



COLORADO
SCHOOL
NUTRITION
ASSOCIATION

Feeding Bodies. Fueling Minds.™

Feb - Mar 2024 Newsletter

Healthy Bites

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SAVE THE DATES:

- CSNA Summer Conf
June 11-13, 2024
Loveland, CO
- ANC
July 14-16, 2024
Boston, MA
- CSNA Industry Seminar
October 2-4, 2024
Westin Riverfront

CSNA Members and Valued Industry Partners,

Registration is open! Join the Colorado School Nutrition Association, the CDE Office of School Nutrition, and the Colorado Department of Human Services for Colorado's premier energizing and educational event of the year! The CSNA Summer Conference will return to the Embassy Suites in Loveland, Colorado for two days of educational sessions, keynote speakers, engaging exhibits, and networking events, June 12-13, 2024.



To kick off the Summer Conference, we will offer a variety of Pre-Conference sessions, Serv Safe, and the School Nutrition Specialist (SNS) Credentialing Exam on Tuesday, June 11th. Note: If you are interested in attending PreCons, please ensure you select the sessions during your registration.

This year's theme *Diverse Plates Diverse Minds* will focus on belonging, finding your place within our cafeterias, and expanding our mindsets. We will also take time to dig into HSMA, local procurement best practices and all that is to come in the 24-25 school year.

We are excited to bring you an agenda with engaging and informative breakout sessions, a food and equipment show with the latest products to help us reach for what is possible, and exciting networking events including our annual viewing of this year's One Plate Chef's Challenge.

We can't wait to see you all in June! Conference details and information can be found on our [website](#).

Register today!

Sarah Grunow, RDN, SNS
CSNA President-Elect and Conference Chair 2023-24



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SNS Exam Virtual Study Sessions

SNS Study Sessions are starting soon for 2024!

See below flyer for details/ dates and [RSVP](#) today if you plan to attend.

Note: If you do plan to take the exam this summer you MUST [register](#) for the exam directly with SNA.

SNS Study Guide Sessions

Are you interested in joining a virtual study group with content experts to lead the discussion? See the below calendar for upcoming study sessions.



RSVP

April
02 SNS Introduction
2:00-3:30 PM



April
09 Financial Management &
Resolving Financial
Problems
2:00-3:30 PM

April
16 Technology & Marketing
2:00-3:30 PM



April
23 Procurement & Inventory
Control
2:00-3:00 PM



May
02 Food Service Management
& Wellness Policies
2:30-3:30 PM

May
07 Food Safety
2:30-3:30 PM

May
16 Managing, Ordering, Food
Production & Service
2:00-3:30 PM



May
21 Nutrition & Menu Planning
2:00-3:30 PM

May
30 Personnel & Staffing
2:00-3:30 PM

June
04 Test Review
2:00-3:30 PM



June
11 Test Day!



For more information on SNS credentialing,
and to apply for the exam, visit:
schoolnutrition.org



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LAC 2024

An amazing group from Colorado attend LAC earlier this month. Congratulations again to our scholarship winners, Tia Bernard, Lori Farley, Nicole Matkowsky, Kris Simmons, and Theresa Spires.



"Leading is more than sharing a vision and being optimistic. It's more than talking and thinking. It's also about investing in relationships, bringing out the best in others, coaching, encouraging, serving, caring, and being someone that your team can trust."
- Jon Gordon

A Star in Your Role

So much about leadership and what determines the success or failure of a team is a leader's ability to bring out the best in others.

Having a successful team is not so much about know-how and experience as it is about developing the know-how, finding out what people's strengths are, putting people in a position to succeed, and supporting everyone's best.

Believe it or not, a team full of managers with a ton of experience and knowledge might not be the most productive group.

We need people who are great at organizing spaces, and others who are fast and efficient at food prep. We need some who are meticulous with the details, and others who see the bigger picture. We need our tech-savvy friends and our people-savvy pros. We need the right people doing what they do best in the right roles.



**NEVER
GIVE UP**

The Question Becomes:

Is the leader someone who is willing to put in the work to find and develop the star potential that lies within us all?





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COLORADO LOCAL FOOD PROGRAM GUIDEBOOK

The [Colorado Local Food Program Guidebook](#), provided by Nourish Colorado, is an online resource for school meal operators, agricultural producers, and school and community members. The Guidebook provides insights and tools for launching, implementing, and sustaining farm to school programs. It is full of custom-designed resources based off of a decade plus of working side-by-side with School Meal Operators, listening to their needs, leading trainings to support their efforts, and now, turning that training content into tangible and digestible resources. We also spent years working closely with Agricultural Producers around the State to better understand their needs when it comes to accessing School Market Channels. Everything in this website is a direct representation of these deep relationships and the best part is - we have the ability to keep adding content and links to other resources! Currently - we are adding Spanish versions of every resource in! [if your audience is wider than CO - While there is content specific to Colorado, many of these resources are relevant for other states to reference and utilize.] Thank you to all of our funders who supported the launch of this website: Instacart, Rose Community Foundation, The Rockefeller Foundation, Gates Family Foundation, Donnell Kay Foundation and a Blueprint to End Hunger HSMA Grant!

A PROJECT OF NOURISH COLORADO

FARM TO SCHOOL IN COLORADO RESOURCES ABOUT US  COLORADO LOCAL FOOD PROGRAM GUIDEBOOK  SUPPORT THE GUIDEBOOK

KIDS WIN. PRODUCERS WIN. COMMUNITIES WIN.

The Colorado Local Food Program Guidebook, provided by Nourish Colorado, is an online resource for school meal operators, agricultural producers, and school and community members. The Guidebook provides insights and tools for launching, implementing, and sustaining farm to school programs.

We recommend exploring The Guidebook by taking the short quiz below. First, it will ask you to identify what Role you fall under or the Role you are interested in learning more about.





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School Lunch Hero Day

When we say school nutrition professionals are heroes, we mean it! That's why we celebrate them every spring with the annual School Lunch Hero Day. Join schools across the country that are recognizing the difference these team members make for every child who comes through their cafeteria.

School Lunch Hero Day will be celebrated on May 3, 2024.

Not All Heroes Wear Capes

Stop by any cafeteria to watch school nutrition professionals prepare healthy meals for students—all the while adhering to strict nutrition standards, navigating student food allergies, and offering service with a smile—and you'll see they are true heroes!

How Do I Celebrate? (And Why Should I?)

Your school absolutely can (and should) celebrate SLHD. It's a way of recognizing the efforts your team shows every day to provide healthy meals to students—not only preparing food but also serving it with a smile and kind word, encouraging children to try new things and get all the nutrients their growing bodies need.

Need ideas on ways to make SLHD special? Try these ideas...

- Write to your school district's leaders and have SLHD made official. Spread the word to every school within your district.
- Hang signs around the school celebrating the school nutrition staff.
- Ask teachers to have their classes make cards for the foodservice staff.
- Surprise your teams by decorating the cafeterias.
- Give your team a shoutout on social media. Single out each staff member in their own post and share what makes them an integral and important part of the team.

For more celebration ideas, visit [Ways to Celebrate SLHD](#)

**SCHOOL LUNCH
HERO DAY**

Celebrate your heroes!
May 3, 2024



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CSNA 2023-24 Industry Members

Thank you for Investing in CSNA

Patron Members



Sustainer Members

