

WISCONSIN STATE FAIR

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE SPORKIES CELEBRATE 10 YEARS WITH A REFRESHING EXPANSION

WEST ALLIS, Wis. – June 14, 2023 – As the 10th anniversary of the legendary Wisconsin State Fair food competition approaches, officials are excited to announce the finalists for [The 2023 Sporkies](#). In honor of a decade of The Sporkies, the State Fair team upped the ante by debuting a new competition to accompany the annual Sporkies. Introducing, [The Drinkies](#) – a beverage competition that will showcase the best of the best of the non-alcoholic drink category. Not only will Fairgoers have the tough time of choosing which Sporkies to try, but now, a top drink will be awarded as well.

Eight Sporkie finalists have been selected from 31 mouth-watering entries and four Drinkies finalists have been selected from 11 thirst-quenching entries. On Tuesday, August 1, a panel of local celebrity judges will choose who wins the coveted Golden Spork and all-new Drinkie award. These innovative dishes and drinks are judged on appearance, presentation, creativity, originality, and of course, taste.

The Drinkies Finalists:



[Brown Sugar Sweet Potato Iced Latte](#) – Mashed Potatoes On-a-Stick

Cool off with an iced latte flavored with brown sugar, sweet potato purée, a dash of cinnamon, and brown sugar boba pearls! Garnished with a toasted marshmallow and a deep-fried sweet potato funnel cake nugget, the Brown Sugar Sweet Potato Iced Latte is sure to revive you on any day of the State Fair.



[Cotton Candy Lemonade](#) – Saz's Miller High Life Pavilion

The Cotton Candy Lemonade is a delicious blend of cool lemonade with a sweet taste of blue cotton candy. Not only do you get a refreshing drink, but you also get a big cloud of cotton candy on top! Truly every State Fair kid's dream!



[The Ferris Mule](#) – Old Fashioned Sipper Club

The Ferris Mule is a non-alcoholic mule crafted with fresh blackberries, ginger beer, freshly squeezed lime juice, and agave nectar – all of which is hand shaken and poured over ice. Garnished with fresh blackberries, a rosemary sprig, and lime wheel, The Ferris Mule takes a summer classic drink and elevates it with a fresh Fair time twist!



[Mango Tango Tajín](#) – Caribbean Smoothees

The Mango Tango Tajín drink blends juicy mangoes with tangy pineapple to create the bottom layer. It's then topped with a creamy strawberry smoothie layer! Finish it off with a sweet and spicy Chamoy sauce drizzled over top and sprinkled with a kick of Tajín seasoning for a perfect sweet and spicy combination.

The Sporkies Finalists:



[Beer Cheese Wisconsin Lava Cake](#) – WürstBar

A savory take on a sweet classic, the Beer Cheese Wisconsin Lava Cake sums up Wisconsin in one bite! These salted Milwaukee Pretzel Company slider buns are filled with famous beer cheese soup, topped with butter and pretzel salt, and drizzled with house-made hot honey and red pepper flakes.



[Coastal Corn Nuggets](#) – Tropics

Starting off with corn nuggets, these freshly deep-fried dough balls with sweet corn kernels in the center and a crispy shell exterior are the sweet and savory base. The Coastal Corn Nuggets are then smothered with a creamy white queso and topped with a homemade tropical slaw and a tangy pineapple-mango salsa. This hearty treat is finished by adding a dusting of cotija cheese!



[Deep-Fried Apple Pie](#) – Saz's BBQ

The Deep-Fried Apple Pie takes homemade apple pie filling and sandwiches it between two slices of white bread dipped in sweet French toast batter. Next, deep-fry it to perfection and top with caramel drizzle and cinnamon sugar. This "fair-ified" take on the classic campfire treat, a pudgy pie, brings you the flavors of a slice of apple pie in a fun new way!



[Dill Pickle Donut](#) – Fluffy's Hand Cut Donuts

What started as an April Fool's Day joke has taken off... welcome the Dill Pickle Donut! Get ready to bite into this hand cut yeast-raised donut "frosted" with a dill pickle juice whipped cream cheese and topped with thick cut dill pickles and a dill sprinkle!



[Irish Dipper](#) – Slim McGinn's Irish Pub

In an effort to give fans what they've been asking for, the Irish Dipper was born! This delicious new Irish Onion Dip is made with cream cheese, Guinness beer, caramelized onions, and Irish cheddar, and then layered with classic Irish beef in Guinness gravy on a French roll to create a flavor bomb sandwich that will make everyone happy! Served with a souffle cup of Guinness gravy for dipping.



[The Porkie](#) – Camp Bar

This sundae is just the treat for you to enjoy while at the pig races! Featuring vanilla custard layered with cheesecake bites and hot fudge, The Porkie is topped with graham cracker crust, more hot fudge, warm caramel, a graham cracker cookie, and cherry. But it wouldn't be complete without a piece of Rupena's candied bacon dipped in chocolate and rolled in sprinkles!



[Sweet and Savory Funnel Cake "Fries"](#) – Bud Pavilion

This dish pays homage to beloved Wisconsin State Fair staples in one decadent dish. Crispy and golden funnel cake "fries" are topped with savory cheese curds and crispy bacon pieces, then drizzled with rich chocolate sauce and a sweet cream cheese frosting glaze. The Sweet and Savory Funnel Cake Fries are sure to satisfy any craving for something sweet, salty, and indulgent.



Wisconsin Quesadilla – Mexican Grill

The Wisconsin Quesadilla is truly filled with the best of Wisconsin! Stuffed full of cheese curds, chunks of brats, grilled onions and peppers, and shredded cheese, this quesadilla is cooked to golden brown perfection and served with sour cream and salsa on the side.

[Dario Melendez](#) will return as emcee and moderate the panel of judges as they taste, deliberate, and select the winners. The celebrity judges will include:

- Chef Adam Pawlak, [Egg & Flour](#) and Food Network's *Superchef Grudge Match*
- Chef Ashley Turner, [Hacienda Taproom & Kitchen](#) and Food Network's *Chopped*
- Judy H. of [MKEeeeeeats](#), a Milwaukee-based culinary content creator
- [Melanie Ricks](#), Radio Personality and Milwaukee Bucks in-game host
- Ryan Castelaz, [Discourse Coffee](#) and [The Counter Day Bar](#)
- Sandra Dempsey, [Source Ten](#) and [Estamos Unidos US](#)
- [Steve Novak](#), Sportscaster, former NBA Player, and Marquette University Alumni

All The Sporkies and Drinkies items entered will be available for purchase during the 2023 Wisconsin State Fair. A massive 13-foot Spork or Drinkie statue will be displayed at all finalists' locations. All vendors who entered either competition will display a sticker at their State Fair location(s). See a full list of The Sporkies and Drinkies items [here](#).

About the Wisconsin State Fair

The 2023 Wisconsin State Fair, presented by UScellular, takes place Aug. 3 – 13. The State Fair offers a unique experience to all who attend and is an exceptional value. Enjoy dozens of FREE entertainment stages, exciting rides and games in SpinCity, thousands of animals, endless family activities, events, contests, shopping vendors, and culinary delights. For more information, visit [WiStateFair.com](#) or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).

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