

The RG: About the food...

In January, I explained why the Dayton RG (March 30 – April 1) is well worth the \$70 registration fee (or if you can only come for part of the weekend, \$20 for Friday night, \$45 for all day Saturday, and \$25 for Saturday night only). Kids 5-16 are ½ price.

As mentioned, your registration fee includes all activities (programs, games, and tournaments), and all consumables (five meals, constant snackages and beverages). I promised that this month I'd share the food details.

Q: Who's going to make sure there's any food?

A: Sandy Johnson and I are the Hospitality Co-Chairs. We have a strong personal belief that no one should ever go hungry when we're in charge. We take this responsibility very seriously.

Q: What meals are served?

A: Friday dinner will be hearty and delicious—menu to be announced. Saturday lunch is an S-alliteration: (homemade) Soup, Salad, and Sandwiches. For dinner Saturday, we'll be serving bbq: pulled pork, pulled poultry, and fixings.

Q: What constitutes a "meal"?

A: You don't mean ground corn, do you? Wikipedia says that "A meal is an instance of eating, specifically one that takes place at a specific time and includes specific, prepared food." Since we wouldn't want to contradict Wikipedia, that's what we do.

Q: Is ice cream a meal?

A: Not exactly, but the Ice Cream Social (Friday night, 10:00-11:00), is a scheduled instance of eating with specific food, so maybe it is a meal.

Q: What the heck is a snackage?

A: Well, if a beverage is a collection of individual bevers, then a snackage must be a collection of individual snacks. (My family didn't buy this explanation, by the way.) We return to Wikipedia for guidance: "any food eaten in small amounts at an unscheduled time can be classified as a snack." (We won't tell if you eat large amounts, though.)

Q: Will you have snackages that I like?

A: Absolutely—unless you're the world's pickiest eater, and even then, you'll probably find something you like. We include all of the major food groups.

Q: You mean, protein, carbohydrates, that sort of thing?

A: Well yes. And also sweet, salty, healthy, and chocolate.

Q: What snackages will there be? Can you give me some examples?

A: Sure. The hot dog machine is always running. We put out trays of cheese and crackers, vegetables and dip, and homemade sweets. There are bowls of random candies. There are bowls of various chips.

Q: Homemade sweets? Did you say homemade sweets?

A: Yup, I did. In past years, we've had homemade chocolates, cookies, peanut butter chocolate bars, fudge, brownies, gingerbread, toffee bars, raspberry short bread bars....

Q: When will these snackages be available?

A: Almost, but not quite, around the clock. Friday, we put out snacks at 3:00 and continuing restocking the snack room until about 1:00 am. Saturday, we refresh the snack room after breakfast and continue until about 1:00 am. We "break down" the snack room in the early afternoon Sunday. We don't *unstock* the snack room Friday or Saturday night, though, so there's still food available.

Q: I am allergic to <something>. I'm a vegetarian. I'm a <blank>atarian. Will there be anything for me to eat?

A: We do our best to cover as many possibilities as we can, but depending on what your <something> and <blank> are, we may or may not cover it. Every meal will have a vegetarian option. We mark food that is gluten-free. Some of our allergy-ees and <blank>atarians are willing to bake for us, so we should have both vegan and gluten-free desserts.

Q: It's not a party unless you serve <favorite treat>.

A: You know, you might be right. Sandy and I don't think it's a party unless there's cheeseball (cheeseball cheeseball). We realize, though, that everyone has their own favorite treat. If you want to make it and bring it, contact Beth (mbeth@bweiss.com). We should be able to discuss budget and such and find a way for you to bring your favorite treat along with you. It's all about making it a great party for everyone.

Q: Isn't the Dayton RG (DAMNations) a bit early for National Cheeseball Day?

A: Yes it is. National Cheeseball Day isn't until April 17th. We make do, though, and will have two, or possibly three, different types of cheeseball.

Q: Isn't preparing and serving all of this food a lot of work?

A: It's a labor of love—but even labors of love need multiple laborers, aka volunteers. I'm saving volunteer information for next month's article ☺. (If you can't wait, though, email me at mbeth@bweiss.com).