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Save the Date! The Annual Great Sedona Chili Cook-Off is May 6!

Sedona, AZ, April 19, 2017 - The Rotary Club of Sedona is excited to announce the seventh annual Great Sedona Chili Cook-off on Saturday, May 6 at Tlaquepaque Arts and Crafts Village. This fun event is a part of the Cinco de Mayo Fiesta weekend. Top chefs from Sedona restaurants are busy perfecting their special chili recipes, which can be sampled at festive booths in Tlaquepaque's Calle de Independencia. Also, the mayors of Sedona and Cottonwood, the Fire Chief of Sedona and Chefs from Verde Valley School are fired up to be a part of this annual competition.

Come and cheer on your favorite "hot" chili cook-off restaurants, **El Rincon Restaurante Mexicano, Café Paleo Brio, Garlands Oak Creek Lodge, Hideaway House, HP Café, Mesa Grill, Tamalisa Market, and Whole Foods**, who will vie for the 2017 Restaurant Chili Championship. There are also a number of other awards including the Restaurant Judges' Award and Peoples' Choice Award plus cash prizes and trophies.

Sedona Mayor **Sandy Moriarty** and Cottonwood Mayor **Tim Elinski** are perfecting their own chili recipes. **Michael Briggs** and **Mike Speilman**, from Verde Valley School, and **Kris Kazian**, Chief of the Sedona Fire District, are also preparing to challenge the mayors. These community leaders will compete for the Municipal Judges' Award. Prize money awarded to the winners will be donated to a charity of the winner's choice. All competitors will also compete for the Best Booth Décor Award.

A panel of three judges, **Jeff Smedstad**, owner/Executive Chef of Elote, **Sam Williams**, chef of Garland's Indian Garlands Café & Market, and **Linda Goldenstein**, owner of Goldenstein Gallery, will determine this year's winners.

Each year, proceeds collected from the Chili Cook-off are used to fund charitable Rotary programs and activities. The primary local charity benefiting from the proceeds of this event is the IMAGINATION LIBRARY. The Imagination Library provides a free monthly age-appropriate book to approximately 1,200 children, ages 0 to 5, living in the greater Sedona area. Also, this Rotary event's proceeds will continue to support local scholarships and various international programs such as Rotary International's signature project, END POLIO NOW, whose goal is to eradicate polio worldwide.

Put Saturday, May 6 on your calendars now! The entrance fee is \$15 with no charge for children under twelve. There is a \$5.00 discount on event admission for parking at the Church of the Red Rocks. LOOK FOR EVENT PARKING SIGNS.

Major sponsors for the Great Sedona Chili Cook-off are David H. Bill, DDS, Sedona Dental Arts, Goldenstein Gallery, University of Sedona, John & Veronika Crawford, Roy Grimm, Paul & Mara Majane, David & Isabel Simmer, John & Andrea Terhune

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