

2023 Hudson Valley Gingerbread Competition at Mohonk Mountain House Rules and Entry Forms 8th Annual Competition

Entry Form Deadline:

- **Friday, November 10, 2023 at 5:00pm**
(or until available spaces are all filled)

Entry Confirmation:

- **Tuesday, November 14, 2023 by 5:00pm**

Gingerbread Display at Mohonk Mountain House:

- **Tuesday, December 12, 2023 through
Monday, January 1, 2023**

In Person Voting for View's Choice

- **Sunday, December 10, 2023 1:00pm – 3:30pm**

Sunday, December 10, 2023 – Gingerbread Competition

- **Registration and Set up: Parlor**
 - **8:30am–11:00am** – (competitors only)
- **Judging:**
 - **11:30am – 1:00pm**
(closed to the public and competitors)
- **Public Viewing and Viewer's Choice Voting begins:**
 - **1:00pm–5:00pm**
- **Awards Ceremony: Parlor**
 - **4:00pm**

Winner of View's Choice Announced

- **Sunday, December 10, 2023** – Announced at the Award's ceremony.

The following rules and procedures have been set forth and established by Mohonk Mountain House for the 2023 Hudson Valley Gingerbread Competition at Mohonk Mountain House. Please read the rules and procedures carefully and retain for your records. Mohonk Mountain House reserves the right to refuse any entry deemed inappropriate. For additional questions, please email gingerbread@mohonk.com.

ENTRY SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

INDIVIDUAL ENTRY

To be eligible for the competition, a completed Competitor Entry Form must be submitted and received by 5pm on Friday, November 10, 2023 or until available spaces are filled. All correspondence, notifications, and updates regarding the competition will be sent via email to the registered competitor. If the competitor is under the age of 18, a signature from a parent or legal guardian is required for the minor to participate. Competitors will receive a confirmation email containing their entry number upon acceptance of their entry by Tuesday, November 14, 2023. Each participant may only submit one entry. A printed copy of the Entry Description Form and optional photos are due by or at registration on Sunday, December 10, 2023.

TEAM ENTRY

A "team" constitutes two or more people contributing to the entry. To be eligible for the competition, a completed Competitor Entry Form must be submitted and received by 5:00pm on Friday, November 10, 2023. All correspondence, notifications, and updates regarding the competition will be sent via email to the designated Team Captain. Teams must submit one Competitor Entry Form, including only the Team Captain's contact information, along with a Team Entry Form complete with a list of each team member's full name and age. In the case of school groups entering the competition, the classroom teacher should be listed as the team captain and provide his/her contact information. If individuals working on a team entry are of different ages, the team must enter in the appropriate category for the oldest individual in the group. If all team members are under the age of 18, a signature from a parent or legal guardian is required for each minor to participate. In the event a team entry wins a prize, the Team Captain will be the recipient of any prizes. Distribution of the ribbon or the splitting of any prize will be left to the team captain to determine. We are not able to supply ribbons or prizes for each participant. Competitors will receive a confirmation email containing their entry number upon acceptance of their entry. Each participant may only submit one entry. A printed copy of the Entry Description Form and optional photos are due at or by registration on Sunday, December 10, 2023.

ENTRY CATEGORIES

The following categories are open for entry into the 2023 Hudson Valley Gingerbread Competition

- **Adult Category** - 18 years of age and older entering as a single entrant or team.
- **Junior Category** - 10 through 17 years of age entering as a single entrant or team.

ENTRY ACCEPTANCE AND CONFIRMATION

Entries will be accepted on a first come basis. A fixed number of entries will be accepted into each category. Once that category is filled, registration will be closed. Please make sure your Competitor Entry Form is filled out correctly before submitting. Entries will be reviewed as they are received, if there are additional questions a Gingerbread Committee Member will reach out to the competitor or team captain. If the entry is accepted the competitor or team captain will receive confirmation and their entry number by Friday, November 10, 2023.

ENTRY CRITERIA

JUDGING AND CRITERIA

Entries will be judged on A) Overall Appearance, B) Originality & Creativity, C) Difficulty, D) Precision, and E) Consistency of Theme.

There is no required theme for the competition, the entry is not limited to the structure of a house. Competitors are encouraged to use their creativity when designing and constructing their entry, as long as it adheres to the competition rules, procedures, and judging criteria. The theme should be a competitor's own and consistent throughout the entry. Mohonk Mountain House reserves the right to refuse any entry deemed inappropriate. We respectfully ask that the design be appropriate for families with young children.

There must be at least 25% exposed Gingerbread on the entry, the entries with less than 25% of the Gingerbread exposed will be disqualified. The Gingerbread can be painted or dyed, but must clearly be recognizable as Gingerbread. Decorative elements that are handmade will carry more weight than similar prefabricated items, and using store bought kits is strongly discouraged. All rulings by the judges are independent and final. They are in no way influenced by Mohonk Mountain House staff or affiliates. In the event of a tie, the competition Call Judge will be asked to break the tie. Judging will be closed to the public and competitors.

