



Ozarks Area Community Action Corporation

Jennifer Olson, Executive Director

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You're invited to be part of the 4th Annual MO Mac & Cheese Fest! We're excited to announce the return of OACAC's MO Mac & Cheese Fest, connecting fans with an array of delicious mac and cheese dishes. We sold out in January 2023 and anticipate the same excitement in 2024! The event will happen on Saturday, January 13, 2024 from 11am – 2pm at the University Plaza Convention Center, 333 S John Q Hammons Pkwy in Springfield.

What is this event?

The MO Mac & Cheese Fest is Southwest Missouri's premiere mac & cheese food competition. Guests from all over will attend to sample local mac & cheese and mac & cheese adjacent foods. Mac & cheese pizza? Mac & cheese sandwich? Other creative mac & cheese creations? Bring it!

What will you be competing for?

New in 2024 - in addition to restaurants competing, we're opening the fun up to groups! You'll be competing for the People's Choice and Judges Choice Awards in the category of Restaurant or Group.

People's Choice Award: One restaurant and one group winner will be chosen based on votes received by guests

Judges Choice Awards: Restaurant and group winners will be chosen by a panel of judges in two categories:

- *Classic Mac* is your traditional comfort food, just like mom or grandma use to make.
- *Out of the Box* is not your typical mac & cheese. Think creative, inventive, and truly outside the box.

Who does this event benefit?

Proceeds benefit Ozarks Area Community Action Corporation (OACAC), helping alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty in Southwest Missouri. OACAC serves people of all ages in rural and urban areas with programs and innovative projects to empower people and enrich communities.

What do you receive for participating?

- Highlights on OACAC's website and social media as a contender
- A space with two eight-foot tables
- The chance to earn an award for the BEST of the BEST mac & cheese
- Your business/group name listed on the premier 2024 t-shirt (available to all who register by 10/15/23)
- The pleasure of supporting poverty relief in SW MO

What do you need to provide?

- Bring mac & cheese for two samples per guest and volunteer. We will close ticket sales at 700 people and anticipate an additional 35 volunteers. A sample should fit in a 2oz cup which will be provided.
- Bring servers to accommodate the crowd. We understand you may be facing staffing challenges, but don't let that stop you from participating! We are happy to provide volunteers to serve at your station, just let us know.
- Bring the fun! Aka, decorations, marketing materials, giveaways, etc.

I'm interested! What's next?

1. Complete the MO Mac & Cheese Fest entry form and submit to Lindsey by October 15, 2023.
2. Complete your Temporary Food Vendor Application online to the Springfield-Greene County Health Department no later than December 20, 2023. Visit <https://www.springfieldmo.gov/2928/Temporary-Food-Events> to submit the application. Paper applications are no longer accepted.
3. Get your MO Mac & Cheese crew together and plan for a great event!

Thanks for your consideration, we hope you'll join us for the fun. Afterall, it's sure to be a "gouda" time!

Lindsey Dumas-Bell, OACAC Resource Development Manager
(417) 873-3375 | ldumas-bell@oac.ac

OACAC's MO Mac & Cheese Fest Registration

Saturday, January 13, 2024 from 11am – 2pm

University Plaza Convention Center, 333 S. John Q. Hammons Pkwy in Springfield, MO

Thanks for your interest in being part of OACAC's MO Mac & Cheese Fest! Please complete this form and return it by October 15, 2023 to Lindsey Dumas-Bell at ldumas-bell@oac.ac or by mail, 215 S. Barnes, Springfield, MO 65802.

Your name _____

Please check one:

- ☐ I'm entering as a restaurant
- ☐ I'm entering as a group (new in 2024!)

Name of restaurant or group _____

Full Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Tell us what you're bringing!

You can enter more than one kind of mac & cheese and/or more than one category.

I would like to enter:

- ☐ Classic mac - Name(s) _____
- ☐ Out of the Box – Name(s) _____

Please check all that apply:

- ☐ I would be happy to display event materials at my place of business
- ☐ I will use chafing dishes and Sternos during the event
- ☐ I will need electricity (limited availability)

Guidelines

All participants must serve mac & cheese from a back table and maintain proper food temperature using a Sterno (preferred) or electric heating. Per City of Springfield, each vendor must have a current Springfield business license. If your business is outside of city limits, a license may be purchased for \$5.

<https://www.springfieldmo.gov/2171/Business-License-Applications>

All participants must be set-up and ready for inspection by 10:30am, prior to the start of the event at 11am.

Release and Indemnity Agreement: In consideration of the granting of the right to participate, entrants, participants and spectators, by execution of this form, release Ozarks Area Community Action Corporation, and their officers, directors, and any representative or workers, or property owners, or occupiers, or sponsors connected with the presentation of the MO Mac & Cheese Fest of and from any claims, injuries, losses, damages or judgments' that may be suffered by the entrant, participant, or spectator to his person or property and agree to indemnify the aforesaid parties and loss, liability, expenses, or payment resulting from such injury to person or property.