

Hudson Valley Gingerbread Competition at Mohonk Mountain House

Rules and Entry Forms

Entry Form Deadline:

- Friday, November 6, 2026 at 5:00 pm
(or until available spaces are all filled)

Entry Confirmation:

- Tuesday, November 10, 2026 by 5:00 pm

Gingerbread Display at Mohonk Mountain House:

- Monday, December 7, 2026 through Friday, January 1, 2027

Sunday, December 6, 2026 – Gingerbread Competition

- Registration and Set up: Parlor
 - NEW 8:00 am–10:15 am – (competitors only)
- Competitor Voting: Parlor
 - Until 10:45 am – (competitors only)
- Judging:
 - 11:00 am – 12:30 pm
(closed to the public and competitors)
- Public Viewing: Parlor
 - 12:30pm–5:00 pm
- Viewer's Choice Voting: Parlor
 - 12:30 pm–3:30 pm
- Awards Ceremony: Parlor
 - 4:00 pm

The following rules and procedures have been set forth and established by Mohonk Mountain House for the Hudson Valley Gingerbread Competition. 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 5:00 pm on Friday, November 6, 2026 or until available spaces are filled. Competitor Entry Forms can be submitted via the designated digital form found on the Mohonk Mountain House website, or by emailing a completed PDF form to gingerbread@mohonk.com. 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. Upon acceptance of their entry, competitors will receive a confirmation email containing their entry number by Tuesday, November 10, 2026. Each participant may only submit one entry. A printed copy of the Entry Description Form and optional photos must be brought with your finished creation on Sunday, December 6, 2026.

TEAM ENTRY

A "team" consists of 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 5:00 pm on Friday, November 6, 2026. Competitor Entry Forms can be submitted via the designated digital form found on the Mohonk Mountain House website, or by emailing a completed PDF form to gingerbread@mohonk.com. 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 with the Team Captain's contact information and complete list of each team member's full name and age. For 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, permission 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. Team Captains will receive a confirmation email containing their team's entry number upon acceptance of their entry by Tuesday, November 10, 2026. Each participant may only submit one entry. A printed copy of the Entry Description Form and optional photos must be brought with your finished creation on Sunday, December 6, 2026.

ENTRY CATEGORIES

The following categories are open for entry into the 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.
- **Mohonk Employees & Families Category** –Mohonk Mountain House Employees or their immediate family entering as a single entrant or team ages 18 years of age and older. Children 10 through 17 years of age will be entered into the Junior Category.

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 Tuesday, November 10, 2026.

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 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 baked Gingerbread on the entry. Entries with less than 25% baked Gingerbread exposed will be disqualified. The Gingerbread can be painted or dyed, but must clearly be recognizable as Gingerbread. Ginger Clay may be used in the piece, but will not count towards the required 25% exposed baked 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. We suggest using a plywood as a base for your entry. Combined with the stationary base, the entry must not be larger than 24 inches high, 24 inches wide, and 24 inches long. 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 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 completely constructed and composed 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% baked Gingerbread, which must be exposed.
- Ginger Clay may be used in the construction of the piece, but will not count towards the required 25% exposed baked Gingerbread.
- 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 visible non-edible components will be automatically disqualified.
- No external or internal lighting is allowed. No electricity or battery power may be used for any component of your creation. Plug sockets will not be available.
- Candies must be unwrapped and free of any non-edible materials.
- Non-edible materials such as paint and/or ribbon can only be used to decorate the outer edge of your plywood base and are considered part of your 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 requiring assistance with operating the oven and/or stovetop.

ENTRY IDENTIFICATION

Your entry must be clearly labeled with your 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 judges and 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 a theme can be briefly explained. Submissions of photos of your process can be included. A printed copy of the Entry Description Form and optional photos must be brought with your finished creation on Sunday, December 6, 2026.

ARRIVAL, PARKING & REGISTRATION PROCESS

To help ensure a smooth check-in experience. Please plan enough time to complete the drive to Mohonk Mountain House, unload your entry, park your vehicle in our self-parking lot, and check-in at registration on Sunday, December 6, 2026 during the allotted registration and set up time.

