

State of Vermont House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 239

Offered by All Members of the House

House concurrent resolution congratulating the winning teams at the 18th annual Jr Iron Chef VT culinary extravaganza

Whereas, Jr Iron Chef VT, convened most recently on March 14, 2026, at the Champlain Valley Exposition, provides an ideal opportunity to promote the agricultural, economic, educational, and nutritional benefits of Vermont's Farm to School initiative, while the aspiring chefs learn the importance of collaboration and explore a potential career option, and

Whereas, since 2008, over 5,000 secondary school students cooking on more than 1,000 teams have competed, and, in 2026, 55 teams consisting of 253 students and representing 37 schools or organizations participated, and

Whereas, each team, competing in either a middle school or high school cohort, vied for three honors: Lively Local, recognizing the team that best highlighted Vermont foods; Mise en Place, showcasing the team that exhibited exemplary teamwork, order, and professionalism; and Crowd Pleaser, bestowing credit on the team that best incorporated color, texture, and taste, and the award recipients, including their school name, team name, and culinary creations, in 2026 were as follows:

Lively Local: Mary Hogan School, Gourmet Hawks, Vermont country risotto with maple cream and black currant compote; First Branch Middle School, Deviled Chefs, curry-flavored fettucine; and Mt. Mansfield Union High School, MMU Wild Pestonians, pesto fettuccine with portobello mushrooms, caramelized onions, and lemon ricotta;

Mise en Place: Mt. Abraham Unified School District Expanded Learning Program, Bald Eagles, three-cheese ravioli with oven-roasted tomato sauce; Derby Elementary School, Sweet Heats, BLT tamales with pickle pesto and sweet heat sauce; and Lake Region Union High School, Roger's Raccoons, "Raccoons Gone Curry-ous"; and

Crowd Pleaser: Albert D. Lawton Intermediate School, ADL PMO casserole with hot honey; Winooski Middle School, Wild Chives, "Cafeteria Gone Wild Corn Dogs"; and Champlain Valley Union High School, the Llinis, sweet potato tortellini with miso butter sauce, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the winning teams at the 18th annual Jr Iron Chef VT culinary extravaganza, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to each winning team and to Vermont Afterschool.