Tips to be a finalist for the Elementary Culinary Competition

Do you want to win an award in the Culinary Competition? Here are some tips on how to do that!

1. **Be original & creative.** Don’t be like everyone else. Usually LOTS of kids submit pizza bagel recipes and smoothie recipes. They’re great, but I can only use a couple of them. One year I had a recipe submitted for “dill cookies!” Sounds terrible, but actually they were great! Don’t TRY to be too weird, but we love to put recipes out there that are different!

2. **Don’t do recipes that are TOO easy.** “Ants on a log” are great, and “cheese and crackers” are nice, but they only take about ten seconds to make. If it comes down to choosing two recipes, one is super-simple, and the other is a bit more involved, I’ll choose the one that takes more effort.

3. This doesn’t have to be your own, original recipe. You can get them off the internet or anywhere!

4. SORRY, but only have **ONE person** on each recipe. How this contest works is that I choose two finalists per school. So, it doesn’t work very well when there are two people on one recipe. If I get a recipe with two kids on it, I can’t use it.

5. I’m looking for **HEALTHY AFTERSCHOOL SNACKS**! So, try to have recipes that don’t have a lot of sugar or fat in them. “Snacks” usually mean that it’s not a big huge thing, like pot roast or roast pork loin.