

Chili Cook-Off/Activities Expo

*Superior High School
Superior, Wisconsin*

Superior High School combined its Activities Expo with a Chili Cook-Off, adding a tasty treat to an annual event. Student groups, service organizations, and local businesses competed in the cook-off, while the Activities Expo showcased student groups. Well over 500 people attended the combined events to learn about the school's offerings and celebrate school spirit.

The event took place on a beautiful spring evening. Thirty student groups participated in the Activities Expo, while the Chili Cook-Off drew 25 entrants. Judges, including the mayor of Superior and a local television news anchor, awarded plaques to the winners in three categories: student organization, business/community entrants, and the Heartburn Award.

Leaders responsible for the transition program invited incoming eighth graders to visit the booths, learn about extra- and co-curricular activities, and catch the school spirit. High school students serving as peer mentors provided tours of the school for interested visitors. The school's police liaison operated a booth promoting the D.A.R.E. program and safety awareness. A reporter from a local newspaper covered the event and published an article about the Cook-Off award winners.

The idea of combining the Activities Expo with a Chili Cook-Off originated with students on the Action Team for Partnerships (ATP). Parents in the Spartan Spirit Club set the idea into motion, gathering materials for the cook-off. The ATP chair coordinated communication between the school, parents, and the community and contacted the Health Department to get the event approved. When mem-

bers of the high school transition team visited the middle school, they reminded students of the expo and cook-off. Organizers also sent fliers to parents of eighth-grade students.

From the Activities Expo and Chili Cook-Off, incoming freshmen and their parents learned about the positive aspects of life at Superior High School. As many groups creatively incorporated the themes of their clubs into their chili presentations, through costumes and decorations, they demonstrated their enthusiasm for their school. This showcase helped ease younger students' transitions from middle to high school.

A student council representative judged the event a success. "I think the Chili Cook-Off was a great activity," she said. "It gave all the clubs and some businesses in the community a chance to be recognized more. It was cheap and very tasty! I hope we have another one next year."

*Francy Chamming's
ATP Chairperson
(715) 394-8720 ext. 157
chammfj@superior.k12.wi.us*