

Wild West BBQ Bash

The Family Care Network hosted its first ever barbecue competition fundraiser to benefit foster and high-needs children and families on the Central Coast. Teams from Santa Maria and around California competed in five categories (including chicken, beef brisket, pork ribs, pork shoulder, and tri-tip) for the Wild West crown, sanctioned by the International Barbecue Cookers Association. In addition to the finger-lickin'-good food, guests also enjoyed cultural displays, balloon animals, face painting, and other family-friendly activities.

The event was made possible by the City of Santa Maria's Recreation and Parks Department to promote barbecue as a culinary sport, and also to preserve the historical significance of Santa Maria-style barbecue.

www.fcni.org



Santa Maria Mayor Larry Lavagnino presents the "Grand Champion" award to team "Smokin'": Bekah, Scott, Chris, and Fred Juenke



Judges at the barbecue contest dig in for the tri-tip portion of the competition



Ron Fleenor and teammates of R&R Catering receive recognition during the awards ceremony from Mayor Larry Lavagnino



Volunteer Janaan Miles sells famous Santa Maria-style barbecue meals at the event



Representatives from Merrill Gardens prepare meals to sell in support of the Family Care Network



A volunteer helps a local child create a personalized corn husk doll, one of several activities provided by Fort Hope



Families enjoy a great time at the Wild West BBQ Bash



Guests enjoy the traditional Western-swing country music of Monte Mills and the Lucky Horseshoe Band



Twenty three barbecue teams anxiously await the results during the awards ceremony