

OFFICIAL RECIPE CONTEST RULES

- Legal residents of the US and those who reside in the counties of Mahoning, Trumbull and Columbiana in Ohio and Mercer and Lawrence Counties in Pennsylvania are able to participate. Must be 18 years of age at time of entry and cannot be a professional chef. Employees and relatives of Meridian Services, judges, and committee volunteers are not eligible.
- Sponsor: Meridian Services, 527 N. Meridian Rd., Youngstown, OH 44509. This is a fundraising event to benefit Meridian Services.
- Agreement to Official rules: By participating in the Promotion, entrant fully and unconditionally agrees to and accepts these Official Rules and the decisions of the Sponsor and/or chairpersons, which are final and binding in all matters related to the Promotion. Whether an entrant receives an awarded prize is contingent upon fulfilling all requirements set forth herein.
- Timing: Submission for the recipe contest begins on October 12, 2009 and ends on December 14, 2009 at 11:59pm. Finalists will need to be available to prepare their recipe on WFMJ morning show beginning the week of February 9, 2010 (one category per week will be featured). The top three finalists will make their recipe at the Our Valley Cooks Recipe Challenge and Food Expo on March 6, 2010 held at Mr. Anthony's from 10am – 8pm. The finalists MUST be able to attend the March 6, 2010; Our Valley Cooks Recipe Challenge and Food Expo, if a finalist is not available for the food show their recipe will be disqualified. The winners of each category will be announced at the end of their cooking segment. The Grand Prize winner will be named the "Best Valley Cook" and will receive a round trip weekend to New York City. Included in the trip is an exclusive opportunity to attend a taping of *The Iron Chef!*
- The Contest Filing: **A \$10 filing fee is to accompany each recipe.** You can submit as many recipes as you like in the following categories: Entrée (meat, fish or vegetarian), Pasta and Dessert. Visit www.ourvalleycooks.org for details. It is the entrant's sole responsibility to submit a recipe in the appropriate category. You can submit your recipe and fee on line at www.ourvalleycooks.org, by mail or drop-off in person at Meridian Services, 527 N. Meridian Rd., Youngstown, OH 44509. For rules and regulations please visit www.ourvalleycooks.org for event and recipe details.

Please include the following: the contest application, the contest category, the recipe name, the contestant's name, address, phone, the written recipe, the story about the recipe, the photo if available and the \$10 entry fee. Each Entry must include the recipe name (up to 100 characters), the ingredients used (up to 2,000 characters), the cooking instructions (up to 2,000 characters), any memorable moments related to making the recipe or family history of the recipe – this portion makes up 10% of the scoring (up to 500 characters) and a photo of your dish (optional). By completing the registration and submitting your Entry, you agree that your Entry conforms to the Entry Contest Restrictions and Rules and that Sponsor, in its sole discretion, may remove your Recipe and disqualify you from the Contest if it believes, in its sole discretion that your Entry fails to conform to the Guidelines and Restrictions. The entry fee is not refundable for any reason. Recipes submitted without the \$10 entrance fee will not be eligible for competition.

- Recipe Contest Rules: All components of the recipe must be made in the 1 hour time allotment –includes from cooking start to plating. Pre-cooked items must be presented as such in the original recipe and approved prior to the contest. No other/additional ingredients, garnishes, side dishes (that were not included in the original submission) or changes to the original recipe will be permitted and may result in disqualification. Plates will be provided by Our Valley Cooks Recipe Challenge and Food Expo for each contestant. These plates must be used for your recipe (no exceptions). Plate sizes, types and design will be given to the contestants at time of notification. There will be no alcohol or beverages served with the

meal. An electric stove, refrigerator and microwave ovens will be available the day of the event. Cooking space is limited. Any additional cooking utensils, blenders, food processors, pans etc., must be provided by the contestant. The contestant is required to bring all ingredients necessary to complete 5 tasting size dishes (the size of the tasting dish is at the contestant's discretion). The finalist is responsible for all costs associated with any preparation and execution of the recipe. The contest will be filmed and may be used in future promotions.

- Contest Restrictions:
 - The Entry must be a recipe developed by the entrant and cannot be copied, reproduced, or plagiarized from another source including taken directly from any cook book, TV show, etc.
 - The Entry must not contain material that violates or infringes another's rights, including but not limited to privacy, publicity or intellectual property rights, or that constitutes copyright infringement.
 - The Entry must not contain images or artwork not created by entrant.
 - The Entry must not contain material that is inappropriate, indecent, obscene hateful, tortuous, defamatory, slanderous or libelous.
 - The Entry must not contain material that promotes bigotry, racism, hatred or harm against any group or individual or promotes discrimination based on race, gender, religion, nationality, disability, sexual orientation or age.
 - The Entry must not contain material that is unlawful, in violation of or contrary to the laws or regulations in any state where the Entry is created.

