

Press Release
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KC RESTAURANT

FESTIVAL

CELEBRATING THE LOCAL RESTAURANT



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Kansas City Restaurant Festival returns for its 6th Year, celebrating the warriors behind KC's food scene.

KANSAS CITY, Kan. –

The people who keep Kansas City fed are getting their own day.



The Kansas City Restaurant Festival returns for its sixth year on Wednesday, October 7, 2026, from 2-6 p.m. at the Children's Mercy Park concourse, bringing together the chefs, line cooks, bartenders, servers, bussers, owners, managers, and suppliers who power one of the city's most essential industries.

Part industry showcase, part hard-earned celebration, the festival has earned a reputation for what organizers call a **"mullet" approach: business in the front, party in the back.**

Restaurants can discover supply-chain solutions, local sourcing opportunities, savings, rebates, equipment, beverage ideas, distributor partners, and new ingredients – then stay for the music, games, prizes, local cocktails, beer, trendy foods, and the kind of connection that only happens when the whole industry gets in one place - all for free for anyone in the restaurant and hospitality industry.

Co-sponsored by Scavuzzo's Inc. and Liberty Fruit, the event was created to honor the grit, moxie, and heart of Kansas City's restaurant community.

"Post-pandemic, one thing became undeniable: this industry is made of warriors," said Steve Scavuzzo, Scavuzzo's Foodservice, "The festival is meant to be a local anchor – a way to give back, support area restaurants, and show that we want to see them succeed."

That mission comes to life through the festival's Restaurant Warrior Tip-Outs, which recognize individuals who call a kitchen, bar, or dining room their second home. In its first four years, **the festival tipped out 43 Restaurant Warriors and plans to honor 5 more in 2026, bringing the total given back to local industry professionals to \$48,000. Along with new additional awards set aside for culinary education this year!**

Anyone currently working in the restaurant industry may attend, register, and nominate a Restaurant Warrior. Nominations are open through September 26, 2026.

The festival also highlights a growing priority for Kansas City restaurants: **buying local.** Organizers say one of the biggest barriers to local sourcing is simply not knowing what is available. **KC Restaurant Festival connects restaurants with local, family-owned, independently operated companies across the foodservice supply chain.**

"This is about celebrating the people behind the plate – and strengthening the local network that supports them," said Scavuzzo.

Who's invited: Anyone currently working in the restaurant industry and their team

When: Wednesday, October 7, 2026, 2-6 p.m.

Where: Children's Mercy Park Concourse

Co-sponsored by: Scavuzzo's Inc. and Liberty Fruit

Restaurants, foodservice teams, and industry professionals are encouraged to register, nominate a Restaurant Warrior, and join the celebration of Kansas City's hospitality community.



www.kcrestaurantfestival.com

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Additional Questions:
Please Contact:

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