

Benton County Sheriff's Office CHILI COOKOFF DRAWS RECORD CROWD

Close to 1,000 people came out to the 4th Annual Benton County Sheriff's Office Chili Cookoff on Sunday, September 11, 2011.

Between gate receipts, raffle prizes and sponsorships, over \$15,000.00 was collected for the non-profit Sheriff's Foundation and the Boys & Girls Club of Corvallis STARS Program.



Attendees voted for the *People's Choice* winner, but the rest of the chili winners were determined by a panel of celebrity judges doing blind taste testing. A huge upset occurred this year when the BCSO Management Team took top honors as "*Benton's Best Rootin' Tootin' Shoot 'em Up Chili.*" To do that they had to topple the Philomath Police Department who had taken the trophy home for the past three years.

Other winners included:

Best Meat with Beans Chili:

1. We Care
2. BCSO Corrections *and* Farmers Insurance
3. First Alternative Co-Op

Best Meat Chili:

1. Corvallis Fire Department
2. BCSO Parole & Probation
3. Philomath Police Department

Best Veggie Chili:

1. BCSO Management Team
2. Heartland Humane Society

Hottest:

1. Corvallis Police Department Cadets
2. Cloud 9/Downward Dog
3. Heartland Humane Society

People's Choice Award:

1. Corvallis Fire Department
2. Philomath Police Department
3. Corvallis Police Department Cadets *and* Furniture Share

Best Booth:

1. Corvallis Police Department Cadets

Team Fundraiser:

1. Philomath Police Department
2. BCSO Corrections
3. BCSO Parole & Probation



BCSO Lt. Greg Ridler (left) receives the top trophy from a reluctant Philomath Police Chief Ken Elwer as Sheriff Diana Simpson looks on proudly.

Best Overall – Benton’s Best Rootin’ Tootin’ Shoot ‘em Up Chili:

1. BCSO Management Team
2. Corvallis Police Department Cadets
3. Cloud 9/Downward Dog

Special Ceremony Honoring 9/11

In addition to tasting chili, enjoying music and mingling with local law enforcement, military and fire personnel, this year’s events also included a special ceremony to commemorate the tenth anniversary of 9/11.

Under the Corvallis Fire Department’s ladder engine flying our nation’s flag, the commemorative ceremony started with the Linn/Benton Young Marines filing into formation in the courtyard, allowing the Benton County Sheriff’s Office Mounted Posse Honor Guard to enter with the colors. Praise in 3D, a trio comprised of brothers David, George and Cliff Dominy (David and George are also Lebanon Police



Officers), sang the National Anthem and God Bless America. Sheriff Simpson spoke of the importance of remembering this very sacred day in Law Enforcement, Fire and all Service Agencies around the nation and asked for a moment of silence in honor of those lost on that fateful day, September 11, 2001. Thank you to all of those involved to make this commemorative ceremony a very important part of our event.

