

Week 23 — Salsa Chicken Week

Jan 3 – Jan 9, 2027 · *Your only job this week: follow the pages.*



✦ THIS WEEK'S SPARK

Hibernating black bears barely lose muscle in five months of lying still — scientists study them for the secret. Yours is simpler: Day A, Day B, repeat.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

THE FOOD	Sunday: salsa shredded chicken. Plus: taco turkey — one pan, two dinners. Every other night is already made or takes 15 minutes.
THE GYM	Phase 3 — New Tools — Four new machines join the rotation to wake up new muscles — including the hip machine, which is secretly balance training.
9PM DESSERT	On the calendar every night, with your gummies. Part of the plan, not a slip.
WEIGH-IN	Sunday morning only. Write it on the calendar page, then forget it until next Sunday.

THE WEEK IS A WIN IF...

...you check **24 of the 28 boxes** on the next page. A missed box is information, not failure.

Portions and the approved brands live in the Start Here packet. Questions → Matthew.

Every day: 8:30 coffee · 11:30 breakfast · 3:00 snack · 6:00 dinner (green) · 9:00 dessert (amber). Boxes: **M** meals eaten · **D** dinner as planned · **W** today's workout done (the pill — gym or walk) · **9** dessert as planned.

SUNCOOK DAY
1/3

Salsa shredded chicken

9PM cheesecake cup

EASY WALK

☐ M ☐ D
☐ W ☐ 9
MON

1/4

Salsa-chicken tacos

9PM Yasso bar

WEIGHTS · DAY A

☐ M ☐ D
☐ W ☐ 9
TUE

1/5

Turkey rice bowl

9PM cheesecake cup

WALK 25–30

☐ M ☐ D
☐ W ☐ 9
WED

1/6

Chicken enchilada bake

9PM Yasso bar

WEIGHTS · DAY B

☐ M ☐ D
☐ W ☐ 9
THU

1/7

Turkey tacos

9PM cheesecake cup

WALK 25–30

☐ M ☐ D
☐ W ☐ 9
FRI

1/8

Garlic shrimp + rice

9PM SmartSweets

BIKE + BALANCE

☐ M ☐ D
☐ W ☐ 9
SAT

1/9

Dinner out with Rick

9PM your pick

WALK

☐ M ☐ D
☐ W ☐ 9

SUNDAY WEIGH-IN: morning, after the bathroom, before coffee → write it here: _____ lbs → forget it until next Sunday. Boxes this week: _____ / 28 (24+ = winning)

Tags show the best-value store. Anything on the Approved Brands pages (Start Here) is a yes — grab whatever's on deal. Feeds one person for the week.

Meat & protein

- ☐ Chicken breast, 2.5 lb COSTCO
- ☐ 93/7 ground turkey, 2 lb COSTCO
- ☐ Frozen raw shrimp, 1 lb bag COSTCO

This week's pantry

- ☐ Salsa, 2 big jars COSTCO
- ☐ Black beans × 3 cans (low-sodium) CUB
- ☐ Corn tortillas + low-carb tortillas CUB

Produce

- ☐ Yellow onions × 2 CUB
- ☐ Bell peppers × 3 CUB
- ☐ Slaw mix × 1 + salad kits × 2 COSTCO
- ☐ Limes × 2 CUB

Every-week staples (check, don't assume)

- ☐ Fage 0% Greek yogurt, big tub COSTCO
- ☐ Good Culture cottage cheese COSTCO
- ☐ Eggs + egg whites COSTCO
- ☐ Unsweetened almond milk CUB
- ☐ Berries, 2 lb COSTCO
- ☐ Bananas + apples CUB
- ☐ Oats · chia · PBfit · granola COSTCO
- ☐ Vanilla Greek yogurt (dessert cups) CUB
- ☐ Graham crackers + honey CUB
- ☐ Yasso bars · SmartSweets · seltzer COSTCO
- ☐ Coffee creamer (Chobani) CUB

SUNDAY COOK DAY — ABOUT 2 HOURS, THEN YOU'RE DONE COOKING FOR THE WEEK

Put on music or a show. Steps in order — the pot does the hard part.

1. ☐ Start the salsa chicken: chicken + salsa + spices into the crock pot, HIGH, lid on. It cooks itself for 4 hours.
2. ☐ Brown the taco turkey with onion and peppers (chop one extra pepper for your eggs). Split into BOWLS and TACOS containers.
3. ☐ Two overnight-oats jars for the walk days, and set the parfait station (granola cups scooped, berries washed, yogurt up front).
4. ☐ Three cheesecake cups: whipped vanilla yogurt over crushed graham, berries on top, lidded jars.
5. ☐ Label everything. Extras to the freezer — the freezer stash is your backup plan every single week.

WEDNESDAY TOP-UP — 15 MINUTES, OPTIONAL

Refill the parfait cups, one more oats jar if you're low, move the next dinner to the front of the fridge. That's it.