- 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.
- We ask that you limit one car per entry. If your team requires more than one car pass please reach out to gingerbread@mohonk.com. We'll do our best to accommodate each situation.
- 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 the 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. We encourage you to bring someone to move your car for you.
- 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 of 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 can use either the stairs or the elevators to go up to the Parlor on the 1st Floor.
- 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 checking-in at registration, you will be directed to your entry's dedicated placement area in the Parlor, which is predetermined by your entry number. Then return to park your car, if not already parked.

- **FINAL TOUCHES** or any components of the entry that need to be added, fixed, or secured may be made during the registration period until 10:15 am. To ensure a fair and smooth competition for all, entries must be finalized by 10:15 am. The Parlor will be closed to competitors and the public until judging is complete.

DEPARTURE PROCESS

After the Awards Ceremony has concluded, competitors who did not win for any award and who wish to bring their Gingerbread creations home can retrieve their vehicle and proceed to the Gingerbread Staging area. Please wait your turn to load the Gingerbread piece into your vehicle and then follow the signs to exit the property. Mohonk staff will be directing people in each location.

COMPETITOR ROOM AND MEAL RESERVATIONS

- All competitors will have access to a Competitor Lounge with water, coffee, tea and light snacks for the duration of the day.
- Extend the holiday magic with a discounted overnight stay. Mohonk Mountain House offers a discounted room rate to competitors of the Hudson Valley Gingerbread Competition for the night of Sunday, December 6, 2026.
- After setup and judging, we invite you to explore the festive grounds or enjoy brunch in our historic Main Dining Room. Meal reservations for Sunday Brunch in the Main Dining Room can be reserved by calling 855-892-2899. Availability is limited and reservations can be made up to 28 days prior.
- Snacks and lighter fare will be available for purchase in the Carriage Lounge, Gift Shop, and Sports Center. The Carriage Lounge will be open for food service from 11:00 am – 5:00 pm.

CANCELLATION POLICY / SNOW

We understand how much time and care go into your entry. If circumstances prevent you from attending, please email gingerbread@mohonk.com.

GINGERBREAD PASSES –NEW THIS YEAR

All competitors will be provided an exclusive opportunity to purchase Competition Day passes for friends and family the day before they are released to the public. More details to follow.

PLACING & PRIZES

Mohonk Mountain House will award prizes for the first, second, third, and fourth place entries of the following categories: Adult, Junior, and Employee. 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 4 places in any of the categories, is chosen as the Viewer's Choice winner or Competitor's Choice winner, or for the seven Special Skills awards. If a winning entry is taken home prior to the end of the viewing period, the competitor will forfeit their prize.

Participants may only win one prize across all categories. However, winners are permitted to additionally win the Competitor's Choice and the Viewer's Choice awards.

Adult Category:

First Place: A two-night stay at Mohonk Mountain House for two, a \$1,000 Mohonk Gift Card, and Dinner for two at our Chef's Table, including Wine Pairing (Approximate value up to \$5,050)

Second Place: A one-night stay at Mohonk Mountain House for two adults and a \$500 Mohonk Gift Card (Approximate value up to \$2,150)

Third Place: Lunch or Dinner at Mohonk Mountain House for four people with access to Mohonk's hiking trails and a \$100 Mohonk Gift Card (Approximate value up to \$660)

Honorable Mention: A gift certificate of Hiking Passes for four people (Approximate value up to \$140)

Junior Category:

First Place: Lunch or Dinner at Mohonk Mountain House, Recreation Access Passes for four people, and a \$50 Mohonk Gift Card (Approximate value up to \$980)

Second Place: Lunch or Dinner at Mohonk Mountain House for four people with access to Mohonk's hiking trails and a \$50 Mohonk Gift Card (Approximate value up to \$610)

Third Place: Lunch or Dinner at Mohonk Mountain House with access to Mohonk's hiking trails for four people (Approximate value up to \$560)

Honorable Mention: A gift certificate of Hiking Passes for four people (Approximate value up to \$140).

Mohonk Employee & Families Category:

First Place: A two-night stay for two adults at Mohonk Mountain House and a \$500 Mohonk Gift Card

Second Place: A one-night stay for two adults at Mohonk Mountain House

Third Place: Lunch or Dinner at Mohonk Mountain House for four people and a \$50 Mohonk Gift Card

Honorable Mention: A Gift Basket and a \$50 Mohonk Gift Card.

