



The NC Restaurant & Lodging Association Foundation is proud to announce the 11th Annual North Carolina ProStart Invitational, to be held in Durham on March 13 & 14, 2025. The event will occur at NC Central University, 1801 Fayetteville St., Durham, NC 27707.

The North Carolina ProStart Invitational showcases the culinary and academic talents of high school ProStart students. The highlight of the event is students participating in one or both team competition formats: Culinary Competition and Management Competition. Winning teams from both the Culinary and Management Competitions will be awarded medals and scholarships to pursue post-secondary education. The first-place team in both competitions will also continue on to the **National ProStart Invitational (May 2-4, 2024 in Baltimore, MD)** to represent North Carolina ProStart. In addition, the North Carolina ProStart Invitational features activities and opportunities that enable students to meet and network with post-secondary representatives and industry partners from around the state.

As we prepare for the 2025 event, we ask for your support in identifying the participating schools. To assist our team with building the most comprehensive event plan and budget, please supply as much information as possible.

General Guidelines

- Schools may send up to two teams: one in the Culinary Competition and one in the Management Competition.
- Teams may have students that compete on teams in both competitions.
- Participating schools are not required to compete in both events.
- Teams must be current ProStart program students attending the same high school or career/technical center.
- Teams are comprised of at least two students with a maximum of four students per team, plus one optional team manager who may step in as the alternate if necessary. This means schools may bring up to 10 students if competing in both competitive events.
- Students may only compete at the North Carolina ProStart Invitational for two years, which may be non-consecutive.
- To participate in the 2024 North Carolina ProStart Invitational, your school must be a confirmed ProStart program and have your school agreement on file with the NC Restaurant & Lodging Association Foundation.
- Specific student registration forms and waivers will be distributed to all schools that file this "Intent to Participate" form.
- Schools awarded first place in management and culinary competitions will be required to attend the Team NC Nationals Boot Camp that will be held between the NC ProStart Invitational and the National ProStart Invitational in the spring. This additional practice will be determined at a later date.

Competition space will only be allocated for teams that commit to participating. Please note that schools are responsible for making travel arrangements and covering transportation and lodging costs for your teachers, chaperones, students, and guests. To help prepare your school's travel budget, information on the 2025 hotel block will be shared ASAP.

The Intent to Participate Form must be signed by the school's ProStart Educator and Principal or CTE Director and returned to the NCRLA Foundation by January 10, 2025.

**Intent to Participate Form
2024 North Carolina ProStart Invitational**

Due Friday, January 10, 2025

Culinary Competition

Yes, our school will participate

estimated number of students

estimated educator(s)/chaperon(s)/mentor(s)

No, our school will not be competing in the Culinary Competition

Management Competition

Yes, our school will participate

estimated number of students

estimated educator(s)/chaperon(s)/mentor(s)

No, our school will not be competing in the Restaurant Management Competition

Additional Competition Requirements:

_____(teacher initial) I understand that should our team place first in the culinary or management competition, we will be required to attend the Team NC National Boot Camp sometime in April. It will be our responsibility to make arrangements to attend.

_____(teacher initial) I understand that should our team place first in the culinary or management competition, we will be required to compete in the National ProStart Invitational **May 2-4, 2025 in Baltimore, MD** to represent NC. The North Carolina Restaurant Association Foundation will cover the cost of hotel accommodations, team registration, and travel expenses for the competing students and one educator to attend this competition.

Cancellation Policy: Official school registration will occur after this form has been filed. A registration fee is due by February 7, 2025 for each competing student, educator, chaperone, and/or mentor. After official registration, if a team cannot compete, the team must submit a written cancellation to NCRLA Foundation **no later than February 14, 2025**, to receive a refund. Teams that do not meet the cancellation deadline or subsequently withdraw after February 14 will not receive a refund and may not be invited to compete the following year.

School

Signature of School Principal or CTE Director

Name of School ProStart Educator

Phone Number

Please scan and email this form to Courtney Hamm, chamm@ncrla.org by FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 2025.

North Carolina ProStart Invitational Registration Details

Registration form, student waivers, and dish request forms will be distributed by **JANUARY 13** to all teams that file this Intent to Participate Form.

Important Dates & Reminders	
January 10, 2025	Intent to Participate Form due to chamm@ncrla.org
January 13, 2025	Registration Information, Student Waivers and Dish Request Form distributed to all schools that file an Intent to Participate Form
February 7, 2025	Team Expectations, Registration & Payment due to NCRLA Foundation
February 10, 2025	Culinary Digital Files & Management rough drafts proposals due to chamm@ncrla.org
February 14, 2025	Team cancellation deadline <i>No roster additions after this date/DROPS only</i>
February 20, 2025	Feedback from NCRLA on proposals
February 21, 2025	All student participation waivers and dish requests due
February 19, 2025	<u>Cut-Off Date to Receive Special Rate at Competition Hotel</u>
March 5, 2025	Updated proposals due (if required)
March 13, 2025	Team Registration/Check-In & Mandatory Team Orientation at NCCU Student Center
March 14, 2025	2025 NCPI Competition Day & Awards Ceremony at NCCU Student Center
April 2025	NCPI Winners Bootcamp, location TBD
May 2-4, 2025	2025 National ProStart Invitational, Baltimore, MD