



Orange County Gingerbread House Contest Rules

- Open to residents of Orange County, VA or members/employees of a business or organization which is physically located in Orange County, VA. Group entries are permitted. This contest is hosted by Orange County Parks & Recreation in partnership with The Arts Center in Orange.
- Contest Timeline:
 - Online entry forms must be submitted by Nov. 30, 2023. Houses must be delivered to The Arts Center in Orange by Dec. 1, 2023. Houses will be displayed for voting and judging Dec. 2nd – 16th. Winners will be announced on or about Dec. 21, 2023.
- Basics:
 - The structure should be delivered to the showcase location (The Arts Center in Orange) by Friday, December 1, 2023.
 - You are solely responsible for transportation of the structure.
 - If you choose to deliver after the 1st, be aware that other entries will be on display longer and therefore may receive more people's choice contributions.
 - You may submit more than one entry.
 - If necessary, the contest may be divided into professional (restaurant, bakery, caterer, etc.) and amateur divisions and/or homemade vs. store-bought kit divisions. In this event, professionals will be eligible to win titles of 1st, 2nd, or 3rd, and People's Choice and will be awarded trophies and/or certificates, but any actual prizes (such as gift cards, sponsor prizes, etc.) will be awarded only to the winners of the amateur division. The decision to divide the contest will be based upon the number of entries received and whether there is a significant number of entries from professional sources.
 - By entering this contest, you grant permission for Orange County Parks & Recreation and The Arts Center in Orange to take photographs and use any pictures for any lawful program-related or promotional purposes.
- Size & Construction:
 - Your gingerbread structure should be small enough to fit on a 2'x 2' base (not provided). There is no practical restriction on height, but it must be able to get through a standard door and stand upright once indoors.
 - Your gingerbread structure is not required to be edible. However, judges may consider the proportion of edible vs. inedible components, and most of the exterior should be made of gingerbread.
- Theme & Display:
 - There is no set theme. Be creative! That said, all entries must be appropriate, there should be nothing vulgar or explicit included as part of your entry. You may include a small sign, describing your entry (but not entrant names), on the base.
 - Your structure must be delivered to The Arts Center in Orange on December 1, 2023, for the display period (Dec. 2 - 16, 2023). The public will be able to vote for their favorite during this time on site.
 - Following the awards, you are responsible for picking up your entry if you would like it returned; otherwise, it will be disposed of following the contest. If desired by both parties, the display location can continue to display the house longer.
- Judging:
 - Official judges will pick the overall winners (1st, 2nd, 3rd) of the contest, with the entry receiving the most votes through the public vote being awarded "People's Choice." Superlative awards will also be selected. Awards will be announced on or about Dec. 21, 2023.
 - People's choice will be decided by a simple count of ballots delivered in one of the gingerbread ballot boxes.
 - Superlative award winners will receive a certificate recognizing their entry. Superlative categories may include (but is not limited to) the following: Funniest, Cutest, Best Kit Structure, and Best Homemade Structure. These awards are optional extras and will only be awarded if clearly selected by the judges.
 - Judges will score based upon the following criteria: construction, creativity, and appearance. The highest possible score from a single judge will be equal to the total number of entries received. For example, if there were 8 entries, then 8 would be highest possible score in a category. The next best will get one point lower, and so on. The lowest possible score will be 1. Judges may not have ties in their scoring within a single category. The total score for an entry will be the sum of each category's score. Ties will be broken using the appearance category.
- Prizes:
 - Prizes will be provided by our event sponsors.
 - Prizes will be awarded to the top 3 entries as decided by the judges and the People's Choice winner. If one of the judge's selections also wins People's Choice, they will receive both prizes.
 - If a group enters the contest, the prizes will be awarded to the group, not individuals. For example, a group of 3 won't get 3 sets of identical prizes, they will get 1 set to divide amongst themselves.
 - As stated above, if the contest requires separation into amateur and professional divisions, only the amateur division winners will receive the prizes (but the professional winners will still receive recognition as 1st, 2nd, or 3rd). Professionals will be recognized with certificates and/or trophies.