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Teen bakers wanted: StartUp Spokane and River City Kitchen seeking participants for inaugural Great Startup Bakeoff competition and baked goods market

(Spokane, WA) – StartUp Spokane and River City Kitchen will host a weekend of innovation, entrepreneurship, and deliciousness at the first-ever Great Startup Bakeoff Friday, May 31 - Sunday, June 2, 2024; participant registration is now open!

Over the course of two days, 50 young entrepreneurs ages 14-18 will form 10 different teams, each tasked with planning, marketing, and creating their own culinary masterpieces to be showcased at the Baked Goods Market on Sunday, June 2 from 12-3pm at Central Library.

“We wanted to create an event that not only provides valuable entrepreneurial skills like working within a budget, creating a Cost of Goods Sold (COGS), and marketing, but we also wanted to create an opportunity for participants to gain valuable experience working in teams and creating community,” said Clay Cerna, Owner of River City Kitchen, and the visionary behind the Great Startup Bakeoff.

Inspired by the success of Spark’s Weekend, where entrepreneurs, innovators, and creators converge to build the foundation for a business in just three days, Clay Cerna conceived the Great Startup Bakeoff as a way to ignite the entrepreneurial spirit in Spokane’s culinary world.

The event kicks off with teams being formed around a product idea and given a budget to work with. With guidance from industry experts, these participants will decide on their product lineup, ranging from bread to cakes to cookies and everything in between with just five ingredients or less. Whichever team generates the most profit by selling their creations at the Baked Goods Market on Sunday will win the competition! However, win or lose, all teams will keep the money they earned, providing a tangible reward for their hard work and creativity.

The first Great Startup Bakeoff will launch to ages 14-18 with plans to expand to adults later in the year.

“The skills we practice in this bakeoff are invaluable for anyone looking to start or grow a culinary business regardless of age,” said Cerna. “We plan to host another Great Startup Bakeoff in the winter open to all ages celebrating the holiday season.”

Bakers between the ages of 14-18 are encouraged to register online at https://www.greatstartupbakeoff.com as soon as possible. Registration is $50 per participant for the entire weekend. Participants must have Food Worker Card. Limited spots are available.
About StartUp Spokane

StartUp Spokane is an entrepreneurial collaboration between Spokane Public Library and Spokane County Library District providing free access to business resources. Established in 2012 by Greater Spokane Incorporated and acquired in 2023 by Spokane Public Library and Spokane County Library District, it serves as a vital hub for impactful events, essential resources, and valuable networking opportunities. Learn more at https://startupspokane.com.

About River City Kitchen

River City Kitchen is an incubator kitchen established in 2019 for startup and established food businesses. Whether your business is catering, a food truck, farmers market, bakery, or anything that requires you to have a commercial kitchen, we have space for you! Learn more at https://www.rivercitykitchen.com.