

# SAVOR...Chicago

## at McCormick Place

Catering • Concessions • Special Events

Contact: Michelle Benson  
[michelle@createmomentum.com](mailto:michelle@createmomentum.com)  
708-907-5301

### **SAVOR...Chicago and McCormick Place to Host Chicago Students at ProStart 2013, March 6<sup>th</sup>** *45 High School Students to Experience Hands-On, Behind-the-Scenes Look at Foodservice Careers*

CHICAGO, March 1, 2013 -- The restaurant industry is Illinois' largest private sector employer and ProStart from the Illinois Restaurant Association is dedicated to building a pipeline of qualified individuals ready to take leadership roles within the industry. SAVOR...Chicago and McCormick Place will host 45 students from Clemente, Juarez, CVCA, Manley, Roosevelt and Tilden High Schools in a day-long ProStart event at McCormick Place on March 6<sup>th</sup> to give the students a hands-on taste of the foodservice in a large convention center.

In just the past 18 months, McCormick Place has hosted President Obama's 2012 Election Night Celebration, NATO and dozens of high profile trade shows plus hundreds of meetings and events. The day at McCormick Place is designed to give these local students a behind-the-scenes look at the mechanics of running foodservice operations that scale from a small meeting to sit-down dinner for thousands.

The day-long event will start with a look at different aspects of running a foodservice operation with Q&A sessions, presentations and hands-on activities that dig into functions such as warehousing and distribution, sales and catering, menu development and food preparation.

"SAVOR is deeply committed to the communities that we operate in. Participating in ProStart is a great way for us to give back to the community while also helping our industry, these students and our own operation," explained Connie Chambers, SAVOR...Chicago General Manager. "Here in Chicago, SAVOR has participated in ProStart since we began managing McCormick Place foodservice. ProStart is one of our favorite days of the year; it is such a rewarding experience. The feeling that you get when you see these kids realize how they could fit into an organization like ours is truly remarkable. These students walk away excited by opportunities that exist right here in their own backyard and charged up to make this a reality."

ProStart is an industry-recognized program and brings together employers, suppliers, and industry leaders to help develop future leaders. The ProStart program offers high school students practical industry experience combined with textbook learning to begin a successful career path. The curriculum has been professionally developed, tested and implemented in conjunction with the restaurant and hospitality industry to address critical skills needed. The curriculum meets Illinois State Board of Education learning standards and offers nationally recognized certifications.

The Illinois ProStart Program goes beyond just providing a curriculum in the classroom. Connecting activities include classroom presentations, teacher training sessions, field trips, classroom speakers, coordinating worksites, providing communications vehicles for the program, public relations efforts and awareness campaigns.

-more-



# SAVOR...Chicago

## at McCormick Place

Catering • Concessions • Special Events

### Chicago's McCormick Place

McCormick Place, the largest exhibition and meeting facility in North America, is comprised of four state-of-the-art buildings, the North, South and West Buildings, the Lakeside Center, and the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place hotel. Combined, McCormick Place offers 2.6 million square feet of exhibit space, 173 meeting rooms, the 4,249-seat Arie Crown Theater and one of the largest ballrooms in the world.

Located on Chicago's lakefront just minutes from downtown, McCormick Place is owned by the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority and managed by SMG, a worldwide convention facility management company. For more information, please visit [www.mccormickplace.com](http://www.mccormickplace.com) or on facebook.com/mccormickplace and twitter.com/mccormick\_place.

### SAVOR

SAVOR, a leader in convention center catering, concessions and special events, took over McCormick Place foodservice operations September 28, 2011. SAVOR is part of SMG, the largest public facilities management company in the world including McCormick Place as of August 1, 2011. In 2010, 17 convention centers where SAVOR provides food and beverage service won prestigious Prime Site Awards from *Facilities & Destinations*.

SAVOR is an industry leader in introducing green standards and programs to public facilities. As the food and beverage provider to facilities with some of the most stringent environmental policies in the world, we have researched the matter extensively and work closely with community and facility managers to develop environmentally friendly operations focused on minimizing carbon footprint by purchasing locally produced, sustainably raised product, using non-petroleum-based packaging and recycling or composting waste whenever possible. [www.savorchicagomcpl.com](http://www.savorchicagomcpl.com).

### SMG

Since 1977, SMG has provided management services to more than 220 public assembly facilities worldwide, including arenas, stadiums, theatres and performing arts centers, equestrian facilities, convention, congress and exhibition centers, science centers and a variety of other venues. Across the globe, SMG manages more than 14 million square feet of exhibition space and more than 1.75 million arena and theatre seats. As the recognized global industry leader, SMG provides venue management, sales, marketing, event booking and programming, construction and design consulting, and pre-opening services. SMG also offers food and beverage operations through its concessions and catering division of SAVOR, currently serving more than 100 accounts worldwide. [www.smgworld.com](http://www.smgworld.com).

###