SIZE LIMITATIONS

The entry must be placed on a board base. Combined with a base, the entry must not be larger than 24 inches high, 24 inches wide, and 24 inches long. We suggest using a plywood as a base for your entry. The usage of pegs or risers on the bottom of the base may be used, but is not required. If you wish to install pegs or risers on the underside of your base, they are considered as part of the base and should not cause the entry's height to exceed 24 inches.

MATERIALS & CONSTRUCTION

- Everything above the base of your entry that is visible must be constructed and composed completely of edible materials.
- Non-visible supports may be made of non-edible materials.
- The main structure of your entry must be constructed of at least 50% Gingerbread, and at least 25% of the Gingerbread must be exposed.
- The Gingerbread can be painted or dyed light colors, but must clearly be recognizable as Gingerbread.
- Edible materials are not limited to candies and icings. Use of gum paste, fondant, pastillage, chocolate, modeling chocolate, royal icing, isomalt, cast sugar, gelatin, and pressed sugar is encouraged. Due to the danger of working with hot sugar, techniques using poured hot sugar or isomalt are reserved for the adult categories.
- Any entry with non-edible components visible will be automatically disqualified.
- No external or internal lighting may be used.
- Candies must be unwrapped and free of any non-edible materials.
- Non-edible materials such as paint and/or ribbon can be used only to decorate the outer edge of your plywood base and are considered as part of the base and should not cause the entry's height to exceed 24 inches.
- All entries must be solely constructed by the individuals entering the competition.
- For safety precautions, Junior competitors may be supervised, by a parent, legal guardian, or classroom teacher when Junior competitors require assistance with operating the oven and/or stovetop.

ENTRY IDENTIFICATION

Entry must be clearly labeled with the assigned entry number visible on the front of the base for judging reference. If you arrive without your entry number clearly showing, you will be required to add it at registration.

ENTRY DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this description is to inform the voters of your vision, process, materials, and techniques used in creating your entry. This is also where any backstory of your entry or interpretation of the Victorian Holidays theme that can be briefly explained. We will also need you to submit photos and/or video clips of your process, these will be used for the digital display we are creating for our online event. The Entry Description Form and supporting photos are due on or before December 10th and can be sent digitally to gingerbread@mohonk.com or brought in person.

ARRIVAL, PARKING & REGISTRATION PROCESS

Please plan enough time to complete the drive to Mohonk Mountain House, unload your entry, park your vehicle in our self-parking lot, and register on Sunday, December 10, 2023 during your assigned time slot.

- Place the parking voucher received in your confirmation email on the dashboard of your vehicle upon arrival to the Gatehouse. The Gatehouse will have your name on the Gingerbread Competitors list.

- Competitors are guaranteed parking during the drop off time frame however if they choose to leave property after registration and return parking will be available on a first come first serve basis.
- One complimentary car per entry will be permitted; additional people in additional cars will be charged \$15.00 per person. The money collected from this entry fee will be donated to the Food Bank of the Hudson Valley.
- Follow the signs to the Gingerbread Staging Area, where a Mohonk Employee will be holding traffic. When directed, proceed to the Gingerbread Drop Off Area just prior to the East Porch Entrance.
- After unloading your entry, park your vehicle in one of our self-parking lots. We strongly encourage having someone designated to move the vehicle while the entry is being moved into the Mountain House and set up.
- Employee competitors need to park their vehicle in their designated parking lot.
- Vehicles will be allowed a maximum of 10 minutes in the drop off area to unload entries and bring them into the Parlor on the 1st floor. You must promptly move your vehicle to an approved parking area once you have unloaded your entry.
- A limited number of carts are available at this location for transporting gingerbread entries and are not permitted to be removed from this area. If you have a small hand cart, you are encouraged to bring it to minimize wait time. There is a paved path leading from the drop off area to the Entrance by the Lake Porch; there is the option carrying the piece up a short flight of steps or using a lift to get to the Ground Floor of the Mountain House. Once inside competitors will be directed to the elevators to go up one floor to the 1st floor and the Parlor.
- The registration desk is located just outside the Parlor on the 1st floor. If coming off the elevators, make a right turn and then another right turn and the registration desk and Parlor are straight ahead.
- Prior to judging, entries are not to be handled by any member of the Mohonk staff, staff will be on hand to hold doors open and direct entrants where to go.
- After registering, you will be directed to your entry's dedicated placement area in the Parlor, which is predetermined by your entry number. We ask that after you register at the desk, place your entry in its designated space, and return to park your car, if not already done.
- **FINAL TOUCHES** or any components of the entry that need to be added, fixed, or secured may be made during the registration period until 11:00am. At this time the doors will be shut for photography and judging. Competitors who do not adhere to this time constraint will be disqualified. The Parlor Room will be closed to competitors and the public until judging is complete.

