



Low Country Chapter

11th BBQ Bash & Pepperoni Roll Bake-Off

Charleston, South Carolina

History: After Low Country chapter leadership visited National Capital Area Chapter's Crab Feast, they were inspired to create their own signature event! The BBQ Bash & Pepperoni Roll Bake-Off began in 2007 through the efforts of chapter leadership and former President of the WVU Alumni Association, Steve Douglas. The idea for a Pepperoni Roll Bake-Off was born because no one in the area was making them and members appreciated a piece of home. Originally the event was hosted outside in the spring at James Island County Park in Charleston, SC.

Purpose: This event serves as the chapter's largest fundraiser for the scholarship fund and as an alternative networking event to football/basketball game watches.

Planning: The location for future BBQ Bash & Pepperoni Roll Bake-Off's is reserved **11 months** in advance. The chapter starts posting Save the Date messages on social media once the date is confirmed. Additional marketing for the event is done through the chapter website, chapter newsletter, and on WVU Connect. Invitations to honored guests are sent at the start of the new year (**5-6 months** in advance). Then, at **3-4 months**, the band is reserved, silent auction and raffle items are selected, and catering is reserved. Also at **4 months**, the Facebook event is created but guests aren't personally invited until about a **month** prior. This helps to avoid guests forgetting about the event all together. Emails specifically about the BBQ Bash & Pepperoni Roll Bake-Off are sent **2 months** prior, 3 weeks prior, and twice the month of the BBQ Bash & Pepperoni Roll Bake-Off.

Planning for children: Children are allowed and encouraged! Its free for kids 17 and under to attend. A jump castle and a kids table with toys is provided. Some years goodie bags or gifts are made and other years the chapter hosts a coloring contest. As the number of children in attendance has grown, the chapter has requested volunteers to help manager the coloring contest.

Event Highlights: Members get excited for the special WVU Guests that attend over the years and the various silent auction items!

Silent Auction Items: Popular silent auction items include: WVU Football tickets, autographed items and cornhole boards. Football tickets and autographed items have been requested from the WVU Alumni Association and the Mountaineer Athletic Club in the past. In addition, the chapter reaches out to WVU alumni owned businesses and local businesses for contributions. Some connections to local businesses occur through alumni while others do not.

Event Speakers: If special guests from WVU attend, the chapter will provide the option of speaking if the guests would like. Most members enjoy hearing from the coaches and topics related to athletics. When President Gee was in attendance, everybody loved hearing about all the great things happening at WVU from him since he covered a little bit of everything!



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