



PRESS RELEASE

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BOYS' CLUB OF NEW YORK HOSTS BATTLE CHEF COOKING COMPETITION

March 19, 2019 (New York, NY): Cooking competitions are trending everywhere these days—and the Boys' Club of New York (BCNY) is joining in on the fun. Dubbed “Culinary Kings,” boys 10- to 12-years-old are showcasing their culinary skills as part of BCNY’s “Chef It Up!” program. Celebrity chefs and community leaders will volunteer their time on a judging panel during the event, including Darius Peacock, a winner on the first season of *Chopped*; Melba Wilson, chef, author, and owner of Melba’s and Melba’s Catering; and Harold Villarosa, founder and head chef at Insurgo, a community collective which secures food access for high-need communities.

“Many of our members in Chef It Up! are interested in exploring a culinary arts career, so we work to connect them with industry role models,” said Clubhouse Director Carlos Velazquez. He continued, “Not surprisingly, the judges themselves often find the event to be a fulfilling and rewarding experience that is bustling with wonderful boy energy.”

The cooking part of the competition will last a total of 60 minutes. Judges are encouraged to walk around to observe the competing teams of chefs beginning at the 30-minute mark. Just like a battle-chef television show, the chefs will answer a judge’s questions about their technique, ingredients, or entrée without wasting a precious minute of slicing, dicing, and sautéing. The competition will conclude after each team presents their plated entrée to the judging panel with a 2-minute presentation, where their dishes are tasted and a winner is chosen. In Chef It Up!, members of all ages build healthy eating habits and gain technical kitchen skills as they learn to cook a well-balanced meal.

This year’s competition will be take place at BCNY’s Harriman Clubhouse (287 East 10th Street on the Lower East Side) on Saturday, March 23, from 1:00pm-3:00pm. Three teams of 10-, 11-, and 12-year-olds (in grades five through seven) will battle for the coveted honor of being named Culinary King.

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About the Boys' Club of New York

Founded in 1876, the Boys' Club of New York (BCNY) empowers boys and young men by providing effective programs and a supportive community. BCNY accomplishes this by offering programs in music and arts, social and recreational activities, mentoring, academic support, and athletics. We deliver enriching afterschool programs to hundreds of boys each day at our three clubhouse locations in East Harlem, Flushing, and the Lower East Side for an annual membership fee of \$5 a year.