DEPARTURE PROCESS

After the Awards Ceremony has concluded competitors who did not place in the top four in each category who wish to bring their Gingerbread creations home can retrieve their vehicle and proceed to the Gingerbread Staging area to wait their turn to proceed to the Gingerbread Drop Off area where they can load the Gingerbread piece into their vehicle and then follow the signs to exit the property. A member of our staff will be greeting and directing people in each location.

COMPETITOR ROOM AND MEAL RESERVATIONS

- Mohonk Mountain House offers a discounted room rate to competitors in the 2023 Hudson Valley Gingerbread Competition for the night of Sunday, December 10, 2023. Information on the discounted room rates and reservation policies for Mohonk Mountain House will be emailed with your confirmation and entry number. Discounted rooms are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis for the night of Sunday, December 10, 2023.
- Meal reservations for Sunday Brunch in the Main Dining can be reserved by calling 855-892-2899, availability is limited and reservations can be made 28 days prior.
- Snacks and lighter fare will be available in Carriage Lounge and Gift Shop.

CANCELLATION POLICY / SNOW

Mohonk Mountain House acknowledges that situations may cause competitors to withdraw from the competition. In the event you are no longer able to compete, please inform us by email, at gingerbread@mohonk.com. In the event of inclement weather, Mohonk Mountain House is unable to reschedule this event and it will take place as scheduled. Please email gingerbread@mohonk.com if you are unable to attend the competition.

PLACING & PRIZES

Mohonk Mountain House will award prizes for the first, second, and third place entries of the following categories: Adult and Junior. For the creations that are chosen as the honorable mention the competitors will also receive a prize as a token of appreciation. Please remember that if a team competes that the distribution of the ribbon or the splitting of any prize will be left to the Team Captain to determine. By entering this competition, you are agreeing to allow Mohonk Mountain House to exhibit your entry if it places in the top 5 places for the Adult category and the top 5 of the Junior category. The piece that is selected as the viewer's choice will also be awarded a prize. If a winning entry is taken home prior to the end of the viewing period the competitor will forfeit their prize.

Adult Category:

First Place: A two-night stay at Mohonk Mountain House for two and a \$200 Mohonk Gift Card (Approximate value up to \$3,300).

Second Place: A one-night stay at Mohonk Mountain House for two adults and a \$100 Mohonk Gift Card (Approximate value up to \$1,650).

Third Place: Lunch or Dinner at Mohonk Mountain House with access to our Hiking trails for four people (Approximate value up to \$585).

Junior Category:

First Place: Lunch or Dinner at Mohonk Mountain House and Recreation Access Passes for four people (Approximate value up to \$980).

Second Place: Lunch or Dinner at Mohonk Mountain House with access to our Hiking trails for four people (Approximate value up to \$585).

Third Place: Hiking Passes to Mohonk Mountain House and access to 18 holes of Disc Golf for four people and four Disc Golf discs. (Approximate value up to \$180)

Viewer's Choice Award: Each visitor to the Mountain House can cast one vote for their favorite entry to help choose the overall Viewer's Choice winner. Voting will start on Sunday, December 10, 2023 at 1:00pm until 3:30pm and the winner will be announced at the award's ceremony. The Viewer's Choice winner will get - Lunch or Dinner at Mohonk Mountain House with access to our Hiking trails for four people (Approximate value up to \$585).

Honorable Mentions: For the pieces that are selected as Honorable Mentions, the creator or team will receive a gift certificate for 4 Hiking Passes (Approximate value up to \$140).

JUDGE SELECTIONED PIECES ANNOUNCED AND AWARDS CEREMONY

On Sunday, December 10, 2023 at 4:00 pm in our Parlor we will have an Awards Ceremony for our competitors and the public to hear the live announcement of the winners and honorable mentions. At that time we will be awarding the prizes for competitors that are present, competitors that have gone home for the day will have their prizes mailed to them. Following the ceremony an email will be sent to all competitors announcing the winners pieces and the Viewer's Choice winner. These pieces will be kept on display in the Mountain House through Monday, January 1st 2024.

ENTRY PICK-UP OR DISPOSAL

- Competitors that would like to keep their gingerbread entry after the competition has ended must pick up the entry either
- Tuesday, January 2, 2024 or on Wednesday, January 3, 2024 by 5:00 pm.
- Please email gingerbread@mohonk.com to arrange a pick up time.
- Pieces that not picked up will be discarded beginning after 5:00 pm on Wednesday, January 3, 2024.

PLEASE SEE THE ADDITIONAL LINKS ON THE WEBPAGE FOR THE OFFICIAL ENTRY FORMS. THE FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5PM ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2023 OR UNTIL ALL AVAILBLE SPACES ARE FILLED. EXCEPTIONS FOR LATE ENTRY FORMS WILL NOT BE MADE. COMPETITORS WILL RECEIVE A CONFIRMATION EMAIL WITH THEIR ENTRY NUMBER ONCE THE ENTRY FORM HAS BEEN PROCESSED.