



Press Contact: Lauren Sklar
Phone: 646-336-3745; Email: lsklar@foodnetwork.com

WORST COOKS IN AMERICA

Contestant Bios (2016)

Ernie Adkins (Mardela Springs, Maryland): A loving dad of four and Army combat veteran, Ernie is a truck driver who can fix a broken tractor but is useless with a frying pan and a piece of bacon. He has a passion for hunting wildlife like raccoon, squirrel and deer – but he leaves the game cooking to others and he'd like to take on some of that responsibility. Living in a rural area with only one place that delivers, ordering takeout is not an option – so he's ready to learn to cook for his family.

Lawrence Crawford (Deptford, New Jersey): Military man Lawrence Crawford is a combat medic currently stationed in California who has no qualms jumping out of a plane, but can barely crack an egg. He's competitive, lively, and a great dad to his three young kids, however his wife can only describe his cooking attempts as "dreadful." His youngest son, who eats almost anything, runs away from Lawrence's food and with his wife taking on a new job, he knows it's time to apply his military discipline to learning to cook - and he's definitely up for the task.

Jeni Erdman (Dousman, Wisconsin): Midwestern farmwife and mom Jeni is devoted to her husband and family, but she has only made three edible meals for them in 25 years. She raises all kinds of animals on the farm and grows every kind of vegetable, but has no idea how to make them edible. Her hard-working husband comes home to a dinner of string cheese and beer most nights, and Jeni wants to change that – so this vivacious, friendly mom is prepared to get serious about cooking at boot camp.

Holgie Forrester (29 Palms, California): The last time sensational 66-year-old Holgie prepared a meal was the summer of 1969. She has a youthful, adventurous spirit and has been skydiving and swimming with snakes, but never had any interest in cooking. She blames a deep-fried grilled cheese for a romantic breakup and even has trouble using the coffee maker. Holgie wants nothing more than to make heart healthy meals for her husband and relieve him from always having to do the cooking.

David Fouts (Wales, Wisconsin): David's culinary specialty is cold cereal and milk, and he can't make much else. With four kids under the age of twelve, his wife is at her wit's end with his inability to help in the kitchen. He has a big personality and is a total ham, and realizes his lack of cooking skills is taking its toll on his family, so he's prepared to dedicate himself to the kitchen and make his household run smoothly.

Glenda Galeano (Miami, Florida): Hot and spicy describe Glenda's looks and personality, but not her food. She says people assume she can cook because of her Latin background and fiery attitude, but they are always disappointed with her efforts. Her ex-husband used to take care of the family meals, but now it's up to Glenda to feed her 19-year-old son, who says his mom's attempts at cooking "taste like a shoe." Glenda is back in the dating game, and this beautiful lady is ready to up her cooking skills and impress her dates with delicious meals.

Chanda Havard (Chicago, Illinois): Chanda's food might not taste good, but this diva always looks fabulous in the kitchen. She thinks if you turn the temperature higher, food will cook faster – and she ruins meals every time. Chanda wants to be a wife and mother someday soon, but her experience feeding her family hasn't gone so well – her nephew is sick and tired of eating fast food whenever Chanda watches him. Sometimes her big personality gets her in trouble, but she is determined to make it through boot camp until the end.

Taylor Hooper (Quincy, Massachusetts): Taylor served four years in the Marines and now that he's back home, he has no idea how to make a decent meal. He's extremely competitive and confident everywhere but the kitchen, where he regularly sets off the fire alarm while trying to cook. He recently got engaged, so he knows now is the perfect time to learn to make home-cooked meals for his soon-to-be-wife.



Press Contact: Lauren Sklar
Phone: 646-336-3745; Email: lsklar@foodnetwork.com

Donna Koen (Newburyport, Massachusetts): Donna is a lunch lady, but the only cooking she's allowed to do in the school cafeteria is cut the crust off sandwiches and slice apples. At home, her meals for her husband and grown children usually consist of burnt hamburgers, hot dogs and peanut butter sandwiches. She says her best skill in the kitchen is giving \$10 haircuts at the table, but she's ready to learn how to make big, delicious meals for her family.

Ginny Meerman (Millersville, Maryland): Ginny competes in beauty pageants and won the Mrs. Maryland competition, and hopes as long as she and her kitchen look good, her kids won't really notice what she is cooking. Known as the "Queen Bee," she is accident-prone in the kitchen and her meals don't get high marks from her boyfriend or four grown kids, who try to avoid Thanksgiving at her house. She dreams of hosting home-cooked Sunday dinners and holidays for her family, and is determined to make that dream a reality.

Cindy Nguyen (Las Vegas, Nevada): Growing up in her family's Asian restaurant, Cindy's parents tried to teach her to cook but she never paid attention. Though she can make a mean cocktail, her Shepherd's Pie and Ramen Noodles with Spam dishes are not exactly crowd pleasers. She is book-smart with a degree in molecular biology, but not known for her common sense. Cindy is ready to settle down with her boyfriend and carry on the food traditions of her family.

Nick Slater (Rancho Cucamonga, California): Nick is very active and physically fit, but his diet is far from ideal. He's a picky eater with a long list of foods he won't eat, including cheese, butter, pickles, ranch dressing and all condiments. When he tried to make pasta for his wife, he cooked the spaghetti for over an hour and the meal turned to mush. He realizes it's important for his health and well-being to be able to make nutritious meals for himself and his wife to start their married life.

Ty Snow (Pasadena, California): Hilarious and outspoken, Ty is a special education teacher who is a teddy bear at heart and a mess in the kitchen. On Thanksgiving, he fell asleep with a ham in the oven and woke up to the fire department in his house, and they've returned so many times they know him by name. He believes he is still single because he can't cook, and he's ready to gain a mate and cooking skills. Ty, who has a history of heart disease in his family, also realizes healthy eating will improve how he feels.

Rachel Thomas (Tampa, Florida): "What's for dinner?" is Rachel's least favorite thing to hear. Raised in the South, she recently located to Tampa with her husband, and admits she avoids the kitchen at all costs. After trying to broil steak and almost starting a fire, she is terrified of the stove. Rachel feels terrible about not being able to make homemade meals for her husband and she's determined to turn into a competent cook at boot camp.

#