristbands as “tickets” to gain admittance and enjoy the food, drink, music, and attractions. Tickets can be purchased in advance online at <https://propellerclubmobile.club/events/25th-annual-rufus-b-lee-gumbo-cook-off/>, and picked up at the entrance, or purchased at the event.

Attendees will also be able to purchase event t-shirts.

Active duty military and their families with an active duty identification card will get in for free.

All attendees are considered invited patrons of the Propeller Club, Port of Mobile, as this event is not open to the general public.

**SPONSORS**

Sponsors names are featured on a special Gumbo Cook-off t-shirt created for the event. Sponsorships are $250, or an equivalent donation to the event, and each sponsor will receive 2 tickets. These can be picked up at the event or, otherwise, in advance at GulfQuest during their regular visiting hours on May 19, 2022 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and until noon on May 20, 2022.

Gold Sponsor $2,000

The Gold Sponsorship is limited to one company. The Gold Sponsor will have the ability to make remarks during the awards ceremony. The Gold Sponsorship also includes one tent space, ten entry tickets, logo on the event t-shirt, recognition on the event website/emails and logo on entrance banner.

Silver Sponsor $1,000

The Silver Sponsorship is available to multiple companies. The Silver Sponsor includes logo on event t-shirt, recognition on the event website/emails, entrance banner and awards ceremony.

Beverage Sponsor $750

The Beverage Sponsorship is limited to one company. The Beverage Sponsor will receive recognition on the event website/emails and a sign at the beverage tent during the event.

DJ Sponsor $550

The DJ Sponsorship is limited to one company. The DJ Sponsor will receive recognition on the event website/emails and a sign at the DJ station during the event.

T-shirt Sponsor $250

The T-shirt sponsorship is available to multiple companies. The T-shirt Sponsor will include the company name (text, not logo) on the event t-shirt.

**TEAM INFORMATION**

Teams make this event special, have a great time serving up their gumbo, and are encouraged to register early to select the best space on the Riverfront. **Team registration costs $200**, and can be done online at <https://propellerclubmobile.club/events/25th-annual-rufus-b-lee-gumbo-cook-off/> .

Team registration INCLUDES tickets for 10 persons. Note that all team members are required to have “tickets” (wristbands).

When registering, teams will select their 15’x15’ space on the waterfront. Please note this allows for a typical 10’x10’ popup style tent with nearly 2’ on either side between your tent and the next tent. Teams also can select two spaces if needed. Please note that tent location is subject to adjustment pending the number of teams.

Set Up/Take Down: Teams are allowed in the park to start setting up at 10:00 a.m. on May 20, 2022. Teams must supply their own tent, tables, chairs, trash bags and cooking supplies. Teams will also be required to supply their own power/heat.

When loading or unloading - no vehicles shall be allowed to drive or park on sidewalk pavers, or in the grassy areas. Friday morning the post between the Convention Center and Cooper Park will be lifted from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. You will be able to drive up and deliver/pack up your supplies. After the event, please be patient when driving into park to pack up supplies. There are a lot of vehicles entering and exiting the park at the same time. Volunteers will do their best to keep things moving.

Tents are to be set up/erected with sandbags or water buckets. Stakes can damage irrigation systems and are not allowed.

Cooking is permitted on paved areas only. An appropriate protection mat or barrier should be placed between the cooking equipment and paved area.

Propeller Club will provide bowls, spoons, napkins, gloves, which can be picked up at the GulfQuest tent the day of the event.

Tents: Please notify Wendy Crocker (251-680-7716 or wendycrocker1@yahoo.com) of the company that will be installing your tent. Port City Rentals is a sponsor of the event. If you need to rent a tent, table or chairs we encourage you to use Port City Rentals since they will already be on site. Weather permitting, Port City Rental will set up tents on 5/19/22 and tear down on 5/21/22.

Gumbo: Teams are responsible for furnishing and serving their own gumbo. Any kind of gumbo is allowed. Teams may pre-cook and heat at the event. We advise that teams prepare at least 6-8 gallons. Teams are only to serve gumbo to event guests, who can be identified by the event wristband. Please direct guests without wristbands to the entry table.

Ticket Pick-Up: Teams can pick up tickets (and t-shirts if ordered) in advance at GulfQuest, 155 S Water St, Mobile, AL 36602 from 8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 19, 2022; and from 8:30 a.m. – noon on Friday, May 7, 2022. If tickets and t-shirts are not picked up by noon Friday, May 20, 2022, they will be availableat the registration table located at the north entrance to Cooper Riverside Park at 5:00 p.m. Additional tickets and t-shirts may be purchased at the event.

Awards**:** Will be given to first, second, and third place gumbo teams, first place booth decorations and to “The People’s Choice” –a category which allows the guest to choose the gumbo they like the best. Large plastic jars will be distributed to all gumbo stations and the team with the most tips will win “The People’s Choice Award.” Anyone can put money in the jar (team members included) and the tips go to The Propeller Club’s charity of choice. Jars will be picked up at 7 p.m.

Gumbo/Judging Schedule**:** Teams will be given containers to use for judging and will be responsible for taking gumbo to the judges table from 6:15 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Winners announced at 7:30 p.m.

Garbage: All teams MUST use trash bags and clean all debris from your area before leaving the park. A dumpster will be provided for trash at the north end of the park near the front gate. Teams are to take their own trash to the dumpster and clean their area before exiting the park; the City of Mobile does not clean the park after the event.

# Parking

Free parking is available in the CSX lot just north of the park along Water Street. Paid parking is available at the Arthur R. Outlaw Convention Center. Limited free parking is available in the GulfQuest lot from 5 – 9 p.m.

# Volunteers

The Propeller Club is currently requesting volunteers to help in the following areas: Ticketing, beverages (must be over 21), t-shirt sales, judges table and garbage pickup. Volunteer positions are one hour shifts only, please contact Tami Bell-Dembski (251-525-1021 tami.bell1@gmail.com) if you are interested in volunteering.

**Additional Information**

For additional information about this event, please contact:

Tami Bell-Dembski - 251-525-1021 or tami.bell1@gmail.com

Wendy Crocker - 251-680-7716 or wendycrocker1@yahoo.com