\*\*PLEASE NOTE THE **UPDATES THIS YEAR** IN RED BELOW\*\*

The Member Services Committee is looking forward to our Cocktail Wars event on ***Thursday, November*** ***6th*** when eight teams will compete for the title of Cocktail Wars Winner 2025. We can’t wait to see
what will be juggled, whirled, and twirled for us to taste!

Team Rules:

Cocktail Wars will take place at the Winter Park Farmer’s Market, and the theme of the event is UNDER THE BIG TOP. ALL COCKTAILS AND TABLE DÉCOR SHOULD ALIGN WITH/BE INSPIRED BY THIS THEME. **UPDATE THIS YEAR**: Teams will be free to choose their character, story, sub-theme, etc. as inspired by Under the Big Top, they will not be assigned. Teams should report their table design themes to Emily Smith. This information will be kept confidential and is only collected to prevent duplication.

\*\*CLOWNS WILL BE ALLOWED\*\*

Cocktails may include any combination of alcohol/ingredients you wish- Mocktails are welcome, too. Teams are permitted to prepare a cocktail and a mocktail version of their cocktail (should they desire). Both drinks will be eligible for judging, but there will not be separate categories for cocktails and mocktails. Your concoctions can be pre-mixed and brought to Cocktail Wars ready to pour, or mixed once you arrive at the venue. There will be plenty of ice available, but all other ingredients should be provided by your team. Please don’t forget to bring your small shot-size cups for tasting purposes. Each ‘taste’ should be 1-2 ounces - only one alcoholic and one mocktail drink per team is permitted. (Again- a mocktail version is not required.) We anticipate having 90-100 attendees - including our teams and spectators (attendees). We will provide you with an attendee number update as registration goes along, as well as a few days prior to the event. Due to an unknown number of walk-ins, teams should prepare for 10% over the last attendee number provided. The cocktail recipe can be printed on a card, or paper, for display on your table for attendees to keep. This has been done in the past – it is a suggestion, not a requirement.

No more than four people per team, preferably all CREW Members, but at least one CREW Member is acceptable. Team registration of $100 must be paid in full to reserve your table. No partial payments ($25 paid per person) will be accepted. Only one team member name is required with the registration fee; other team member names can be added later. Team spots are filled on a first come-first serve basis and themes are selected/assigned only once registration invoice is paid.

**Teams will have access to the Farmer’s Market building at 4:00 pm** to begin set up of their tables. The event will take place inside the Farmer’s Market - with all eight cocktail teams around the room. Food and beverages will also be inside. There is ample parking in the Market’s lot, so unloading your décor and supplies should be easy. **UPDATE THIS YEAR**: Teams will be provided with one 8-foot table (30”W, 8’L, 29.5”H) covered with a black tablecloth OR opt for no table, just a pre-defined space of 10’L x 8’W. The 8’ width starts at the wall. If you would like us to provide the 8’table, your team will still be expected to set/up and be contained within a 10’ x 8’ space. You have use of the ‘air-rights’ up to the ceiling, but N**OTHING MAY BE ATTACHED TO ANY** **WALL OR THE CEILING. Banners may be used provided they are on a stand, connected to your table, or otherwise** **displayed without the use of a wall. NO flame candles. NO live animals.** If you choose not to have the table, you are free to bring your own table, décor, props but everything must be set up within your defined space. No ‘room-wandering’ team member/characters meant to promote your theme allowed. Remember, if you choose NOT to be provided with a table, you will need something to hold your cocktail samples. There is access to power, but teams will have to provide their own extensions cords. Tables and spaces are not assigned and will be first come, first serve upon arrival.

Attendees will begin arriving by 5:30 pm and will have immediate access to the competition room so teams will have uninterrupted time to set up their tables for approximately 1 ½ hours. Beer, wine, and appetizers will be available beginning at 5:30 pm. Voting will begin at 5:30 pm when we open the doors to the competition area, and voting will end at 6:30 pm. Each attendee will be given two poker chips of assorted colors. One chip will be used to vote for their favorite drink, and one chip will be used to vote for the table with the best décor. Directions for which chip to use for voting will be provided to attendees when they receive their chips. The Member Services Committee will provide a box for each team to collect ‘votes,’ or poker chips. The box will be provided to the team ahead of time so they can be decorated to coordinate with the table/cocktail theme. **UPDATE THIS YEAR**: Voting boxes will be stationed together on a table at the back of the room and not on each team’s table. This is intended to keep voting a bit more of a secret until the winner is announced. Teams will want to make sure their boxes can be identified clearly as belonging to their team since they will be displayed separately.

The winning cocktail team and winning table will be announced around 7:00 pm, once members of the Member Services Committee have an opportunity to tally the votes. Our event will end at 8:00 pm, so please make sure to remove or throw out any items as close to that time as possible so we are not charged an additional fee by the venue. CREW is responsible for all trash removal, so please be prepared to handle all trash removal for your team. There is a dumpster right outside the building. You may want to consider containers to transport any leftover cocktails if you plan to mix your drink onsite. The winning cocktail team will receive one $75 gift card for each member and acknowledgement on their monthly luncheon nametag. The second-place cocktail team wins a $50 gift card each. The team that wins for the best décor will win a $50 gift card for each member, with second place receiving $25 gift card for each member. More importantly, the team with the favorite cocktail wins the BRAGGING RIGHTS of being the Cocktail Wars Champion!

Any additional questions can be directed to Emily Smith, Emily.smith@fnf.com or Mary Pat Dunleavy, mdunleavy@fnf.com.