2026 Gingerbread House & Creations Contest

Missouri Valley Public Library • Official Rules & Entry Information

About the Contest

Create a festive gingerbread-inspired display for our community! Traditional entries may depict any structure, while entries in the Alternative Materials category must resemble gingerbread houses. Homemade creations and store-bought kits are welcome.

Contest Categories

- Children (ages 5–12): Traditional all-edible creations.
- Teens (ages 13–17): Traditional all-edible creations.
- Adults (18+): Traditional all-edible creations.
- Families & Groups: Collaborative traditional all-edible creations.
- Alternative Materials (all ages): Nonedible craft materials allowed; the finished creation must look like a gingerbread house.

Construction & Display Rules

- Traditional categories may depict any structure (house, library, castle, barn, or imaginative building). All visible building and decorative materials must be edible.
- Store-bought kits are permitted. For traditional entries, nonedible internal supports are not permitted; a sturdy nonedible display base is allowed if covered with edible materials.
- Alternative Materials entries may use cardboard, paper, clay, wood, fabric, or other craft supplies, but must resemble gingerbread houses.
- Maximum display base: 20 × 20 inches. Entries must be stable, fully assembled before drop-off, and suitable for family viewing.
- Edible entries must use shelf-stable ingredients; no refrigeration, open flames, or powered electrical elements. All entries are for display only and may not be eaten.
- One entry per individual or group. Entrants must provide contact information and collect entries during the announced pickup period.
- The library will handle entries with care but cannot guarantee against damage or deterioration. Photos may be taken of creations for publicity; names will be published only with permission.

Judging & Awards

Traditional categories and Alternative Materials will be judged separately. Suggested criteria: creativity and originality (30 points), overall appearance (25), craftsmanship and detail (25), and effective use of materials (20). A People’s Choice Award is open to all entries. Additional creativity awards may be offered.

2026 Dates

Registration: November 2–25

Drop-off: November 30–December 10

Display & voting: December 11–19

Winners: December 21

Pickup: December 21–30, during library hours

Dates, prizes, and final judging arrangements may be modified as needed.

Contest Entry Form

2026 Gingerbread House & Creations Contest

Entry / creation title: _____

Participant or group name: _____

Parent/guardian name (if participant is a minor): _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Choose one category:

☐ Children (5–12) ☐ Teens (13–17) ☐ Adults (18+)

☐ Families & Groups ☐ Alternative Materials (all ages)

Brief description of your creation (optional):

_____

_____

_____

Permissions & Acknowledgment

☐ I have read and agree to the contest rules, including display, pickup, and handling conditions.

☐ The library may publish my name / group name alongside photos of this entry. (Optional)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Library Use Only

Entry number: _____ Date received: _____ Pickup date: _____

Staff notes: _____

Please attach this form at drop-off. The library will provide an entry number for display.