



Empowering People, Enriching Communities

Ozarks Area Community Action Corporation

Jennifer Olson, Executive Director

215 S. Barnes Avenue
Springfield, MO 65802-2204
Office: (417) 862-4314 | Fax: (417) 864-3499
www.oac.ac

You're invited to be part of OACAC's 5th Annual MO Mac & Cheese Fest, connecting fans with an array of delicious mac and cheese dishes. Thanks to generous restaurants and groups, we had 28 kinds of mac & cheese in 2024 and we look forward to growing in 2025!

When: Saturday, January 11, 2025 from 11:00am* – 2:30pm

*New in 2025, we have added an Exclusive VIP Mac & Cheese Experience which allows the ticket holder to enter the event at 11am, 30 minutes before doors open to the public at 11:30.

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

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?

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

Kid's Choice Award: New in 2025, one winner will be chosen by a panel of young mac & cheese connoisseurs

Judges Choice Awards: A panel of judges will determine 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places in two categories:

- *Classic Mac* is your traditional, cheesy comfort food.
- *Out of the Box* is creative, inventive, and a truly unique take on an old classic.

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
- The happiness of supporting poverty relief in Southwest Missouri

What do you need to provide?

- Bring mac & cheese for two samples per guest and volunteer. We will close ticket sales at 1,000 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 18, 2024.
2. 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

All who enter need to follow Springfield-Greene County Health Department regulations. Thank you.



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OACAC's 5th Annual MO Mac & Cheese Fest Registration

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Please complete this form and return it by October 18, 2024 to Lindsey at ldumas-bell@oac.ac.

Your name _____

Please check one:

- I'm entering as a restaurant
- I'm entering as a group

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'm competing with my delicious:

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

Please check all that apply:

- I am happy to display event materials at my place of business/with my group
- 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 a nominal fee.

<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 11:30am.

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.