



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE – OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL
DIPLOMATIC CULINARY PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE
Setting the Table for Diplomacy

“Showcasing favorite cuisines, ceremonies and values is an often overlooked and powerful tool of diplomacy. The meals that I share with my counterparts at home and abroad cultivate a stronger cultural understanding between countries and offer a unique setting to enhance the formal diplomacy we conduct every day.”

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State

MISSION STATEMENT

The Diplomatic Culinary Partnerships initiative builds on Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton’s vision of “smart power” diplomacy, which embraces the use of a full range of diplomatic tools, by utilizing food, hospitality and the dining experience as ways to enhance how formal diplomacy is conducted, cultivating cultural understanding and strengthening bilateral relationships through the shared experience of food.

OBJECTIVES

- **ENHANCE FORMAL DIPLOMACY** by elevating the quality of food preparation, presentation and service at official U.S. State Department functions through the use of public-private partnerships with renowned chefs and other resources from the culinary field
- **CULTIVATE CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING** by sharing the American culinary culture abroad and with visiting dignitaries at home and using food as a foundation for public diplomacy programs to learn about different cultures and discuss important related issues such as nutrition, sustainability and food security
- **STRENGTHEN BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS** by using food and the dining experience in a thoughtful and purposeful way to engage dignitaries, further dialogue and reinforce diplomatic messages

PROGRAMS

- **AMERICAN CHEF CORPS:** The American Chef Corps is a network of chefs around the country that participate in a number of official U.S. government programs that use food as a foundation for public diplomacy efforts at home and abroad. Examples of programs that chefs can become involved in include:
 - The U.S. Department of State's **International Information Programs** office links traveling chefs with U.S. embassies and foreign audiences abroad to engage in public diplomacy programs such as cooking demonstrations, roundtables and other speaking engagements.
 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's **Foreign Agriculture Service** collaborates with chefs and industry partners to promote American agricultural products in foreign markets and educate foreign consumers about the quality, benefits and proper preparation of U.S. agricultural products.
 - The U.S. Department of State's **Educational and Cultural Affairs** bureau sponsors the International Visitor Leadership Program, a professional exchange that invites emerging foreign leaders to the United States. One upcoming exchange program is focused on culinary arts professionals from around the world. American chefs are encouraged to conduct and participate in a number of educational opportunities to share and discuss America's rich culinary culture.

- **STATE CHEFS:** In many ways, the Department of State is the home of American diplomacy and our Presidents, Vice Presidents and Secretaries of States have used its famous Diplomatic Reception Rooms to host and entertain foreign leaders for decades. A select group of chefs are enlisted each year to collaborate on high profile State Department events and create special meals for these historic occasions.

NEXT STEPS

- **LAUNCH:** Ambassador Capricia Penavic Marshall, Chief of Protocol and Ms. Susan Ungaro, President of the James Beard Foundation will host a reception to celebrate the launch of the Diplomatic Culinary Partnerships initiative and announce the partnership between the U.S. Department of State and the James Beard Foundation on Friday, September 7, 2012 in Washington, D. C.

- **CHEFS:** Chefs that are interested in joining the American Chef Corps or State Chef programs and participating in the September 7th event should contact culinarydiplomacy@state.gov or 202-647-1144 for more information.

- **PARTNERS:** The Diplomatic Culinary Partnerships Program is made possible through the financial sponsorship of private partners and entities. If your company or organization is interested in sponsoring the September 7th event or becoming a partner in this exciting initiative, please contact Natalie Jones at 202-647-1144.

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