

Roxanne Maher

From: Ledyard Education Advancement Foundation <president-ledyardeducation.org@shared1.ccsend.com>
Sent: Monday, January 26, 2026 11:11 AM
To: Town Council Group
Subject: Snow day? Time to warm up!



Warm Up Your Winter: Join LEAF's Cajun Cook-Off + Enter the GLO Golf Raffle!

Dear Ledyard Community,

As the snow piles up and we all hunker down with our space heaters, fuzzy socks, and endless cups of coffee, there's no better time to start dreaming about bold flavors, friendly competition, and a little mid-winter fun. LEAF is thrilled to bring back one of our most beloved traditions — the 2nd Annual Cajun Cook-Off — and we'd love for you to be part of it.

About the Cajun Cook-Off

Last year's event was such a hit that we knew we had to do it again. This year's cook-off will take place:

Sunday, February 15, 2026

3–5 PM

Location: Gales Ferry Firehouse

Whether you're a seasoned home chef or someone who just loves to experiment in the kitchen, this is your moment to shine. We're accepting entries in two categories:

- Main Dish (12 spots available)
- Dessert (6 spots available)

Every dish will be sampled by attendees, and our panel (all attendees get to vote) will award prizes for:



Best Overall



Most Unique Dish



Best Dessert

Contributors receive a VIP bracelet, which includes event entry and one full-sized portion as our thank-you for sharing your culinary talents.

How to Sign Up to Compete

If you're ready to throw your apron into the ring, signing up is quick and easy.

Sign Up to Enter a Dish:

Navigate from the QR code above, click on the link below, or go to our LEAF website for a link.

Spots are limited, and they will go fast — especially with everyone stuck inside dreaming up recipes — so don't wait too long.

Tasting Tickets & Event Details

- \$10 entry gives attendees a taste of every dish and a voting card
- \$5 add-on for a full-sized portion of your favorite
- All proceeds support LEAF's Spring Cycle grants, funding innovative projects across Ledyard Public Schools

Even if you're not competing, we'd love to have you join us as a taster, judge, and enthusiastic supporter of our local chefs.

Play for a Purpose: GLO Golf Tournament Raffle

While you're planning your cook-off masterpiece, don't forget to grab your tickets for our GLO Golf Tournament Raffle, benefiting both LEAF and the Gary Atkinson Imagine Scholarship Fund (GAISF).

Your raffle ticket gives you a chance to win entry into the GLO Golf Tournament — a fun golf experience that supports two incredible causes.

How to Purchase Raffle Tickets:

- Tickets will be available online and at the cook-off
- All proceeds of the raffle go directly to LEAF

This is a fantastic way to support our schools and maybe snag a spot in one of the most unique golf events around.

Thank you, as always, for showing up for our students, our educators, and our community. We can't wait to see what you cook up — and we can't wait to see you at the Cajun Cook-Off.

Warmly,
Adrienne Parad
President, Ledyard Education Advancement Foundation (LEAF)

Cajun Cookoff signup

One of the things we love most about the Cajun Cook-Off is how it brings our entire school community together. This year, Ledyard High School's woodshop students have been hard at work crafting the top-notch, custom prizes that will be awarded to our winners — each one designed and built with real skill and pride. At the same time, our elementary school art classes are creating the colorful decorations that will bring the event to life. From our youngest artists to

our most advanced makers, this truly is an all-hands effort, and it shows just how special Ledyard is when we create something together.



Raffle Spotlight: Play for a Purpose

Enjoy a premier day of golf and support the future of Ledyard students.

This raffle item offers a foursome to play in the Greater Ledyard Golf Tournament on Friday, June 26, 2026, at the Pequot Golf Club, with a 9:30 AM tee time.

All proceeds from the raffle will benefit the Ledyard Education Advancement Foundation (LEAF) — the nonprofit that fuels innovation, enrichment, and opportunity across all Ledyard Public Schools. LEAF invests directly in classroom experiences by funding teacher-led grants, hands-on learning projects, STEM initiatives, arts programming, and community-building events that would not be possible through the school budget alone. Every dollar raised helps empower educators, inspire students, and strengthen the vibrant learning community that makes Ledyard special.

Proceeds from the tournament will support the Gary Atkinson Imagine Scholarship Fund (GAISF) — a scholarship founded in 2023 by the Ledyard High School Class of 1973 as a meaningful way to give back to the community that shaped them. Since its founding, support for GAISF has grown beyond the Class of '73 to include additional LHS alumni and reunion groups, reflecting its evolution into a broader, community-powered effort. The fund now stands at \$105,000, helping Ledyard students imagine—and pursue—their futures.

By purchasing raffle tickets, you're not just entering to win a memorable golf experience. You're investing in the next generation of leaders, builders, and changemakers in Ledyard.

Special Elements of this tournament include:

- This is a scramble golf tournament where the foursome team select their best shot throughout the round. The shotgun start will begin at 9:30am for all golfers.
- This tournament was introduced in 2025 and quickly sold out. Every foursome had some connection to Ledyard and Ledyard High School.
- This tournament is capped at 88 players meaning we run a fast, fun tournament. The fastest players finished at 3 hours and 30 minutes and the slowest at 4 plus hours.
- Includes breakfast and lunch, pizza on the course, bins of free golf balls, beverages, snacks and candy for the players to pick from throughout the round.
- This is a big merchandise event where in 2025 there were GLO golf hats, various Ledyard Landmarks and fun t-shirts to be won throughout the day at different holes.
- We celebrated Geer Sand Pits with a beer hole on #10. Lantern Hill with hats on #9. Bullpen shirts on the putting green, GLO shirt giveaways on #3. Fun on all holes.
- Plans are for a great deal of Ledyard merchandise to be won or purchased at the tournament.
- Large GLO trophy presented with pictures and the winning 4some's name inscribed on the trophy. Winning prizes are restaurant gift certificates for each

member of the winning, 2nd place and 3rd place teams. Prize for last place team.
Raffle prizes with a focus on restaurants.

- The tournament celebrates Ledyard, Ledyard High School, Ledyard High School Alumni, Ledyard residents, Ledyard memories and the GAISF.

Raffle Value: \$600
Golf well. Give forward.

Raffle entry



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