

Camp Site Recommendations

Here is a list of things to consider for your camp site when you compete, besides the normal smoker, table, tent, and chair set up. There is a checklist on the next page that we've updated each of the last 5 years and have found it to be very helpful.

Tent Weights

A lot of teams use Ez-Up style tents, basically pop up tents that break down and transport easily. These tents are subject to damage when high winds come ripping through your site. Consider tying them down to full coolers or 5 gallon buckets filled with water, sand, or concrete. You can also create some portable tie downs by filling 4 inch PVC pipes with concrete and inserting a hook on one end for tie downs. Search the web for more info on the pipes.

Leg Extensions for Portable Tables

A typical portable plastic table comes up to my hips in height and that's not high enough for me. I'm 6' 2" and my back will let me know how it feels after a weekend of competition if the height isn't raised. You can add PVC pipe to the bottom of each leg to increase the height of the table. Just cut the pipes to the length you (and your team) need and your back will thank you.

Create a Water Station

Keeping your utensils clean during a cook is essential. Create a water station to make life easier. Use a four foot portable table, a 5 gallon water jug with a spigot, two rectangular 15 quart plastic containers, dish soap, a wash cloth, and a towel. Place the filled water jug on the table, place the plastic containers underneath the spigot, use one for soapy water, one for rinsing, and you'll find clean up a breeze especially when you need to clean large cutting boards.

Butcher Paper / Clorox Wipes

Most teams use a spray bottle with either vinegar or bleach to clean their tables. Save yourself some time and use butcher paper on the tables and wipe them down with Clorox wipes afterward. It's a huge time saver.

Table Positioning

Most teams put their tables opposite of their smoker under the tents, in a U or L shaped configuration, giving them a clear path to and from the smokers. That's great but it's easier to place two six foot tables side by side in the middle of the tent, still giving you easy access to the smokers, plus giving you more space to work with and it allows easier access for teammates to help cut meat and build boxes on the other side of the tables than having them go around the entire site to stand across from you so they can help out.

Zero Gravity Camping Chairs

You are going to need a place to sit and a place to sleep during the competition. Save space and get a zero gravity chair. I'm a big guy and I can sleep comfortably on this type of chair.