What is Restaurant Youth Registered Apprenticeship?

The Restaurant Youth Registered Apprenticeship (RYRA) aims to connect young people to the nation's second-largest private-sector employer—restaurants—through industry apprenticeships like Restaurant Management and Line Cook, and complementary services that support growth and achievement.

RYRA is offered in Colorado, Delaware, Louisiana, and Maryland. The program partners with State Restaurant Associations, ProStart and Restaurant Ready programs, education and training providers, and supportive service providers, among others.

Restaurant Management apprentices gain skills in restaurant leadership, operations, financial management, and marketing. Line Cook apprentices learn hard culinary skill sets, food safety and sanitation knowledge, and the fundamentals of inventory and supply management.

The National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation’s (NRAEF) mission of service to the public is dedicated to enhancing the industry’s training and education, career development and community engagement efforts.

The NRAEF and its programs attract people from all backgrounds to find a home in our industry, empower individuals to explore and chart their own path to success, and advance the careers of the people we employ to make a positive impact across the country.

Made possible, in part, through a Youth Apprenticeship Readiness Grant from the U.S. Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration.
What is apprenticeship?

The NRAEF apprenticeship program provides both new and current restaurant and foodservice employees the opportunity to advance their careers and move into higher paying positions. Funded by the U.S. Department of Labor, apprenticeship is a win-win for both the employee and their company.

Apprentices participate in an “earn-while-you-learn” competency-based program involving on-the-job training and classroom work. As each skill and competency is mastered, apprentices advance in the program until all competencies are documented and completed.

What are the benefits of apprenticeship?

FOR EMPLOYERS:
- Reduce turnover costs
- Increase productivity
- Create a more skilled, diverse and competitive workforce
- Customized support to create an apprenticeship program that meets each employer’s needs

FOR APPRENTICES:
- Earn while you learn
- Access to nationally recognized credentials from the restaurant industry and the USDOL
- An affordable alternative to a four-year degree, without resulting in a six-figure college loan
- Gain front of the house and back of the house knowledge
- Access to a sustainable career path, promotion, and leadership opportunities

What is my role in RYRA?

ProStart Schools and Restaurant Ready Partners
- Connect and enroll participants in ProStart and Restaurant Ready pre-apprenticeship programs to Registered Apprenticeship Programs
- Support participants in achievement of educational degrees and industry credentials (e.g. high school diploma, GED, ServSafe, etc.)

Training Instructors
- Provide related training instruction on the job, through an online platform, or with a post-secondary provider

WIOA service providers
- Supplement apprenticeship training with supportive services (e.g. transportation assistance, childcare resources, GED classes, healthcare, food security, etc.)

Employers
- Employ, train, advance, and retain apprentices in industry-related employment