

the Future Legends of BBQ and the future of our community

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On October 10, 2009, a caravan of vehicles hauling smokers and grills could be seen rolling into Camp Greystone, as teams of children and their supervisors geared up to participate in the first Future Legends of BBQ competition.

The event, officially licensed by the Kansas City Barbecue Society, was created to benefit the Henderson County Young Leaders Program (HCYLP), a non-profit group that helps provide camp scholarships for children who might not otherwise have the opportunity. The goal is to positively influence the lives of these children and propel them toward the understanding that their personal choices and actions impact themselves, family, peers and ultimately the community.

20 teams came together to compete in the areas of best ribs, best sauce, competitor's choice and best theme. This was no little competition, either. The panel of judges included several "celebrities" in the world of barbecue, including Mike Mills, barbecue legend and author of "Peace, Love and Barbecue." Mills offered his support and expertise to the children, encouraging them to be passionate about their cooking, or whatever they choose to take on in life.

"The quality of the food was incredible," said Mills. "The intensity of the kid's questions and the smiles on their faces. This is what it's all about. The potential here is just undeniable."

"A Little Pit of Heaven" took home first place for best ribs. "Team Road Kill" was voted best in the category of competitor's choice, where teams could choose any meat they wanted to cook. "Lazy Bones BBQ" took home first in best sauce and Camp Falling Creek took home the award for the best theme. "Lazy Bones BBQ" was named the grand champion for the competition.

The championship was followed by the Camp for All BBQ Ball, an amazing barbecue dinner catered by Hubba Hubba Smokehouse and accompanied by the musical talents of Whitewater Bluegrass Company. A little square dancing added in the mix made for an incredible evening for the attendees.

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Paige Hafner, program director of the HCYLP, was pleased with the turnout and is looking forward to next year's competition. "This is a great, interactive competition for these kids. They enjoy not only the cooking, but having ownership in what they're doing and working as a team," she says. "This type of event



NOTABLES IN BARBECUE: Tommy Houston, Mike Mills, Starr Teel and Jim Tabb

really seems to bring families together. The second annual Future Legends of BBQ competition is going to be even bigger and better!"

For more information on the Henderson County Young Leaders Program, or to get a leg up on the next competition, call (828) 697-2000. ▀

