



Why should I join?

Recently, when recruiting for our chapter, I was asked the question, “*why should I join the ACF Chicago Chefs?*” “*What is the ROI (Return On Investment) for myself and the company I work for?*”

Our mission. The ACF Chicago Chefs represent all who learn, practice and craft the art of gastronomy in greater Chicago. As one of the fastest-growing chapters of the American Culinary Federation, we uphold the highest standards of cooking while supporting a vibrant culinary community through education, professional development and promoting the renowned foodways that make Chicago the envy of the world.

Difference maker. The ACF forever changed the culinary industry in 1976 when it elevated the position of Executive Chef from service status to professional status in the United States Department of Labor's Dictionary of Official Titles (DOT). The culinary industry and our organization have grown tremendously since this shift.

Find a Mentor. A mentor is one of the best ways to learn about our hospitality industry. You too can find a Mentor by going to our online site, <https://chefs-table.acfchefs.org/home> Chefs-Table and signing up then go to the Mentor link or if you would like to Mentor, you can sign up for that as well.

Find a job. Employers frequently advertise job openings through our organization This early access to opportunities, combined with our large professional network, ensures that professionals find the best fit for them. Our link is <https://acfchicagochefs.org/classifieds.php?type=job> and for the ACF national job board, the link is <https://jobs.acfchefs.org/jobseekers/>

The ACF provides certifications, online courses, conferences, educational opportunities with chapters, and other resources to our members in order to keep us up to date on the latest industry innovations, research, and trends which is a great competitive advantage in the workplace.

Networking. Professional networking, provided by our chapter, provides an opportunity to meet new people with similar interests, which is an excellent way to move forward with your career.

To our members, we are accomplishing great things as a chapter and as an organization, and the work we do is important. So, when questioned about your membership and why you belong, remember what we have accomplished and lean on your chapter for support. Allow them to fuel your desire to succeed.

"At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us." -- Albert Schweitzer

Have I answered the question, “*Why should I join?*” If yes, and you are not yet a member, go to the following link https://acfchicagochefs.org/downloads/Membership_Information/acf_chicago_chefs_membershipapplication.pdf

Sincerely,

Don Zajac, President

ACF Chicago Chefs

