

Chopped Challenge



Host a fun Chopped competition between your neighbors, just like the hit television show! Who has what it takes to make the best dish?

Budget

\$400

Difficulty Level

Advanced

Location Suggestions

- Front yard
- Outdoor space with access to electricity for cooking equipment
- Community center with kitchen facilities

City Support

[Mini-Grant funding](#) is available!

Material List | Estimated Cost

- **Cooking stations | 4 count**
 - Rented tables and chairs | \$50-90
 - Cooking device - Barbecues, portable camping stovetops, or microwave | \$200
- **Four mystery ingredients | \$30**
 - Vegetable
 - Protein
 - Starch
 - Wild card ingredient
- **Judging scoring sheets**
- **Prizes, such as gift cards | \$50**
- **Fire extinguisher and first aid kit | \$30**
- **Optional: Block Party Permit**
- **Pantry staples | \$18-20**
 - Salt, pepper, and spices
 - Flour
 - Eggs
- **Kitchen equipment | \$100**
 - Utensils
 - Cutting boards
 - Pots and pans
 - Stirring tools
 - Small ingredient bowls
 - Serving plates
- **Trash bins | \$10**
- **Hand wipes | \$10**

1-2 Months Before Event

Step by Step | How to Plan this Event

1 Set a Time and Location:

- **Choose a time** when most of your neighbors are **available**. Consider hosting the event **an hour before a typical meal period**, such as dinner.
- **Select an outdoor space suitable for cooking**. If applicable, reserve a community venue with kitchen facilities.

2 Obtain Any Necessary Permits and Permissions

If you're closing a residential street, you will need to apply for a [Block Party Permit](#) for an eligible street.

3 Determine Competition Format

Decide whether participants will compete **individually** or **in teams**, **how many people** can compete, and **rules for the challenge!**

4 Recruit Judges

For your judges, you can either invite:

- **All guests** who attend the event
- **Food enthusiasts or local chefs**

Post on social media or reach out to select foodies in advance, if needed.



Sample Challenge Rules

30 minutes to cook one dish

5-10 participants cook at once, depending on space

Must use 4 mystery ingredients revealed the day of event

Can use any staple pantry items provided

*Judge plates on **taste, creativity, and presentation***

Award gift cards to winners

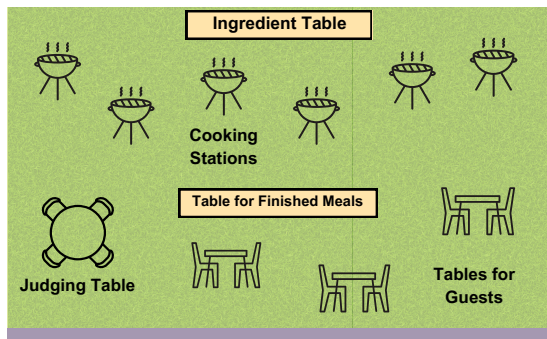


4 Weeks Before Event

5 Plan Layout and Logistics

Consider how you're going to arrange the event. Sketch out a simple layout!

Potential Layout



2-3 Weeks Before Event

6 Prepare Supplies and Ingredients

- **Purchase or gather** supplies, prizes, and pantry staples for the competition.
- For more expensive supplies, like the cooking stations, **try to use what you already have**, like a backyard grill.
- Choose 4 fun but balanced **mystery ingredients** for the competitors to cook. Try including a **vegetable, protein, starch, and wild card ingredient**.
- Purchase **fresh, refrigerated produce** as close to the event as possible.



Fun Tips

Consider asking your competitors to bring a single ingredient that everyone will cook with. This way, the event becomes more interactive!

Example mystery ingredients:

- Vegetable – Asparagus
- Starch – Tater tots
- Protein – Chicken
- Wild Card – Birthday Cake Frosting

7 Promote the Event

Invite people to cook at or attend the event!

- **At Least 2-3 Weeks Before | Social Media and Email:** Post on Nextdoor, Facebook, and/or Instagram. Email guests if possible.
- **1 Week Before | Flyers:** Go door-to-door. Design colorful flyers, postcards, or personal invitations.
- **1 Day Before | Reminder:** Send out a reminder message on social media or by email.

Day-Of Event | Start of Event

9 Start the Challenge

- **Greet** participants and **explain** how the competition works.
- **Announce the mystery ingredients** and start the timer for the cooking challenge!
- Allow participants their set amount of time to **prepare their dishes**. While they cook, **socialize** and **ask the competitors about their dishes!**

Day-Of Event | 1 Hour Before

8 Set Up

Give yourself enough time to prepare the cooking stations with supplies and judging table with score cards and utensils.



10 Judging

Invite judges to taste and evaluate each dish based on your criteria.

11 Announce Winners!

Award prizes to the winners of the competition and thank all participants!