■ MEAL · SUNDAY COOK DAY

Salsa Shredded Chicken

CROCK POT · 15 MIN OF YOUR TIME · FEEDS 3 DINNERS

- 2.5 lb chicken breast
 - 1 big jar of salsa (about 2 cups)
 - 1 tsp cumin · 1 tsp garlic powder · ½ tsp chili powder
1. Everything in the crock pot. HIGH for 4 hours (or LOW for 7).
 2. Shred the chicken with two forks, right in the pot. Stir.
 3. That's the whole recipe — bowls tonight, tacos, and the enchilada bake.

YOUR PORTION: Tonight's bowl: a fist of rice + a big helping of chicken + half a cup of beans + slaw + a spoon of yogurt + lime.

Good to know: Same chicken works as a big taco salad, or over a baked potato.

■ MEAL · SUNDAY COOK DAY

Taco Turkey — one pan, two dinners

STOVE · 25 MIN · FEEDS A BOWL NIGHT + TACO NIGHT

- 2 lb 93/7 ground turkey
 - 1 onion + 2 bell peppers, chopped (chop 1 extra for your eggs)
 - Taco seasoning + a splash of water
1. Brown the turkey, breaking it up. Push aside; soften onion and peppers 4 minutes.
 2. Seasoning + splash of water, stir 2 minutes.
 3. Cool. Two labeled containers: BOWLS and TACOS.

YOUR PORTION: Bowl: fist of rice + big helping of turkey + beans + salsa + spoon of yogurt + slaw. Tacos: 3 corn tortillas, same toppings, salad on the side.

■ MEAL · MIDWEEK

Chicken Enchilada Bake

OVEN · 10 MIN TO BUILD, 20 TO BAKE

- The rest of the salsa chicken
 - 4 corn tortillas, torn up
 - ½ cup black beans · ½ cup salsa
 - A good sprinkle of cheese
1. Layer: tortillas, chicken, beans, salsa. Cheese on top.
 2. 375° for 20 minutes until bubbly.
 3. Serve with a spoon of yogurt and a salad. Freeze the rest in single servings.

YOUR PORTION: Your square: about a quarter of the dish + a big salad.

■ MEAL · FRIDAY

Garlic Shrimp + Rice

ONE PAN · 15 MINUTES, START TO PLATE

- Half the shrimp bag, thawed under cold water 10 min
 - 3 garlic cloves · 1 spoonful olive oil
 - Squeeze of lime · chili flakes if you want heat
1. Hot pan, oil, garlic — 30 seconds.
 2. Shrimp in one layer — 2 minutes a side, until pink and curled.
 3. Lime over the top. Done in one song.

YOUR PORTION: Your plate: all the shrimp + a fist of rice + the biggest salad of the week.

■ MEAL · MORNINGS

Parfait Bowl — your biggest protein of the day

2 MINUTES · THE STATION IS ALREADY SET UP

- 1 big cup Fage yogurt + 1 scoop vanilla protein, stirred in
 - Big handful of berries
 - 1 pre-scooped granola cup
 - Drizzle of honey
1. Stir the protein into the yogurt first — it turns into vanilla pudding.
 2. Berries, granola, honey. Dessert for breakfast, doing the most work of anything you eat all day.

YOUR PORTION: Gym days: eat this after the gym, around 11:30. Don't skip it.**Good to know:** Trade for: a protein shake + 2 hard-boiled eggs, or an oats jar.

■ MEAL · MORNINGS

Overnight Oats Jars

5 MIN A JAR · MAKE 2 ON SUNDAY · EAT COLD

- Per jar: ½ cup oats · 1 spoonful chia seeds
 - ¾ cup almond milk · ½ scoop vanilla protein
 - 1 spoonful PBfit · handful of berries · small drizzle of honey
1. Shake the protein and PBfit into the almond milk, right in the jar.
 2. Oats and chia in, stir, berries on top, lid on, fridge.
 3. Eat cold — half at 8:30 if hungry, the rest at 11:30, or all at once.

YOUR PORTION: Quiet bonus: the oats in this jar actively help your cholesterol.

■ MEAL · MORNINGS

Egg Scramble Plate

10 MINUTES

- 2 eggs + a good pour of egg whites
 - Handful of chopped peppers and onions from Sunday
 - Cheese sprinkle · salsa on top
 - 1 low-carb tortilla, or a fist of potatoes
1. Soften the veggies 3 minutes. Eggs in, gentle stir until just set.
 2. Cheese, salsa. Tortilla on the side or wrap it all up.

YOUR PORTION: Your plate: the whole scramble + the tortilla OR the potatoes — pick one.

■ MEAL · MORNINGS

Protein Pancakes — weekend treat

15 MINUTES · SATURDAY OR SUNDAY MORNING

- ½ cup oats · 1 ripe banana · 2 eggs
 - 1 scoop vanilla protein · splash of almond milk · pinch of cinnamon
1. Everything in the blender until smooth. Rest 2 minutes.
 2. Small pancakes on a medium pan, flip when bubbles pop.
 3. Top with berries and a small drizzle of honey — not the syrup bottle.

