

Start a New Chapter in Your Hometown

Chef Cooperatives is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. As the Chef Cooperatives expands its network, we become stronger and more capable of assisting local farms, ranches, communities and fellow chefs in other cities, states and even countries.

As chefs, we believe our calling is to feed others in need and to help others do the same. We are passionate about supporting the local farms, ranches and vintners who are the foundation of what we do as chefs. We host dedicated events to raise funds and awareness for these independent businesses, assist at established fundraising events such as Dress For Success (want to list others?), and provide help during natural disasters.

When Hurricane Harvey hit in August of 2017, the Chef Cooperatives founding chapter in San Antonio was able to mobilize quickly and rush to the aid of Victoria, Texas. Our Chefs called on their resources, bringing down thousands of dollars worth of product and other necessities. We were able to serve thousands of meals a day when there was nowhere else to turn for a warm meal and momentary respite from the disaster. Chef Cooperatives was on the scene before other national and regional response teams such as The National Guard and HEB.

Chapter Guidelines - What You Need to Know

- Only one Chef Cooperatives chapter can be established in each city.
- At least two fundraising events must be held each year to maintain your chapter status.
- Although you can operate under the Chef Cooperatives Headquarters' nonprofit 501(c)(3) status, each chapter, once approved by Headquarters, must obtain an EIN (federal tax I.D. number) and submit this information to Headquarters. Each chapter is responsible for filing their own taxes.
- The new chapter must establish a social media presence (i.e. "Chef Cooperatives Chicago" Facebook Page)
- The interested group must **Select Their Membership Type** (as link – info for page below), print and fill out the **Chapter Petition** (link) and **Application** (link) and submit completed PDF files to chefcooperatives@gmail.com. The petition must include a minimum of 5 chefs.
- The potential chapter must organize its board and inform Chef Cooperatives' Headquarters of the names of officers. The board of directors should include a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and one additional board member.
- The interested group must contact any nearby chapters as a way of developing communications with others in the region. Other chapters are an important source of information and best practices.
- Headquarters will send membership brochures and a variety of other materials to encourage membership.

- Once all requirements are met, the group is granted provisional chapter status. The headquarters will send sample bylaws for the provisional chapter to use as reference in drawing up its own bylaws. Headquarters will also send proof of Chef Cooperatives' 501(c)(3) status, two copies of the chapter affiliation agreement to be signed. One copy must be kept by the chapter, the other returned to headquarters.
- The chapter files for incorporation (often possible with an attorney willing to work *pro bono*) and tax exempt status within its state.
- The national office reviews and approves the provisional chapter's bylaws.
- The provisional chapter organizes its own events and recruitment activities. Headquarters may send materials and publications for distribution and display.
- Upon notification of the chapter's federal employer identification number, the national office includes the new chapter in its group exemption plan. This occurs in June each year; if these requirements are met after June, the new chapter is included in the following year's group exemption.
- The chapter sends at least one board member to the annual leadership event, held each May/June; includes the national office on its mailing list for events; provides program summaries prior to the leadership event; and in general communicates with headquarters about chapter activities. The chapter is encouraged to develop and maintain its own website using resources provided by the national organization.
- Headquarters communicates with chapter presidents and local board members through monthly virtual conference meetings and periodic calls to individual chapter leaders.
- You must use our preferred vendors for press releases, online ticket sales and grant writing, unless otherwise agreed upon. List to be provided.

Get Started

We invite you to galvanize your own community of chefs and start a local chapter today!

To initiate a chapter, please take the following steps:

- An interested group of chefs must submit the following:
 - **Chapter Petition** (link to word doc/pdf, provided as separate file):
 - Once your Chapter Petition is approved, please **Determine your Membership Type** (link) and **Pay Here** (Paypal link). Please note, if you are unable to use PayPal, please contact us and we can make alternate arrangements.
- Please note, this process has the potential to take weeks and requires time and energy from the group's leadership team. But when complete, it affects your community in highly significant and meaningful ways. If you have further questions, please email us at chefcooperatives@gmail.com.

Select Your Membership Type

The Chef Cooperatives is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that offers several different membership levels, depending on your role and culinary interest.

A Chapter affiliate operates similarly to a franchise. The new organization obtains an EIN (federal tax I.D. number), submits to the parent organization (Headquarters), who then files with the IRS to cover the new organization under the group exemption of the parent.

You will receive five free Professional Memberships for your Board of Directors. We accept only one chapter per city. You must complete and comply with the Chef Cooperatives Articles of Incorporation. Again, you must complete at least two events per year to benefit a farm or local charity of your choice.

Chef Cooperatives - New Chapter (one-time fee)

Description: This initial fee covers the cost of establishing your new chapter, and includes the annual professional fee of the first five board members. Additional members will be required to pay their membership fee, as listed below.

Fee: \$1,200

Chef Cooperatives - Professional Membership

Description: A Professional is a person with at least 3-5 years of full time employment in the culinary profession. Must hold title of Executive Chef or Chef.

Fee: \$125 Professional Annual Dues

Chef Cooperatives – Culinarian Membership

Description A Culinarian is a culinary professional with a minimum of 6 month to three years of culinary experience. Must be able to help volunteer for two events per year.

Fee: \$50

Chef Cooperatives – Student Culinarian Membership

Description: A Student Culinarian is a person interested or involved in the culinary industry who has fewer than two years of work experience at the time of joining. Must be able to volunteer for two events per year.

Fee: \$25

Chef Cooperatives - Junior Culinarian Membership

Description: A Junior Culinarian is a high school student between 16-18 years of age. Must be able to volunteer for two events per year.

Fee: \$15

Chef Cooperatives - Associate Membership

Description: Any group, corporation or company that provides products or services within the culinary industry and wishes to support the Chef Cooperatives' mission.

Fee: \$250