CHRISTMAS IN THE BEND
Gingerbread House Competition 2026
Rules and Registration Form

Friday, December 4, 6-9pm and Saturday, December 5, 10am-2pm
St. John's United Methodist Church
Wendt Hall entrance on 5th Street near Morton Street, Richmond

Guidelines

1. **Design**:
    a. Structures may be realistic or imaginary,
    b. Structures must be able to withstand hours of display.
    c. **All visible pieces must be edible.** *(e.g. savory or sweet items may be used, candies, pretzels, vegetables, dried fruit etc.)*
    d. The **interior structure may be made of non-edible material** as long as it isn't visible. *(e.g. milk or juice cartons, boxes, etc.)*

2. **Categories:**
    - **Individual:**
        - **Children - 3rd-5th**
        - **Children - 6th-8th**
        - **High School - College**
        - **Adult**
        - **Professional (self-identified)**
    - **Group:**
        - **Children – 3rd-5th**
        - **Children – 6th-8th**
        - **High School – College**
        - **Family and Friends**

3. **Type & Size Parameters:**
    - In each category above, the Gingerbread Committee will accept **single structures** and **"village" or group of structures**.
    - Your gingerbread house or houses must be on a solid base no larger than **18 x 24 inches** and no taller than **18 inches.** *(Suggested base materials: cookie sheet, sturdy cardboard, canvas panel, plywood)*

4. **Judging Criteria:**
    a. **Overall Appearance:** neat, good proportions, attractive
    b. **Originality/Creativity**: use of edible materials, originality of style and theme
    c. **Workmanship/Technique**: all visible materials are edible, structure is securely made, decorations are securely attached
    d. **Wow Factor!**

5. **Judging and Awards:**
    a. Judging will take place during Friday's event, December 4
    b. Judges will award 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes for each category that has more than 5 entries. Categories with fewer entries will have 1st place only.
    c. Judges will also award the Judge's Choice Award.
    d. Winners will be notified on Saturday, December 5.
    e. People's Choice Award will be determined through individual votes. Voting will start on Friday and continue through Saturday, 2pm.

Winners in each category will receive a cash prize

6. **Registration cut-off date:** Submit forms to Claire Rogers by midnight on Wednesday, December 2 (claire77406@gmail.com or 832-494-7344)
7. **Gingerbread House drop-off**: 2-5 pm on Friday, December 4, at St. John's United Methodist Church (Wendt Hall entrance on Morton Street across from City Hall)
8. **Gingerbread House pick-up:** 3-4 pm Saturday, December 5, at St. John's UMC (Wendt Hall) ***Please note: Gingerbread Houses not picked up by 4pm on Saturday, Dec 5 will be forfeited. Unfortunately, there can be no exceptions.***

Questions? Contact Claire Rogers, claire77406@gmail.com, 832-494-7344

Gingerbread House Competition Entry Form 2026

Name of individual or group (provide list of names for group members on back)		
Address:		
City:	**State:**	**Zip:**
Contact no.:	**Email address:**	

Categories:

Individual:

- **Children - 3rd-5th** ☐
- **Children - 6th-8th** ☐
- **High School - College** ☐
- **Adult** ☐
- **Professional (self-identified)** ☐

Group:

- **Children – 3rd-5th** ☐
- **Children – 6th-8th** ☐
- **High School & College** ☐
- **Family and Friends** ☐

Media Release:

Competition entry constitutes participant's consent to use their name and photographs of all entries for editorial advertising and publicity purposes. By signing this entry form, I understand and agree to all the rules of this competition.

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Signature: (Parent or guardian if under 18) *** ***Date

**For school entries the teacher may sign on behalf of their students.*