

Press Release

For immediate release

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***Cooking Up Inspiration: Exmoor Young Chef 2024 Competition
Launches to Empower Culinary Talent***

Celebrating its third year, Visit Exmoor is proud to announce the launch of its Exmoor Young Chef 2024 competition. This initiative aims to shine a spotlight on the vibrant opportunities within the hospitality industry and inspire aspiring young chefs aged 12-17 to pursue their culinary passions.

Professional chefs from the area will be igniting enthusiasm by visiting local schools, engaging with students about the competition, and sharing insights into rewarding careers in hospitality. Furthermore, they will provide mentorship to finalists, guiding them in refining their menu creations and honing their culinary skills for the competition. Applications will undergo evaluation by an expert panel, with up to 10 finalists selected to showcase their talents.

Finalists will have the exhilarating opportunity to captivate judges with their meticulously crafted locally sourced, three-course menu at West Somerset College, Minehead, on Saturday, October 5, 2024.

The Exmoor Young Chef competition stands as a testament to collaboration, with esteemed partners such as Bidfood, Rotary Club Minehead, Exmoor National Park, Bridgewater & Taunton Colleges, and Butlins, among others, joining forces to support and elevate young people and their culinary talent.

Visit Exmoor spearheads a collaborative effort among industry experts across Exmoor, West Somerset, and the coast to establish the Centre of Excellence for Hospitality. Somerset-based food writer, restaurant critic, and broadcaster William Sitwell is an avid supporter of this initiative.

Werner Hartholt, Development Chef of Butlins said: 'The Exmoor Young Chef competition is so important to the area because it connects young people with one of the main industries. Exmoor has so much to offer in the form of employment in hospitality and having local chefs coach and mentor the

young people, showcases not only the quality of the larder we have available on our doorstep but also the level of skill and professionalism.

Reflecting on her triumph as last year's winner, Katrina shared "Entering the Exmoor Young chef of the Year competition was such an enjoyable experience; I got the chance to have a local chef be my mentor which was a great opportunity to improve my skills and learn new techniques relevant to my dishes. The day of the competition was very nerve racking as it was my first ever cooking competition and I didn't really know what to expect but everyone was so friendly and supportive, and it was great to see the other contestants ideas and completed dishes, as well as the large variety fo local produce available in the Exmoor area. Winning Exmoor young chef 2023 has provided me new options for my future career, as well as giving me the confidence and oppurtunity to enter the Rotary Young Chef of the Year competition which until taking part in the Exmoor competition I would never have even contemplated doing."

Full details of the 2024 Exmoor Young Chef competition and application forms can be found here <https://www.visit-exmoor.co.uk/business-hub/centre-of-excellence/events>. The deadline for applications is June 30, 2024.

For inquiries, please reach out to Max Lawrence at businesssupport@visit-exmoor.co.uk.

Ends.

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