

Gingerbread House Contest & Show

Rules for 2026

1. Entry must reflect the history and culture of America. An entry can be a historic site, iconic landmark or monument, event, person/people, or a place connected to America's story.
2. Entry must be original - no gingerbread kits allowed.
3. Entry must have **MAJOR** components, such as roof & walls, made of gingerbread (no graham crackers, cookies, etc.).
4. All components must be edible. For example, all foil or plastic wrapped candies must be unwrapped; lollipops cannot have paper or plastic stems. **NO** perishable food items can be used in the making of the entry.
5. The dominant feature of the entry must be a minimum of **7" high by 8" wide**. Entry cannot exceed 26" in height.
6. Entry must be freestanding and attached to a plywood base that is **NO bigger than 24" long x 18" wide**. The plywood base must be completely concealed with an edible product; however, the sides of the base do not have to be concealed. We suggest attaching a pretty ribbon around the sides of the base.
7. An electric or battery-powered lighting component may be added to an entry.
8. Entry must have been constructed in 2026.
9. The Museum reserves the right not to display an entry, if the entry is not considered of show quality.
10. Before the entries are put on display, a panel of judges will award ribbons and gift cards in each of the three divisions. All entries will be judged on **Originality/Creativity, Overall Appearance, Use of Materials, Difficulty of Design, and Precision**.
11. For prize money to be awarded in the Viewer's Choice Competition – a division must have a minimum of five entries.
12. Entry must be delivered to the Museum in completed form on Sunday, November 22, 2026, between 12-3 pm. **Drop-off times will be scheduled in advance. The Museum will contact contestants to schedule.**
13. Entry must be picked up on Sunday, December 13, 2026, at 5 pm (no earlier).

Registration

Participants must register online or via US Mail for the competition by the deadline of **Friday, November 6, 2026**. A registration fee of \$5.00 is due for each entry.