Special Skills Awards:

Best Use of Edible Mixed Media: This award recognizes the most innovative and skillful integration of various edible materials, such as fondant, chocolate, spun sugar, pastillage, isomalt, marshmallow, Ginger Clay, and piping. The judges will recognize the entry that exemplifies exceptional creativity and technique in blending these diverse mediums, with the winner receiving a \$250 Mohonk Gift Card.

Best Innovative Structure Award: This award recognizes the most inventive and imaginative gingerbread creation, highlighting an entry that demonstrates originality and architectural creativity. The judges will select the design that stands out for its unique structural concept and execution, with the winner receiving a \$250 Mohonk Gift Card.

Best Holiday Spirit: This award celebrates the gingerbread creation that most effectively captures the essence and festive cheer of the holiday season. The judges will choose the entry that best embodies holiday joy and tradition, with the winner receiving a \$250 Mohonk Gift Card.

Best Mohonk Inspired Award: This award recognizes the gingerbread piece that captures the spirit, charm, and character of Mohonk. The judges will select the design that embodies creativity, craftsmanship, and a strong connection to the essence of Mohonk. The winner will receive a \$250 Mohonk Gift Card.

Best Food Inspired Award: This award recognizes the gingerbread piece that demonstrates a fun, festive, and fantastic food-inspired creation. The judges will select the design that captures originality, execution, and how well the piece brings a food concept to life, with the winner receiving a \$250 Mohonk Gift Card.

NEW-Best Traditional Gingerbread House Award: This award recognizes the gingerbread creation that best captures the timeless charm of a traditional gingerbread house. The judges will select the design that demonstrates creativity, craftsmanship, and classic holiday appeal, with the winner receiving a \$250 Mohonk Gift Card

NEW- First Timer Award: This award recognizes the highest judge-scored gingerbread piece from all entries that are first time competitors, with the winner receiving a \$250 Mohonk Gift Card.

Viewer's Choice Award:

Each visitor to the Mountain House on Sunday, December 6, 2026 can cast one vote for their favorite entry to help choose the overall Viewer's Choice winner. Voting will be open from 12:30 pm until 3:30 pm and the winner will be announced at the Awards Ceremony at 4:00 pm. The Viewer's Choice winner will receive a Gift Basket and \$50 Mohonk Gift Card.

Competitor's Choice Award:

Exclusive for our Gingerbread Competitors, each entry (individual or team) will be given one ballot to vote on their favorite entry. Competitors can vote for an entry in any category, except their own entry. Votes must be cast between 8:00 am and 10:45 am, during the set up and registration period. The winner will be announced at the Awards Ceremony at 4:00 pm. The Competitor's Choice winner will receive a Gift Basket and a \$50 Mohonk Gift Card.

WINNING PIECES ANNOUNCED AND AWARDS CEREMONY

On Sunday, December 6, 2026 at 4:00 pm in our Parlor will be an Awards Ceremony for our competitors and the public to hear the live announcement of the winners. 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 competition, an email will be sent to all competitors announcing the winners of all categories. These pieces will be kept on display in the Mountain House through Friday, January 1, 2027.

ENTRY PICK-UP OR DISPOSAL

- UPDATED: Non-winning competitors that would like to keep their gingerbread entry after the competition has ended must pick up the entry by 6:00 pm on the evening of Sunday, December 6, 2026. Entries not picked up by then will be discarded.
- Winning competitors whose pieces are on display in the Mountain House can pick up their pieces, if they wish to keep them, on Saturday, January 2, 2027 OR Sunday, January 3, 2027 by 3pm.
- Winning entries not picked up will be discarded after 3:00 pm, Sunday, January 3, 2027.
- The names of winning entrants will be left at the Gatehouse and will be allowed on property to pick up their pieces during those two days. Unfortunately, we are not able to store the pieces past the pickup date. Extensions will not be granted and displayed entries not picked up will be discarded.

PLEASE SEE THE ADDITIONAL LINKS ON THE WEBPAGE FOR THE OFFICIAL ENTRY FORMS. THE FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5:00 PM ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2026 OR UNTIL ALL AVAILABLE 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.