

Boys' & Girls' Club of Pittsfield

A Recipe for Recreation

Boys' and Girls' Club Holds 10th Annual Chili & Chowder Fest at Camp Russell

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RICHMOND – Chowder can be red or white, and chili can be hot or mild – but regardless of the variety both will be served under the stars on Saturday, July 24 at the Boys' and Girls' Club's Chili & Chowder Fest.

Now in its tenth year, the Chili & Chowder Fest showcases the talents of chefs from more than 20 eateries across Berkshire County at [Camp Russell](#) in Richmond, Boys' and Girls' Club's summer home. The event, for ages 21 and up, will kick off at 4 p.m., and also feature pontoon boat rides on Richmond Pond, music, raffles, door prizes, beer and wine, and other snacks and refreshments.

In the last nine years, the Chili & Chowder Fest has raised \$100,000 for the revitalization of Camp Russell, including the construction on five new cabins. Camp Russell welcomes approximately 1,500 children during the summer months and offers day camp, sports camp, basketball and basketball-skill camps, 'adventure camp' for 4 and 5-year olds, and recreational therapy camp for children with special needs. Peter Bell, executive director of the Boy's and Girls' Club, added that the camp is busier than ever.

"Camp Russell attendance has been growing – in the last ten years, attendance has increased 300%, and I expect this trend to continue," said Bell. "We're now looking for ways we can accommodate campers without turning people away. That means more facilities, more staff, and continued quality programming."

Tickets to the Chili and Chowder Fest are \$25 and may be purchased at the Boys' and Girls' Club and will be sold at the door if any remain; tickets are limited to 500. For more information, call (413) 448-8258.

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About Boys & Girls Club of Pittsfield

The Boys & Girls Club of Pittsfield, Mass. has been in operation for more than a century. A long-term investor in the community, the club focuses on the needs of children of all ages in a diverse, urban area, and offers a number of community involvement programs in addition to sports, vocational, and recreational opportunities. For more information, visit www.boysandgirlsclubofpittsfield.org or call (413) 448-8258.