YOUR PORTION: Your stack: 3 small pancakes. Yes, pancakes are in the plan.

■ DESSERT · THE 9PM SWEET

Cheesecake Cups

10 MIN ON SUNDAY · MAKES 3 · ABOUT 170 CALORIES EACH

- Per cup: ¾ cup vanilla Greek yogurt
 - 1 graham cracker sheet, crushed
 - Small drizzle of honey · a few berries
1. Crushed graham in the bottom of a small jar.
 2. Yogurt whipped with honey over the top. Berries. Lid. Fridge.
 3. 9pm: spoon, couch, show. Your gummies go with it. This is the plan working, not breaking.

YOUR PORTION: The 9pm rotation: cheesecake cup · Yasso bar · SmartSweets · dark chocolate + berries.

■ WEIGHTS · MONDAY · 10AM

Day A — Phase 3 — New Tools

Easy bike 20 minutes (you can chat) → the list → balance moves. Four new machines join the rotation to wake up new muscles — including the hip machine, which is secretly balance training.

EXERCISE (TAP THE NAME FOR A VIDEO)	IT SHOULD FEEL LIKE	IF IT HURTS, DO THIS INSTEAD
1 <u>Leg press ▶</u> Feet high on the plate · knees point the same way as your toes · don't lock your knees straight	Thighs working, knees quiet	Stand up and sit down from a high box, holding weights
2 <u>One-arm dumbbell row ▶</u> One hand on the bench · pull the weight to your hip · no twisting	The middle of your back	The cable row, light
3 <u>Seated chest press ▶</u> Shoulder blades back and down · handles at the middle of your chest	Chest and arms, not shoulders	Push-ups against the wall, hands wide
4 <u>Leg extension machine ▶</u> Light weight · pause 1 second at the top · lower slow	Front of your thighs	Straighten one knee at a time, seated, no machine
5 <u>Shoulder press with dumbbells, seated ▶</u> Back against the pad · press up · keep your shoulders down, don't shrug	Shoulders, no neck strain	Lift light dumbbells to the front instead
6 <u>Farmer carry, two dumbbells ▶</u> Walk tall, 30 steps · your grip works hard	Grip and posture	Lighter dumbbells

All of these: **3 × 8–12**. Stop each set 2 reps before it gets ugly.

BALANCE MOVES — 5 MINUTES, BY THE RAIL

[Staggered-stance hold](#) (One foot half ahead of the other, 30 seconds each side) → [Single-leg stand at the rail](#) (Fingertips down, 20 seconds each side) → [Dead bug](#) (8 each side, slow, low back stays down) → [Bird dog](#) (8 each side, steady hips). **Using the rail is smart, not weak.**

THE RULE — EVERY WORKOUT, FOREVER

Muscle burn is fine; a mild ache that's gone by morning is fine. **Sharp pain, swelling, limping, or worse-the-next-day = stop and use the "do this instead" column. The swap IS the workout.** And if evening medicines leave a morning foggy — **dizzy or unsteady = easy bike only today.** Still counts, still check the box.

■ WEIGHTS • WEDNESDAY • 10AM

Day B — Phase 3 — New Tools

EXERCISE (TAP THE NAME FOR A VIDEO)	IT SHOULD FEEL LIKE	IF IT HURTS, DO THIS INSTEAD
1 <u>Goblet squat to a bench</u> ▶ Hold one dumbbell at your chest • sit back until you touch the bench • stand tall	Thighs and seat	Higher bench, or no weight
2 <u>Lat pulldown</u> ▶ Wide grip • pull down to your collarbone • don't lean way back	The wide muscles of your back	Pull-downs with a band
3 <u>Chest press on the incline bench</u> ▶ Bench tilted up a little • press up and slightly back	Upper chest	The chest press machine, light
4 <u>Hip machine (legs apart)</u> ▶ Sit tall • press out slow • don't slam it back	The sides of your hips — your balance muscles	Side-steps with a band around your ankles
5 <u>Band pull-apart</u> ▶ Arms straight ahead • pull the band to your chest • squeeze your shoulder blades	Back of shoulders, better posture	Lighter band
6 <u>Suitcase carry</u> ▶ One heavy-ish dumbbell in one hand • walk tall 20 steps • switch hands	Your side muscles fighting the lean	Lighter dumbbell, walk next to the rail

All of these: **3 × 8–12**. Stop each set 2 reps before it gets ugly.

CORE — 5 MINUTES

Dead bug × 8 each side → [Side plank from your knees](#) (15 seconds each side) → bird dog × 8 each side → once more through.

■ BIKE + BALANCE • FRIDAY • 10AM

Bike Day

Bike 30 minutes: 5 easy → 20 a little breathy but could still chat → 5 easy. Then Monday's balance moves, twice through, plus 2 farmer-carry laps. Done by 11.

WALK days: 25–30 easy minutes at a chatting pace. Not a workout — a habit. It still checks the box. • Tap any dotted exercise name on your phone or tablet to watch a short how-to video.