- Entries: All Entries will become the exclusive property of Sponsor and none will be acknowledged or returned. Sponsor shall have the right to edit, adapt and publish any or all of the Entries, and may use them in any media without attribution or compensation to the entrant, his/her successors or assigns, or any other entity. SUBMITTING AN ENTRY IN THIS CONTEST CONSTITUTES ENTRANT'S IRREVOCABLE ASSIGNMENT, CONVEYANCE AND TRANSFERENCE TO SPONSOR OF ANY AND ALL RIGHT, TITLE AND INTEREST IN THE ENTRY INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, ALL COPYRIGHTS. Sponsor is not responsible for lost, late, incomplete, invalid, unintelligible or misdirected Entries, which are disqualified.

- Promotion: The use of the film from any Our Valley Cooks Recipe Challenge and Food Expo related events, contestant's names, recipes, cooking, and judging is at the sole discretion of the Sponsor. There will be no compensation paid if the film is used for promotion in any way. The Sponsor can use the film at its sole discretion and can provide the footage to other local, regional or national entities at its sole discretion.

- Winner Selection and Judging: The finalists will need to be available to present their dishes on camera on the WFMJ Today Show beginning February 9, 2010 (one category per week will be featured). Additionally, all finalists must be available the entire day of March 6, 2010, to compete at the Our Valley Cooks Recipe Challenge and Food Expo. The three finalists in each category will make their dish on March 6, 2010 at the Our Valley Cooks Recipe Challenge and Food Expo at Mr. Anthony's in Boardman. There will be a winner in each of the three categories presented, as well as, a "Best Valley Cook" grand prize winner. A drawing at each cooking segment for an audience member to be a taster will

be chosen from a raffle held at the event on March 6, 2010. Tasters will sit on stage with the judges. Semi-finalists recipes may be included in the 2010 Our Valley Cooks Recipe Cook Book, which will be on sale at the Our Valley Cooks Recipe Challenge and Food Expo. The Judges decision is final and cannot be contested for any reason.

Judging criteria will be based on:

- Taste – 60%
- Creativity – 20%
- Presentation – 10%
- Story – 10%

Each categories winner will be announced at the end of their cooking segment. The “Best Valley Cook” will be announced at the end of the event.

- **Winner Requirements:** All potential winners must comply with all terms and conditions of these Official Rules; and winning is contingent upon fulfilling all requirements. Finalists must be available for an appearance on WFMJ Today Show starting the week of February 9th (one category per week will be featured). Finalists will be notified of the date and time of appearance as soon as it is scheduled. Finalists, in each category, must be available the entire day of March 6, 2010. If a potential winner cannot be contacted, fails to execute, or is disqualified for any reason the potential winner forfeits the prize. In the event that a potential prize winner is disqualified for any reason, an alternate winner may be determined at the judge’s discretion. The Grand Prize winner must comply with all terms of the prize including scheduling, accommodations, travel etc., and any deviation of the prize will be at the winner’s expense. Acceptance of any prize shall constitute and signify winner’s agreement and consent that Sponsor may use the winner’s name, city, state, likeness, Entry and/or prize information in connection with the Promotion, worldwide, including the Internet, without limitation and without further payment or consideration, except where prohibited by law.

- **Prizes:**

The three finalists in each category will make their dish on March 6, 2010, at the Our Valley Cooks Recipe Challenge and Food Expo, held at Mr. Anthony’s in Boardman. The three finalists in each category will receive a \$50 gift certificate to participating Sparkle Markets; the winner in each category will receive an additional \$100 Sparkle gift certificate. Recipes may be published in the Our Valley Cooks Recipe Challenge and Food Expo Cookbook. One Grand Prize winner will be chosen from the winner of each category.

GRAND PRIZE: The grand prize winner will be named the “Best Valley Cook” and will win a weekend trip for two to New York City. The Grand Prize Winner will receive an exclusive opportunity to attend a taping of *The Iron Chef*, filmed at Kitchen Stadium, for the Food Network in New York City.

- **Liability Limitations:** The Released Parties are not responsible for: (1) any incorrect or inaccurate information, whether caused by entrant, printing errors or by any of the equipment or programming associated with or utilized in the Promotion; (2) technical failures of any kind, including, but not limited to malfunctions, interruptions, or disconnections in ovens, microwaves, refrigerators, any equipment provided by the sponsor, cameras, lights, phone lines; (3) unauthorized human intervention in any part of the entry process or the Promotion; (4) technical or human error which may occur in the administration of the Promotion or the processing of entries; (5) late, lost, undeliverable, damaged or stolen mail; or (6)

any injury or damage to persons or property which may be caused, directly or indirectly, in whole or in part, from entrant's participation in the Promotion or receipt or use or misuse of any prize. Sponsor is not responsible for misdirected or undeliverable entries or for any technical problems, malfunctions of computer systems, servers, providers, hardware/software, lost or unavailable network connections or failed, incomplete, garbled or delayed computer transmission or any combination thereof. Sponsor, Committee Members and Administrator are not responsible for any typographical/other error in entries, selection announcement or for any liability for damage to any computer system resulting from participation in, accessing or downloading information in connection with this Promotion.

In the unlikely event of cancellation, all non-refundable fees will be forfeited. Any costs incurred by the entrants will be at their sole responsibility and Sponsors shall not be held liable for any costs incurred by the contestant at any time, for any reason. Prizes will be awarded at the sole discretion of the Sponsor.