



KANSAS CITY OR BUST

Saffron Hodgson

In my many travels the one constant I see almost everywhere is a minivan with the words "Texas or Bust" written on one or more windows. But this is exactly how I feel about the upcoming NBBQA National Conference this year in Kansas City. There are so many fun and education aspects to this I wish it was right now (well, almost because there is still a lot to be done so it's perfect).



In years past there has been one bus taking a group to BBQ restau-

rants in a particular city but this year it's just not the case. We have three buses going!! With 100 different BBQ places to visit as well as Operation BBQ Relief's headquarters being so close, how could we even attempt it with just one? Well we can't so you need to get signed up early to reserve your seat.

Break Our and General Sessions

Every year there is something new to be learned during the conference and this year will prove to be no different. Speakers from all over the country who are considered experts in their respective fields are coming together to help us in our pursuit of making the business of BBQ even better. We have world champions, communications and marketing experts on hand to help you become better in what you are trying to do with your niche of BBQ whether its products, competition or restaurants.

Steak Cook-off Association

One of the highlights of the conference in recent years has been the pursuit of the coveted rhinestone cowboy hat. Friday

night we will watch as many of the top cooks in the world set out to capture this hat which, if truth be told, probably ranks right up there with the golden ticket they will win as well. One year the winner of the hat went on to win the world championship. Can we do this again?

Culinary Fight Club

If the steak competition doesn't get your motor running, then this will rev it up for sure. There are a number of teams made up of up to 4 members who are handed a box of ingredients (think Chopped but more fun) and they have to come up with a dish that will knock the socks off the judges. Just wait till you see who are making up these teams. I'd tell you but checking it out the night of is all part of the fun. Trust me, you'll be blown away.

BBO Bash

It's back and going to be better than ever. Teams from not just KC but all over the country are coming together to bring world class BBQ to the masses in a fun way. The public gets to come in taste the BBQ stylings from everywhere then they get to vote right from their phone who has the best BBQ for the prestigious NBBQA People's Choice. Also the SCA will be having yet another steak cook-off to crown another winner, but this time it will be open to the public.

I haven't even begun to scratch the surface of all the great things in store for this year but from what I'm seeing so far, you can see why I'm "Kansas City or Bust" and you should be as well.



